

## EDITORIAL PREFACE

The fifth volume of the Journal *Acta Orientalia Vilnensia* presents a continuation of the already established scope of scientific researches in classical and contemporary Asian and African Studies. As in the previous volumes, the present issue offers a collection of sixteen articles written mainly by Lithuanian scholars, but also by colleagues from USA, Switzerland, Japan, and the Netherlands. The articles encompass the fields of linguistics and literature, philosophy and religions, history and historiography, aesthetics and art, social and anthropological studies, and cover the South Asian, Far East Asian, Near East and African regions. Two papers display a mature work of the first graduate students in Comparative Asian Program at Vilnius University Centre of Oriental Studies in 2004. Translations of the original sources are represented by a letter of Chasan al-Banna, relevant for the contemporary time, "Our Problems in the Light of Islamic Order", which is the first translation of this text into European languages. The traditional Lithuanian topic is supplemented by a descriptive Catalogue of the Tibetan manuscripts kept at M.K. Čiurlionis, National Museum of Art Kaunas. The issue ends with a bunch of the reviews of some recent academic publications.

We thank our contributors and hope that this issue will help researchers from various countries enter a new phase of co-operation and make a model example of interdisciplinary and international undertakings.

*Editor-in-Chief*