November 13, 2015 is the 90th birthday of IU Professor Emeritus Yuri Bregel, who taught in the Department of Central Eurasian Studies from 1981 until 2000; he has lived in the Boston area for ten years. A prominent specialist on the history of Central Asia and on Persian and Chaghatay Turkic historiography, Yuri also served as Director of the Research Institute for Inner Asian Studies, overseeing the expansion of the institute’s holdings to include a priceless collection of microfilms of Islamic manuscripts, from 1986 to 1997. In addition, he served as Director of the Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center, from 1988 to 1997; in this capacity, he was at the forefront of efforts to add the study of contemporary Central Asia to the academic profile of Indiana University, much as his own arrival at IU in 1981 marked the addition to the university of a serious scholarly profile in the history of Islamic Central Asia. His numerous scholarly publications, in Russian and English, include seminal books and critical articles as well as now-indispensable reference aids, beginning with two monographs based on documents from the archives of the 19th-century Khanate of Khiva, *Khorezmkie turkmeny v XIX veke* (“The Khorezmian Turkmens in the 19th Century,” 1961), and *Dokumenty arkhива khivinskikh khanov po istorii i ètnografii karakalpakov* (“Documents of the Archives of the Khivan Khans on the History and Ethnography of the Qaraqalpaqs,” 1967); a translation and expansion of the sections on Qur’ānic literature and historiography from the fundamental reference work on Persian literature, C. A. Storey’s *Persian Literature: A Bio-Bibliographical Survey*, published in three volumes in 1972 and now known simply as “Storey-Bregel;” a critical text edition (1988) and annotated English translation (1999) of the *Firdaws al-iqbāl*, a major Chaghatay Turkic chronicle of the Khanate of Khiva from the early 19th century; the massive three-volume *Bibliography of Islamic Central Asia* (1995); and the *Historical Atlas of Central Asia* (2003).

Yuri’s scholarly career has left an enormous imprint on the study of Central Asia; his life was shaped by many of the major upheavals of the 20th century. He was born in Moscow in 1925; he was evacuated with his family to the Farghana Valley, in Central Asia, after the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union; he was wounded at the front during his service in the Soviet army; his education was interrupted by five years in a labor camp after denunciations, by an informer for the secret police, for making anti-Soviet statements; he was released after Stalin’s death, to resume his education and scholarly career in Moscow; he emigrated in 1974 to Israel, where he taught for several years at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, before his move to Bloomington in 1981. Because of his emigration from the USSR, Yuri and his publications went unmentioned in Soviet scholarship for years; the collapse of the Soviet Union allowed renewed discussion of his work in Russian and Central Asian academic circles, and his legacy now includes a younger generation of specialists who have been inspired by his scholarship, in each of the independent republics of Central Asia.
The faculty, staff, and students of the Department of Central Eurasian Studies, and Yuri’s colleagues and friends around the university, extend their best wishes to Yuri for happy 90th birthday.