

Preface and Acknowledgments

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**Studies in Baltic and Indo-European Linguistics: In honor
of William R. Schmalstieg**

Edited by Philip Baldi and Pietro U. Dini

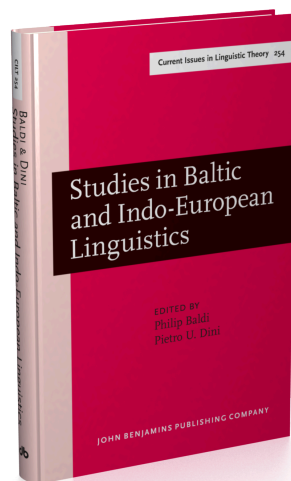
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PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are pleased to present this *Festschrift* to our colleague and friend, William R. Schmalstieg, on the occasion of his seventy-fifth birthday. This *Festschrift* is a long overdue token of recognition and appreciation of this prolific and influential scholar of Baltic, Slavic, and Indo-European historical linguistics.

The idea of a *Festschrift* for William R. Schmalstieg had been in the air for quite some time, but it was only after the editors of this volume made each other's acquaintance in September of 1998 that it started to become a reality. To make it come to life, many steps had to be taken. The first of these was narrowing down the topics to be covered. Although William R. Schmalstieg moves with equal comfort in the three areas of historical linguistics mentioned above, the reality is that we simply couldn't put together a volume which covered all three, given limitations of time, space, and editorial expertise. So our first task was to delimit the volume, and to do this we decided to more or less restrict the topics to Baltic and Indo-European, areas where we felt most capable. Our next task was to select a list of invitees. Needless to say, not everyone who deserved an invitation received one, especially scholars of Slavic languages. To those friends and colleagues who did not receive an invitation to contribute, we apologize. Beyond that, several other scholars who promised at the beginning to contribute a paper were in the end unable to do so, for a variety of reasons. Our next step of course was to find a well-known publishing house to publish the volume. In this we were aided by our old friend and colleague Konrad Koerner, who opened the door to John Benjamins Publishers of Amsterdam and Philadelphia. Needless to say we were, and are, honored that Benjamins considered this a worthy project, and we are grateful to Anke de Looper for her guidance and helpful attitude throughout the process of bringing this volume to life.

A project like this requires resources and institutional support as well, and for this we are thankful to the Pennsylvania State University, which provided funds that were critical to us as we saw the idea from beginning to end. We are particularly grateful to the Department of Slavic and German (Adrian Wanner, Head), the Department of Classics and Ancient Mediterranean Studies (Gary Knoppers, Head), the Department of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies (Karen Johnson, Head), the Center for the Study of Second Language Acquisition (James Lantolf, Director), the Institute for the Arts and Humanistic Studies

(Laura Knoppers, Director), and the Office of Research and Graduate Studies of the College of Liberal Arts (Raymond Lombra, Dean). For technical help in proofreading we are thankful to Paul Harvey; for their expertise in translation we are grateful to Axel Holvoet and Nina Vyatkina (Russian), Peter T. Daniels (German), and Antanas Klimas (Lithuanian). Finally, we thank Peter T. Daniels, who set the manuscript in type and served as an editorial conscience to us along the way.

Mostly, however, we are thankful to Bill Schmalstieg for his inspiration and friendship. To Bill we offer this Festschrift as a token of our heartfelt gratitude. To this end, the editors would like to revivify (and slightly modify) a few Old Prussian words and say to Bill with a single voice:

kai tebbei wiſſa nouſon ſegifna podingai “May all our work be pleasing to you.”

Philip Baldi
Pietro U. Dini
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