

**SSZ Conference 2007**  
**Chicago, November 16 – 19, 2007**

**SPEAKER PROFILES**

**KERSEY H. ANTIA**

Dastur Dr. Kersey H. Antia is the high priest of the Zarathushti community in Chicago since 1977, and has served as an honorary priest for over half a century. A fully-ordained priest, with the Best Boy medal and the Prefect Medal from the M. F. Cama Athornan Institute in Mumbai, Dr. Antia studied religion and Avesta-Pahlavi under Dasturji Dabu, Mirza and other learned priests, and has won essay prizes from K. R. Cama Oriental Institute and other institutions since 1956, and Avesta-Pahlavi scholarships in college. He has lectured widely and is author of numerous papers on religion and psychology. A clinical and management psychologist in private solo practice in Illinois, he is also affiliated with several hospitals. He is listed in several ,Who's Who and included in Outstanding Religious Personalities and Scholars of the 20th Century, and others.

**JEHAN BAGLI**

Er. Dr. Jehan Bagli retired as Distinguished Research Fellow of Wyeth/Ayrest Pharmaceutical Research, and is currently a Research Consultant. Dr. Bagli is an ordained priest through Navar and Martab ceremonies. He was a founding member and President of Zoroastrian Association of Quebec, editor of Gavashni magazine and founding editor of FEZANA journal. He has lectured extensively at congresses, conferences and symposia in North America, In 1992 Dr. Bagli was invited to Karachi, Mumbai, Calcutta, and London to lecture on the Zoroastrian Calendar. In 2005 He was invited to Sydney, Melbourne, and Perth to give lectures on Zoroastrian religion. In 2006 Dr. Bagli visited South Africa, to guide the Zoroastrian community in Durban and Johannesburg in the matters of Zoroastrian rituals. He has published widely: he is the author/co-author of four books. *Religion of Asho Zarathusht and Influence through the Ages* (2003), *Understanding and Practice of Jashan Ceremony* (2001), *Understanding and Practice of Obsequies* (2006) and *Congregational Prayers for Jashan Ceremony* (2007); and has been guest editor for FEZANA Journal.

Dr. Bagli is President of the North American Mobed Council (NAMC), and was recently elected Vice-president of WZO. He has chaired the WZC2000 Global Scholastic Competition, the ZSO Lecture Committee, and the FEZANA Research and Preservation Committee. He represents ZSO on the Ontario Multifaith Council. He has been awarded the Gold Medal of Indian Pharmaceutical Association, fellowships from the U.S. Public Health Service, U.S. National Institute of Health, and the National Research Council of Canada; elected fellow of the Chemical Institute of Canada, and the FEZANA Excellence in Profession/Business Award (1994).

**KEKI R. BHOTE**

Keki R. Bhote is a life-long student of Zoroastrian theology and history and a pioneer in furthering Zoroastrianism in North America.

- A founder and president of the Zoroastrian Association of America, the first in North America
- A founder and trustee of the Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago
- Chairman of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Zoroastrian Symposium of North America
- Speaker at the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Zoroastrian Congress and 7<sup>th</sup> World Zoroastrian Congress on Zoroastrianism
- Speaker at the World Parliament of Religions, 1993 in Chicago and 1999 in Cape Town, South Africa
- Lecturer on Zoroastrianism and comparative religions, YMCA College
- Speaker at over 100 church groups and clubs on Zoroastrianism
- Author of several papers on Zoroastrianism
- Member of managing committee, Board of Directors, World Zoroastrian Organization and current Vice President
- Vice President, Center for Ancient Iranian Studies, Boston, MA.

- Chairman of the Committee on “The Future of Zoroastrianism”, Federation of Zoroastrians of North America
- President, World Zoroastrian Organization, U.S. Region
- Selected as one of 12 outstanding Zoroastrians of the world by the World Zoroastrian Organization, London

### **HELMUT HUMBACH**

Prof. Dr. Helmut Humbach has studied the classical languages (Greek and Latin), Sanskrit, and Indo-European linguistics. 1951 Dr. phil. in Indo-European linguistics, University of Munich. 1951 Instructor in Greek and Latin, University of Munich. 1954 Lecturer in Indo-European Linguistics. 1956 Professor of Indo-European and Oriental Studies, University of Saarbrücken. 1961 Professor of Indo-European Studies, University of Mainz. In 1969 he was invited to succeed Wolfgang Lentz as professor of Iranian studies at the University of Hamburg, but after two semesters he preferred to stay in Mainz. 1978 Visiting professor at the Research Institute of the Ancient Iranian Culture Foundation, Teheran. 1991 Retired but still professionally active. Dastur (Ervad at that time) JamaspAsa stayed in Mainz three times and published:

- (1) Joint edition of the so-called Vaetha Nask, a collection of Avesta fragments, published by Harrassowitz Wiesbaden.
- (2) Joint edition of the Pursishniha, an Avesta-Pahlavi text, published by Harrassowitz Wiesbaden.
- (3) Helmut Humbach helped JamaspAsa in edition of the Aogemadaecha, published by the Vienna Academy.

The major part of Humbach's earlier works have been published in German but it is planned to republish in English those of them which are of lasting interest. Thus the English, *The Gathas of Zarathushtra*, (2 vols. 1991) is not simply a translation of its German predecessor, *Die Gathas des Zarathustra*, (2 vols. 1959) but apart from numerous smaller improvements it is full of new insights. An adequate rendering of the Avesta text remains difficult, all the more as it often refers to ritual details unknown to us and is conceived in a most artistic (but not at all irregular) syntax. A new translation of the Gathas has been undertaken in cooperation with Dr. Pallan Ichaporia in *The Heritage of Zarathushtra*, (1994). Dr. Pallan Ichaporia is now assistant to Prof. Humbach since 1996 at Mainz University, and is involved in various works:- *Concordance of the Gathas*, *Dictionary of the Gathas* and *Pahlavi Version of the Gathas*. Humbach's most recent work which again is published in cooperation with Dr. Pallan Ichaporia is the re-edition of *Zamyad Yasht*, the very history of salvation of the ancient Iranians. In commentary, the authors have discussed numerous philological problems not seen by their predecessors, thus showing that even on the field of the Yashts of the Avesta much has still to be done.

