

## Editor's Foreword

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M.A. Castrén considered ethnology as a historical science and an instrument for describing the early periods of Finnish history. On his expeditions, Castrén carried out ethnographic observations and made notes of the dwellings, the costumes, the way of life and the customs of indigenous Siberian peoples. Castrén's most important ethnological works, his ethnological lectures on Altaic peoples and his lectures on Finnish mythology are included in his collected works published posthumously by Anton von Schiefner. According to the programme drafted by the Imperial Saint Petersburg Academy of Sciences, Castrén collected ethnological objects for the Ethnographic Museum of the Imperial Saint Petersburg Academy of Sciences, and some items for the Ethnographic Museum of University of Helsinki. The present work concentrates on the collections which describe Castrén's merits in ethnological studies and museology.

The primary sources of this publication are the artefacts in the Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography (Kunstkamera) of Russian Academy of Sciences in St Petersburg and the Museum of Cultures / National Museum of Finland in Helsinki. The collections consist of 65 artefacts, 46 of which are in the Peter the Great Museum and 19 in the Museum of Cultures. The items are on display in different exhibitions in the museums in Helsinki, but most of them are published here for the first time. Castrén worked in the field, but unfortunately did not specify the regions where the materials were acquired. B.G. Bogoraz published information on the circumstances of collecting on 19 April 1846, when native-born Semen Petrov Belozarov obtained for five roubles a fur coat, a cap and gloves for M.A. Castrén.<sup>1</sup> The items purchased for the Ethnographic Museum of the University of Helsinki were presumably Castrén's personal souvenirs.

This publication includes the papers with notes and the catalogues of items. The well-known expert of the Siberian Khanty and Mansi cultures, Elena Fedorova, Senior Researcher of the Department of Siberia in the Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography (Kunstkamera) of the Russian Academy of Sciences considers the Castrén collection, and its keeping and research in the museum to be an important step of the development of the ethnographical research in Russia. Ildikó Lehtinen, Assistant Professor at the University of Helsinki and former Curator of the National Museum of Finland, considers the Castrén Collection to be the first Siberian artefacts in the Ethnographic Museum of University of Helsinki, now the Museum of Cultures / National Museum of Finland.

M.A. Castrén's manuscripts are kept in the National Library of Finland. Castrén's ethnographic material was left unpublished by Anton Schiefner. Therefore, the Finno-Ugrian Society will publish the revised edition of his ethnographic notes on the Khanty, the Samoyeds, and Tungusic peoples in the future.

The transliteration from Cyrillic follows the scholarly transliteration standard. Following the *Manuscripta Castreniana* series, I have used some place-names in established forms as *Yenisei pro Enisej*, *Trans-Bajkal pro Trans-Bajkal*.

I would like to express my particular thanks to the Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography (Kunstkamera) of the Russian Academy of Sciences for the opportunity to publish the Castrén collection in the *Manuscripta Castreniana* series and to Dr. Julia A. Kupina, Deputy Director of museum activities at the Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography (Kunstkamera) for her assistance to the realization of this publication project. The staff of the Museum of Cultures / National Museum of Finland aided me in the realization of this project. My sincere thanks for the peer review go to Professor Helena Ruotsala of the University of Turku and Professor Zoltán Nagy of the University of Pécs. I also thank the Finno-Ugrian Society for accepting this work to be included in its *Travaux ethnographiques* series.

Ildikó Lehtinen  
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1. Bogoraz 1927, 34.