

# Preface

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**Bono Homini Donum: Essays in Historical Linguistics, in Memory of J. Alexander Kerns. (2 volumes)**

**Edited by Yoël L. Arbeitman and Allan R. Bomhard**

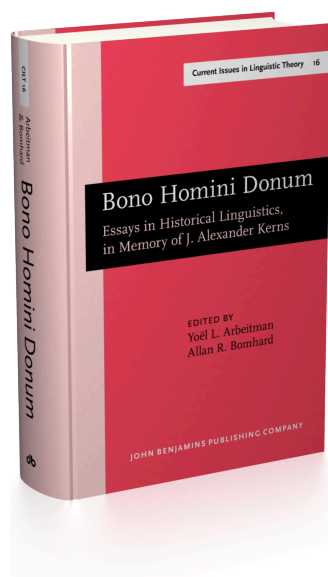
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## PREFACE

J. Alexander Kerns was a prodigious linguistic scholar, whose interests extended to all of the major language families of the world. The essays gathered together in this book to honor his memory reflect his wide-ranging interests and, therefore, include contributions dealing not only with the Indo-European parent language and its descendants but also with other language families such as Afroasiatic and Altaic.

But Kerns the man was more, much more, than a prodigious linguist -- he was, first and foremost, a kind, generous, and extremely humble human being; he was the quintessential embodiment of all of the qualities that enoble humankind. His influence was great -- not on account of his scholarly publications, which were relatively few in number, but because he so greatly inspired all who came into contact with him.

The idea of preparing this volume -- now a reality after three, long, hard years of labor -- was first conceived by Yoël Arbeitman shortly after Professor Kerns passed away in October, 1975. Except for the Dedication and Yoël Arbeitman's contribution, all of the work required to prepare the camera-ready manuscript was done by Allan R. Bomhard.

The editors would like to thank all those -- too numerous to name -- who helped to make this undertaking a success. Special appreciation must be expressed to the General Editor of the series, E.F.Konrad Koerner, and to the publisher, John Benjamins, Amsterdam, for their patience, enthusiastic support, and many helpful suggestions.