



KRÁMSKÝ, JIRÍ

KRÁMSKÝ, JIRÍ (b. Plzen [Pilsen], western Bohemia, 23 October 1913; d. Prague, 30 September 1991), Czech general linguist who specialized in Persian language studies. He was born into a lawyer's family and attended secondary school in his native town. He then studied English and Persian (the latter under Professor J. Rypka) at the Charles University, Prague. After the forced closure of the Czech universities during the German occupation, he taught at secondary schools outside Prague. After the end of World War II, he completed his university studies by defending his thesis for the Ph.D. degree, "Introduction to Orthography and Phonology of Modern Persian." He first took a job in the State Institute of Linguistics and then worked in the Research Institute of Special Education, Prague in 1955-78. His research was published in leading orientalist journals.

While many of Krámský's works deal with English and Turkish linguistics, those on Persian phonology are especially distinctive. He presented one of the first truly innovative attempts at describing modern Persian phonology in 1939. The work has certain shortcomings resulting from the contemporary standard of research in Persian phonology and from problems in data collection, but his further studies filled up such gaps. He also was active in Ural-Altaic and Turkish linguistics, and his research in general linguistics (e.g., Krámský, 1976) always paid attention to Oriental languages. For instance, the Persian dialects of *Ḳonsār* and *Gaz* are discussed in his papers (1976; see rev. of W. Ehlers, *Die Mundart von Chunsar* and *Die Mundart von Gāz* [Wiesbaden, 1976, 1979] in *Bibliotheca Orientalis* 37, 1980, cols. 85-87; 38, 1981, cols. 489-93).



He enriched Iranian linguistics with his fresh ideas in book reviews, especially in the journal *Archiv Orientální* (e.g., 50, 1982, pp. 93-95, on Mohammad Reza Majidi, *Strukturelle Beschreibung der iranischen Dialecte der Stadt Semnan* [Hamburg, 1980]). Krámský was tied to the Iranian world in other respects, too. His first book, in 1945, was *Východ a nová doba* “The East and the New Age” (apparently based on John E. Esslemont, *Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era*, London, 1923; rev. ed., New York, 1937); it discusses in detail some aspects of Iranian thinking and the distinctly peaceful nature of the Bahā'i movement.

In addition to his studies in English and general linguistics, he also published various practical works: *The English-Czech and Czech-English Dictionary* (see Bibliog.), language textbooks, and methodological considerations on teaching foreign languages.

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