### **PALLAN R. ICHAPORIA**

Dr. Pallan Ichaporia has a BA in Avesta and Pahlavi from Bombay University, attended post graduate courses in Ancient Iranian Culture and Languages at Columbia University. He is the associate co-worker of Prof. Helmut Humbach at Mainz University and authored two books with him *The Heritage of Zarathushtra, A New Translation of His Gathas*, Univeritatverlag C. Winter, Heidelberg, Germany, 1994. and *Zamyad Yasht, Yasht 19 of the Younger Avesta Text, Translation, Commentary*, Harrassowitz, Wiesbaden, Germany, 1998. He has authored *The Gathas of Asho Zarathushtra, Translation of Ahunavaiti and Vahistoishti Gathas*, The Research and Preservation Committee, FEZANA, USA, 1993. He is involved in works under progress: *The Concordance of the Gathas*. He is the elected Fellow of The Royal Asiatic Society of Gt. Britain and Ireland. As the Govt. of India Research Scholar delivered three lectures at KRCOI which are published in KRCOI Journal. His numerous articles are published in various Journals including many issues of FEZANA Journal, several Proceedings of Conferences and Festschrifts. His Article on Zamyad Yasht is forthcoming in the *Encyclopaedia Iranica*. His work on The Gathas in Pahlavi and Sanskrit is under progress.

## **WILLIAM MALANDRA**

Prof. Dr. William malandra earned his PhD at the University of Pennsylvania in Indo-Iranian philology, writing his dissertation on the Fravaši Yašt under the direction of Professor Mark Dresden. He taught courses on ancient India and Iran at the University of Minnesota for 30 years. Since retiring in 2003 he has been living in Austin Texas. He is an adjunct in Asian Studies at the University of Texas where he has taught courses on Zoroastrianism and ancient Iran. Among his publications is *An Introduction to Ancient Iranian Religion*. He is a regular contributor to the *Encyclopaedia Iranica* and is currently collaborating with Professor Helmut Humbach and Dr. Pallan Ichaporia on an edition of the Pahlavi Yasna of the Gāthās and Yasna Haptaŋhāiti.

## **JAMES RUSSELL**

Prof. Dr. James R. Russell is the Mashtots Professor of Armenian Studies, at the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University since 1993. He has a Ph.D. in Religious Studies (Zoroastrianism), School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, 1982 (Supervisor: Professor Mary Boyce); a B.Litt. in Armenian Studies, University of Oxford, 1977, and a B.A. *summa cum laude*, Columbia College, 1974. He speaks numerous languages: Armenian, Russian, Iranian (Avestan, Pahlavi, Parthian, some Sogdian and Persian), Hebrew, Greek, reading German and French; some Kurmanji Kurdish, Syriac, Turkish and Gujarati. Prior to Harvard, Prof. Russell was the Lady Davis Fellow and Visiting Associate Professor, Dept. of Iranian and Armenian, Institute of Asian and African Studies, The Hebrew University, in Jerusalem, Israel; and Associate Professor of Middle East Languages and Cultures, and lecturer in Armenian Studies, at Columbia University. He also served for one year as Director of Cultural Affairs, Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, New York. He was Editor of the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies*; Trustee-at-large, American Institute for Iranian Studies; Member of the Editorial Board, *The Bulletin of the Asia Institute*; *The Journal of Armenian Studies* (Belmont, MA, USA), Iran and the Caucasus (Erevan and Tehran), and *Name-ye Iran-e Bastan* (The Journal of Ancient Iranian Studies) (University of Tehran).

Prof. Russell has taught numerous courses, including: Asian Religions, Religions and Philosophies of Ancient Iran; Seminar in Iranian Studies; Introduction to Middle Iranian; Readings in Iranian and Classical Armenian; Iranian Apocalyptic Texts; Great Books of the Near East; The Zoroastrian Religion at Harvard Divinity School; The Evolution of Mysticism from Zoroaster to Sohrawardi: Mazdaism, the Gnostics, Merkabah, Early Christianity, and Sufi Islamic texts; Literature Humanities: The Foundation Texts of the West. Among his vast number books and articles published are: *Zoroastrianism in Armenia* (1987), *Armenian and Iranian Studies* (2004), *A Parthian Bhagvad Gita and its Echoes* (1996), *The Word K'ustik in Armenian* (1981), *Zoroastrian Problems in Armenia: Mihr and Vahagn* (1982), *The Name of Zoroaster in Armenian* (1985).

## **MATTHEW STOLPER**

Matthew Stolper was born in 1944, and graduated with a BA from Harvard College in 1965 and a PhD from the University of Michigan in 1974. He has been on the faculty at the University of Chicago since 1980. He is currently the John A. Wilson Professor of Oriental Studies, at The Oriental Institute, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations program on the Ancient Mediterranean World (Classics), and the College, The University of Chicago.

Prof. Stolper has participated in assorted archaeological experiences in Iran, 1968-76. Since 1980, he has worked on the Assyrian Dictionary of the Oriental Institute, and is now on the editorial board. Most of his research is concerned with Achaemenid Babylonian texts and history, Elamite language and texts, Achaemenid Iran, and now especially Achaemenid Elamite texts, language and history.