



The Institute of Ismaili Studies

The Institute of Ismaili Studies, London, The Institute of Oriental Manuscripts, St Petersburg, and 'Pamir' – Representatives of the Pamiri Diaspora, request the pleasure of your company at an exhibition and book launch event for the Russian edition of

*Fifty Years in the East: The Memoirs of Wladimir Ivanow*

With Dr Farhad Daftary

16:00 - 18:00 on 11 October 2019

At House of Nationalities,

15 Mokhovaya Embankment, St Petersburg



The exhibition is open to visitors until 19 October 2019

## About the book

Few fields of Islamic studies have witnessed as much progress in modern times as Ismaili studies, and in even fewer instances has the role of a single individual been as pivotal in initiating progress as that of the Russian scholar Wladimir Ivanow (1886–1970), whose memoirs are now published here for the first time.

Ivanow completed his memoirs, entitled *Fifty Years in the East*, in 1968, shortly before his death. This work, originally written in Russian, is comprised of an autobiography and vivid accounts from his travels. These convey his ethnologist's interest in 'the archaeology of the way of life' and profound curiosity for regional customs and languages. The memoirs, written in Tehran during Ivanow's final years, have now been edited with substantial annotations by Farhad Daftary.

They reveal for the first time the circumstances under which modern Ismaili studies were initiated and an eyewitness account of several regions during the early decades of the twentieth century before the rapid onset of modernisation. The memoirs, with more than 60 illustrations of associates of Ivanow and places he visited, also contain a comprehensive bibliography of 160 works by Wladimir Ivanow.

## About the Author

An authority in Shi'i studies, with special reference to its Ismaili tradition, Dr. Farhad Daftary has published and lectured widely in these fields of Islamic studies.

As well as serving on various editorial boards, Dr. Daftary is a consulting editor of the *Encyclopaedia Iranica* (for Ismailism), co-editor (with W. Madelung) of the *Encyclopaedia Islamica*, and general editor of the "Ismaili Heritage Series", the "Ismaili Texts and Translations Series" and the "Shi'i Heritage Series".

He has written more than 200 articles and encyclopedia entries and several acclaimed books, including *The Ismailis: Their History and Doctrines* (1990; 2nd ed., 2007), *The Assassin Legends* (1994), *A Short History of the Ismailis* (1998), *Ismaili Literature* (2004), *Ismailis in Medieval Muslim Societies* (2005), (with Z. Hirji) *The Ismailis: An Illustrated History* (2008), *Historical Dictionary of the Ismailis* (2012) and *A History of Shi'i Islam* (2013).