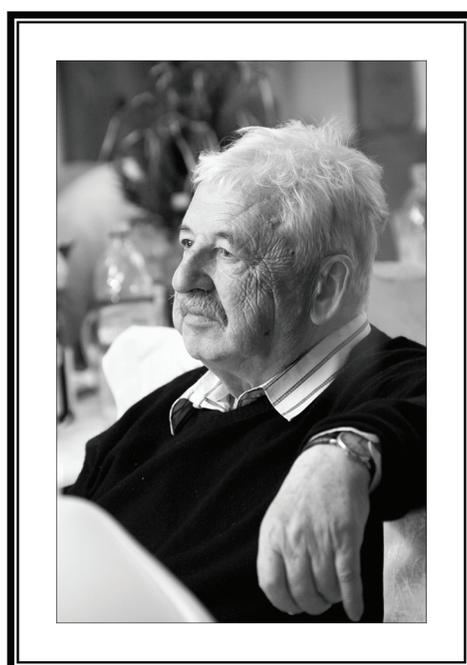

IN MEMORIAM

BORIS IOSIFOVICH IONIN (1935—2013)



Boris Iosifovich Ionin, the founder and publisher of our magazine, passed away. Professor Ionin was one of the most distinguished Russian chemists. He authored many scientific works and founded his own scientific school, known in Russia as well as abroad (he once told me that he had over fifty postgraduate students!)

Boris Iosifovich was gifted in many areas, and it was the exceptional width of views that distinguished him. In the early stages of the 1990s, when many academic scientific and publishing establishments collapsed after the downfall of the USSR, Professor Ionin found himself among few Russian scientists, who were concerned not only with their own survival. In many respects, it was thanks to him that the publication of a number of Russian chemistry magazines that were distributed abroad kept going. Moreover, the organization of their publication in new conditions made room for some profit. Corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences Boris Gidasov and Professor Boris Ionin decided to use the profit for the purpose of founding a new scholarly journal. The happy coincidence, which in many ways was conditioned by personal acquaintanceship of Boris Gidasov and Yuriy Petrosyan, who at the time was the director of St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, led to the founding of the magazine known as *Manuscripta Orientalia*. This is when I first met Boris Iosifovich.

During the first years of its existence, the journal was printed in Finland due to postal and typographic problems in Russia of those times. Together we would go to Helsinki, and it is with much pleasure that I remember our deliberate conversations in the car. There was enough time to talk about many things. In some way those journeys to and from Helsinki became an important school of life for me. I observed the ability of Professor Ionin, an unusually quiet, charming and truly intelligent person, to solve quickly and effectively complicated issues, arising here and there with our new journal project along the way. His integrity was a guarantee that his solutions would also take into consideration interests of our partners. Soon enough the journal was able to stand firm on its feet, so much so that even the