

## Editors' Preface

For nearly a quarter century, Hiroshi KUMAMOTO, historical linguist and philologist of Iranian languages, has taught at the University of Tokyo. On the occasion of his retirement in March 2013, we issued an appeal to his colleagues, students and friends at the academic institutions where he has studied and taught, to send in their contributions, and have produced this volume with the editorial assistance of and printing arrangements by Dr. Itsuki NAGASAWA. We are happy to celebrate his retirement and thank him for many years of service with a volume reflecting his far-ranging interests.

Hiroshi KUMAMOTO was born in Tokyo in 1948, and was admitted to the University of Tokyo in 1967. While humanities students in those days devoted much fervor to literature and philosophy, he preferred empirically grounded disciplines with established methods, and chose linguistics, which was considered the driest major in the Faculty of Letters and attracted rather few students back then. In the days when linguists were excited by the achievements of generative grammar, he set his mind on Indo-European linguistics, one of the most established subfields of linguistics, and studied it with Professor Kiyozô KAZAMA. He taught himself Latin and Greek, and attended seminars in the Classics department. At the same time he studied Sanskrit with Professor Minoru HARA, under whose guidance he read epics and dramas in Sanskrit and Prakrit intensively. After entering the Graduate School of Humanities in 1974, Yutaka ÔJIHARA, Professor of Sanskrit at Kyoto University, taught a two-week intensive course in Pāṇinian grammar. This would turn out to be one of the classes that influenced KUMAMOTO most. With ÔJIHARA's advice, he wrote his M.A. thesis on the notion of the *kāraḥ* in the Pāṇinian tradition, especially in the *Mahābhāṣya*.

It was Professor HARA who noticed KUMAMOTO's gift of learning languages, and inspired him to study ancient Iranian languages. Harold W. BAILEY, who visited Japan in the early 70s, suggested to HARA that the knowledge of Chinese, in addition to Indo-Aryan languages, would be essential for the study the East Iranian languages of Central Asia, which is a crossroads of civilizations. Upon this advice HARA suggested that he take up Khotanese, an extinct language with a sizable and largely unexplored corpus. After obtaining M.A. and working for the department as assistant for one semester, KUMAMOTO was awarded a research scholarship from the government of Iran, in the last years of the Pahlavi Dynasty, to study Iranian languages, and in 1976 he enrolled in the University of Pennsylvania as a Ph.D. student to work with Mark DRESDEN. While at UPenn, he studied Avestan, Pahlavi, Persian, and other Indo-European and Semitic languages, and became a Ph.D. candidate in Oriental Studies. The scholarship from the Iranian government ceased after two years due to the revolution, and he worked his way through this difficult time by earning a scholarship from the University including a year as a teaching assistant in Sanskrit.

After earning his Ph.D. ("with distinction") in 1982 with a dissertation entitled *Khotanese Official Documents in the Tenth Century, A.D.*, he returned to Japan with his family. He took up a position as associate professor at International Buddhist University in Habikino, Osaka, in 1983, and taught various courses including General Linguistics, Latin, and Sanskrit. In 1989, he was appointed

associate professor in Linguistics at the Faculty of Letters of the University of Tokyo, and became full professor in 1994, serving as Head of the Linguistics Department from 2004 to 2007.

Professor KUMAMOTO has visited various libraries, museums and institutes where Khotanese manuscripts are housed, in UK, France, Germany, Sweden, USA and Russia, studied manuscript fragments in their custody, and has written dozens of articles and reviews on Khotanese. He is now preparing a new volume of *Saka Documents Text Volume* dealing with the Pelliot collection in Paris.

There are numerous students and colleagues who had the honor of sitting in his class to learn from his immense knowledge of Iranian languages, Indo-European languages, and linguistics in general. He taught many Indo-European languages, including Avestan, Old Persian, Sogdian, Bactrian, Parthian, Manichaean and Zoroastrian Middle Persian, Niya Prakrit, Armenian and Tocharian, often upon the request of his students. As an academic advisor, he always searched literature written on the topic more thoroughly than the students did themselves, and helped them start their research from the forefront. He advised students working on various languages, Germanist Kôji IRIE, Indologist Makoto KITADA, Hittitologist Yasuhiko SAKUMA, Tocharologist Hirotohi OGIHARA, to name just a few.

It is perhaps not out of place to mention here the careful attention that Professor KUMAMOTO has paid in managing the department. When any student or colleague asked for his comments on drafts of their papers or his advice on their projects, he has always given generous help. An expert of computing, he built and maintained the network system of the department, administered the servers, assembled new computers for the department by recycling old parts, and wrote the codes for most of the departmental website.

The papers contained in this volume illustrate the range of Professor KUMAMOTO's interests and continuing influence in linguistics and philology. We dedicate this collection to him as a token of our affection, appreciation, and respect for his scholarly attainments and personal qualities.

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Masato KOBAYASHI  
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