



In Memoriam Isidor Levin (1919–2018)

On July 27, 2018, Professor Isidor Levin, an outstanding scholar in the fields of folk narrative research, comparative folkloristics, Jewish studies and theology, passed away.

Levin was born on Sept 20, 1919 in Daugavils, Latvia. From 1937 until 1941 he was a student of Judaic and Semitic studies and of Estonian and comparative folklore at the University of Tartu. Among his teachers were Lazar Gulkowitsch, Uku Masing, Walter Anderson and Oskar Loorits. From 1946 until 1947 he studied law at Tartu State University and from 1952 until 1955 he studied Russian language and literature at the Leningrad Pedagogical Institute. In 1956 he started to teach German folklore at the Leningrad Institute of Germanic Studies. In 1967 he was awarded a PhD by the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR in Moscow. From 1966 until 1984 Levin worked at the Tajik Academy of Sciences and Armenian Academy of Sciences, organizing and systematizing the folklore archives. He was Professor Emeritus at the St. Petersburg Institute of Religion and Philosophy, Professor Emeritus of the Tajik National University and the University of Jerewan and honorary member of the Folklore Fellows. Levin was a recipient of the premio Pitrè-Salomone Marino (1987) and the Walther-Kahn-Märchenpreis (1989). In 2001 he was awarded the Order of the White Star, 4th Class, by the president of Estonia. During the last years he lived in Hamburg and continued to take active interest in folk narrative research and history of scholarship.

The ISFNR has lost one of its honorary members and founding members whose life work was devoted to international folklore studies. Professor Levin carried the academic spirit and deep erudition that links the greatest philologically oriented scholars. In his writings and his oral presentations he was bright, profound and demanding. The ISFNR will honour the memory of our eminent colleague who embodied the history of folk narrative research in the politically most turbulent times of the 20th century.

The biographical entry on Levin in the German *Enzyklopädie des Märchens* (vol. 8, 1996) includes a survey of his most important publications.