

2009 AATP LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

American Association of Teachers of Persian (AATP) has set out, since 2008, to recognize those remarkable individuals who have dedicated their lives to the promotion and instruction of Persian language, culture and literature in the United States of America.



Wheeler M. Thackston (Harvard University) was the recipient of AATP 2009 Award. A distinguished professor of Persian, Wheeler Thackston taught at Harvard University from 1972 up to his retirement in 2007. As a distinguished and prolific author, editor and translator of numerous Chaghatai, Arabic and Persian literary and historical sources, his best known works are Persian and Classical and Qur'anic Arabic grammars, translations of the *Babur-nama*, the memoirs of the Mughal prince and emperor Babur, and the memoirs of Emperor Jahangir (the *Jahangir-nama*). He has also produced important manuals or editions of texts in Levantine Arabic, Ottoman Turkish, Syriac, Uzbek, Luri, and Kurdish.

At the 43rd Annual Middle East Studies Association (MESA) conference, held at Boston in November 2009, in a joint reception with the International Society for Iranian Studies (ISIS) and the Foundation for Iranian Studies, AATP honored Professor Thackston for his lifelong dedication to the teaching of Persian language, literature and culture. The event was co-sponsored by The Middle East Center at the University of Pennsylvania, The Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Texas at Austin, The Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University, the Samuel Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Culture at the University of California, Irvine, The Foundation for Iranian Studies, The International Society for Iranian Studies (ISIS), The Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS), and the American Institute of Iranian Studies (AIIRs).