



Pierre Lecoq

(Country: Belgium)



Biography

Dr. Pierre Lecoq is one of the prolific and renowned scholars of Ancient Iranian and Oriental Studies. He was born in 1939 in Belgium. In 1947 he received his doctorate in Oriental history and literature from the University of Liège and in 1983 from Sorbonne University. He was the Director of Studies of the Chair of Iranian Linguistics and philology from 1989 to 2007. He was also a Lecturer of oriental languages at the University of New Sorbonne and at the Ecole de Louvre, he taught Old Persian, Middle Persian, and Parthian epigraphs.

He trained by Jacques Duchesne-Guillemin, the famous European Iranologist at the University of Liège. Lecoq first devoted his work to ancient Iranian languages, mainly to Avestan philology and to Old Persian epigraphy. His diachronic approach to Iranian - enriched by his in-depth knowledge of Indo-Iranian and Middle Iranian languages - as well as his advances on the phonetics and paleography of Old-Persian cuneiform have resulted in the presentation of a full translation of Achaemenid inscriptions, strictly taking into account the parallel versions in Elamite and Babylonian.

Filling one of the gaps in Iranian studies regarding access to primary sources, his translation of the Avesta books (Paris, 2016) has established itself as a unique and essential tool.

In the field of Iranian typology, his work allowed him to make a hypothesis on the primitive habitat of the Kurdish. He also introduced a dialect of Fars (The Sivand dialect, grammar, and texts) and published a voluminous study on the dialects spoken in ancient Carmania.

Convinced that the study of the languages, religions, and cultures of ancient Iran could not be dissociated from that of the first works of Persian literature, Pierre Lecoq has never ceased to draw attention to the central role of the Shāhnāmeḥ and published a full translation of it in French, based on Jules Mohl version.

