

## Editor's Foreword

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Matthias Alexander Castrén's achievements in linguistics and cultural studies would not have been possible without his extensive travels and fieldwork in Lapland, Russia and Siberia. His travel diaries, in particular, shed light on the process that led to his interpretations in different fields of study. This two-part volume launches a critical edition of Castrén's travels. It consists of reports, descriptions and diaries from his journeys of 1838–1849 as well as some other texts and fragments connected to them. The whole volume is introduced with an article contextualizing Castrén's travels in their period and surroundings.

It is also possible to reconstruct Castrén's travel routes in more detail now than previously. Their overall picture has been known since Castrén's lifetime, but the travel diaries have nonetheless provided some new items of information. The routes are listed at the end of the introduction.

The first steps towards realizing this volume were taken in 2009, but most of the work was done in 2013–2014 and 2016–2017, in parallel with editing Castrén's archaeological and historical writings and university texts. They were published as the *Realia I* volume in this series in 2017 (Castrén 2017a).

The 1838 Lapland section contains two descriptions from Lapland, an article based on observations and interviews in the province of Tavastia (Häme) on the way to the north and Castrén's field diary (Nos. 1–4).

In the 1839 Karelian section there are two travel reports, one written for publication and one meant for the archives of the Finnish Literature Society, and a set of field notes (Nos. 5–7).

The 1841–1844 section on Lapland, Russia and West Siberia consists of the travel description written for publication, a set of field notes, *Utdrag ur ett bref, dateradt Kuolajärwi de 3 December 1841* (Excerpts from a letter dated 3 December 1841 at Kuolajärvi) written in the form of a letter, a fragmentary field diary from 1842 and a field notebook of 1842–1843 (Nos. 8–14).

The 1845–1849 section on Russia and Siberia contains firstly Castrén's travel plan, seven reports written for publication, two reports to the Imperial Academy of Sciences, a description of the Enisej River and a report about Finnish prisoners in Siberia, written originally for the Imperial Senate of Finland (Nos. 15–26). Secondly, there are four field diaries or notebooks and brief notes written in the calendars of 1846 and 1847 (Nos. 27–32). Although also some private letters, especially to A.J. Sjögren, were published in newspapers during Castrén's journeys, they have been excluded here and the reader is referred to the volume of Castrén's letters in this series.

In both the 1841–1844 and 1845–1849 sections, some parallel versions and fragments of the texts are published as appendices to the primary versions.

The texts have been edited on the basis of the original manuscripts where available. Most of the preserved manuscripts are in the collections of the National Library of Finland, but some individual ones are also in the archives of the Society of Swedish Literature in Finland and Finnish Literature Society. All the illustrations are from the Castrén manuscripts in the National Library except one, belonging to his travel diary in the archives of the Society of Swedish Literature in Finland. In places I have been able to use the transcriptions made by student Elin Björkman in 2011 for the publication of Castrén's letters, but mostly I have transliterated the texts myself.

It was common for Castrén to make large numbers of changes to his manuscripts. The aim here has been to reconstruct his final versions. The changes made by him have been shown in the marginal notes except where he has only corrected misspellings. If the manuscript has been lost, the earliest printed publication has been used. Manuscript pagination is shown in all texts published from manuscripts here. In cases where the manuscript has been too unclear to be read unambiguously, I bear full responsibility, as editor, for mistakes and words that had to be left completely undeciphered.

The notes have also been used to provide texts with explanations. Issues with comments in the 1845–1849 travel reports are not commented on again in connection with the diaries. Experts in different fields have taken part in writing the commentary, and every note with a commentary is marked with the commentator's initials. As far as Castrén's linguistic diary remarks are concerned, some of them have been commented on here, but mostly the reader is referred to the special volumes on different languages to be published later by various editors in this series. Often, the reader is referred to Castrén's letters, which will hopefully be published in the near future.

In the commentary notes, names in Cyrillic script have been transliterated according to the scholarly standard. If it has not been possible to identify a place or fully reconstruct a personal name mentioned by Castrén, his own spelling is given *in italics*.

I wish to express my gratitude to all who have written commentaries or otherwise helped me in the editing process for their contributions, as well as the Finnish Cultural Foundation (*Suomen Kulttuurirahasto*), the Kone Foundation (*Koneen säätiö*) and the Finno-Ugrian Society itself whose funding has made the work possible.

The editor