

## ON THE OCCASION OF PROFESSOR K. CZEGLÉDY'S EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY

On 21 December 1994 Hungarian Orientalists are celebrating the eightieth birthday of Professor Károly Czeglédy, the "Sheik" and Master of all Hungarians who have dealt with Arabic studies in Hungary or abroad in recent decades. He gave courses in Semitic philology and Arabic studies beginning from 1942, became head of Department of Semitic Philology and Arabic Studies in 1963 and held this position until his retirement in 1984. His main interest has been focused on Arabic historical and geographical sources of early Hungarian history. In the course of these researches, however, he necessarily has also come across pure Islamic problems. Summing up Professor Czeglédy's achievements in the field of Islamic studies, the following deserve especially to be mentioned:

One of the main problems concerning *Sūra XVIII (al-Kahf)* is related to the Alexander-legend. Namely, the question arises, which version of the legend was transmitted to Muḥammad? It is evident that the Prophet became acquainted with the eschatological version of the legend enlarged with the story of Gōg and Māgōg. Examining the relationship between these two components, Professor Czeglédy reached the conclusion that their combination must have taken place in Syrian territory after 515 AD. The sources reveal that it was the first combined version of the *Alexanderroman* and the eschatological legend formed after 515 AD which found its way to Muḥammad.

Parallels to the eschatological expectations centring upon Gōg and Māgōg and the Northern nomads can also be discovered among the Persians. Middle Persian apocalyptic literature mentions the attacks of Turanian nomads. These eschatological expectations especially influenced Šī'ite Islam. The Middle Persian eschatological texts make reference to the name of a glorious messianic figure, Vahrām ī Varjāvand, in connection with these expectations. Research has shown that the name Vahrām can be identified with the name of Bahrām Čōbin, the Persian warlord, the would-be usurper who saved Persia from the attack of the Turks in the East. Through his miraculous victory he takes on

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