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342

Preface

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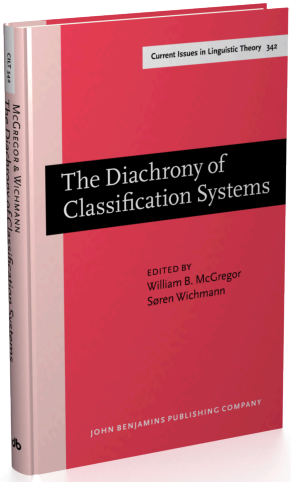

Pages vii–viii of
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Preface

The origin of this book goes back to a conference, *The Diachrony of Classification Systems*, held at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences, Wassenaar, The Netherlands on 12–13 March 2009. This conference, convened by the editors, fell under the auspices of the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) Action 31 *Stability and Adaptation of Classification Systems in a Cross-Cultural Perspective*, which ran from 2006 to 2010, and was chaired by Thekla Wiebusch. The editors gratefully acknowledge the financial and logistic contributions of COST to *The Diachrony of Classification Systems* conference. We are particularly grateful to Thekla Wiebusch for all the energy she put into the COST action, and for her support of our conference.

Six of the papers included in the present volume – those by Seifart, Frenda, van der Voort, Bisang, Dammel & Kürschner, and McGregor – were presented at that conference. To provide a wider geographical and genetic spread of languages, four additional contributions – Kießling, Hull, Stilo, and Lichtenberk – were solicited especially for this volume. We hope that these contributions will stimulate further research into the diachrony of classification systems in the world's languages. We also hope it will stimulate study of the development of other classification systems, including such systems in sign languages and writing systems.

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We are grateful to the ten colleagues who served as anonymous external referees for the individual chapters in the volume, as well as to the contributors themselves, who served as internal referees, in many instances for more than one paper. Thanks also go to Jeroen Willemsen for preparing the indexes, and to the contributors for their patience and understanding over the book's long gestation and for responding promptly to our queries. We extend particular thanks to the General Editor of this series, Joe Salmons, for careful reading of the manuscript and seeing it through publication. The previous editor, Konrad Koerner, was also supportive of the project. Further acknowledgements for other contributions are given in the individual papers.

William B. McGregor & Søren Wichmann
Århus & Tübingen, November 2017