

The passing of Professor Richard Frye is a huge loss for Iranian Studies, just as it is an enormous loss for Dick's innumerable friends located throughout the world. By a fortunate chance Dick was the Director of the Asia Institute, in Shiraz, in the late 1960s and the 1970s at a time when I myself was in charge of the British Institute of Persian Studies, in Tehran. This gave the two of us a number of valued opportunities to work together.

In particular, I wish to stress that Dick was a fervent advocate for anything that would contribute to the advancement of Iranian archaeology. Thus the whole concept of holding an Annual Conference on Iranian Archaeology (at which each dig director would report on his or her excavations of the previous year) was originally his – and the first such Conference was held in Shiraz, under the auspices of the Asia Institute, in 1972.

Above all, the two of us shared an abiding regard for the memorable site of Pasargadae, the capital of Cyrus the Great. Accordingly, when one day in 1970 I had the good fortune to suddenly notice the presence of a sizeable, hitherto undetected rosette on the entrance gable of the tomb of Cyrus, I immediately drove into Shiraz to share the moment with my esteemed colleague. At first he seemed to think I had gone off my head. But he graciously agreed to join me in an immediate visit to the tomb. And I still remember the amazed tone in his voice when, standing on the top of a rickety ladder, he gave an audible gasp and said “My goodness, David, there is something here!”

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I will greatly miss a warm and spirited companion – and a scholar of rare breadth and vision.

David Stronach
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