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OLD INDO-ARYAN MORPHOLOGY
AND ITS INDO-IRANIAN BACKGROUND

in co-operation with
Jared S. Klein and Velizar Sadovski

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Old Indo-Aryan morphology and its Indo-Iranian background

Toshifumi Gotō

Dem Andenken

KARL HOFFMANNS 26.2.1915 – 21.5.1996 und

MANFRED MAYRHOFERS 26.9.1926 – 31.10.2011

Recently I had occasion to write a short contribution on the morphology of Old Indo-Aryan for a handbook of historical linguistics. I soon recognized, however, that we lack an up-to-date summary on the subject, so I expanded my manuscript. My colleague Velizar Sadovski examined my rough draft on my visit to Vienna in September 2009 and suggested to me that I should write a booklet including more thorough-going references to the preceding Indo-Iranian stage. The present monograph is the result. It is admittedly only a sketch, which is to be revised and enlarged with corrections and completions, especially with regard to recent researches in this field. I hope it serves nevertheless as a basis for future studies.

I have put in this work many items of material and method I have learned from my teacher Karl Hoffmann, to whom I express my deepest respect, in Erlangen between 1977 and 1985, in those good days. This book is thus an “Erlangen program” of the eighties summarised from my perspective. Writing these lines, I remember Hoffmann’s words that one should have the courage to fail in order to bring advances to our discipline. My teacher seems to have had for himself too little courage, but I venture it. I owe my scholarly training in Erlangen also to Gert Klingenschmitt and other colleagues. I express my sincere thanks to them.

We have today a fundamental grammar of Avestan, which describes, so to speak, (Proto-)Indo-Iranian from the Avestan side: *Avestische Laut- und Flexionslehre* by Karl HOFFMANN and Bernhard FORSSMAN, Innsbruck 1996, ²2004. So, I may begin with Old Indo-Aryan.

Indo-European comparative grammar is important not only for philology and linguistics, but it is of fundamental importance for understanding human history as a whole and our position today in the “global” world. I try to trace word forms back to Proto-Indo-Iranian

and to Proto-Indo-European. Many books have accompanied my work: among others, Manfred MAYRHOFER, *Etymologisches Wörterbuch des Altindoarischen*, I–III, Heidelberg 1992–2001, and Helmut RIX, *Historische Grammatik des Griechischen. Laut- und Formenlehre*, Darmstadt 1976. I feel proud in going forward together with them.

May this booklet be of benefit for Vedic and Sanskrit philologists, Iranists, scholars of Indo-European studies, and those who are interested in language. I am indebted to Velizar Sadovski for his valuable advice and friendship. I should like to record my sincere thanks to Professor Dr. Manfred Mayrhofer, who also helped me with my first publication in the Austrian Academy of Sciences. Taking this occasion I extend my thanks to the following Professors and Doctors for their help and encouragement: above all, to my teacher Johanna Narten and Erlangen seniors Heiner Eichner, Bernhard Forssman, Rosemarie Lühr, Norbert Oettinger, Eva Tichy, and Michael Witzel, as well as to my colleagues and friends, Rahul Peter Das, George Dunkel, Harry Falk, José Luis García Ramón, Jost Gippert, Olav Hackstein, Jón Axel Harðarson, Heinrich Hettrich, Jean Kellens, Jared S. Klein, Thomas Krisch, Leonid Kulikov, Martin Joachim Kümmel, Beda Künzle, Reiner Lipp, Alexander M. Lubotsky, Michael Meier-Brügger, Gerhard Meiser, Thomas Oberlies, Georges-Jean Pinault, Eric Pirart, Salvatore Scarlata, Christiane Schaefer, Rüdiger Schmitt, Günter Schweiger, Xavier Tremblay, Chlodwig H. Werba, Albrecht Wezler, Sabine Ziegler, the late Jochem Schindler and Ronald E. Emmerick, as well as my best colleague, Junko Sakamoto-Gotō, and many other persons whom I may have only accidentally forgotten to name. I am much obliged also to our younger colleagues and students.

Dr. Naoko Nishimura (Sendai) read my manuscript through and compiled indices with the assistance of Mr. Tomoki Yamada (M. A., Sendai). Mr. Jonathan Morris (M. A., Sendai) and Prof. Dr. James Tink (Tōhoku University, Sendai) kindly read and corrected my English. Prof. Dr. Toshiya Tanaka (Kyūshū University, Fukuoka) gave me important suggestions for improvement of the English. Mr. Takaaki Araiwa (Leipzig) helped me with information about Slavic languages. I am much obliged to them for their assistance.

Sendai, June 2010

My respected colleagues Jared Stephen Klein (University of Georgia at Athens), Velizar Sadovski (Austrian Academy of Sciences), Rüdiger Schmitt (Laboe), and Jost Gippert (Frankfurt a. M.) read my book manuscript through and corrected not only my poor English but also many shortcomings in the scholarly contents. For their kindly efforts, which saved my honour in many points, I express my sincere thanks. Drs. Sunao Kasamatsu and Junichi Ozono (Sendai) were kind enough to help me with the last revision of the indices.

Morioka/Vienna, December 2012

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