

Editor's Foreword

Matthias Alexander Castrén is best known for his long and arduous expeditions to Lapland, Karelia, Arctic Russia, and Siberia, and his pioneering studies in Samoyedic, Altaic, and other Siberian languages and cultures. The aim of the present publication is to show that Castrén was a noteworthy researcher in the field of Finnish studies as well.

This volume consists of two parts. The first part is devoted to the *Kalevala*, the Finnish national epic, the appearance of which in 1835 constituted a turning point in Castrén's career. Before reading it, Castrén had planned to follow the family tradition and become a clergyman, but now, enchanted by National Romanticism and Finnish mythology, he decided to be a scholar of Uralic languages and peoples. Castrén was the first scholar to translate the entire epic into any language other than Finnish, in this case into Swedish. He also started his career as an academic teacher, giving lectures on the *Kalevala* in 1841.

The second part of this volume contains Castrén's manuscripts for a Finnish grammar book as well as his prepared materials for his 1844 lectures on Finnish grammar. At that time, Latin was still in use as a language of academic writing. The language of instruction was Swedish, which was practical, as all students had learned it by secondary school at the latest, if it was not already their mother tongue. There were many students at the University of Helsinki who were not even able to understand spoken or written Finnish. Yet, after the publication of the *Kalevala* in 1835, the status of Finnish rose rapidly in university circles, and the rise of National Romanticism made Finnish into an interesting object of study. It is no wonder that Castrén's lectures on Finnish grammar were the true highlight of the academic autumn term in 1844.

Both parts of the present volume have been supplemented with an editorial introduction to contextualize Castrén's scientific work and thinking. The texts have been edited on the basis of the original manuscripts, and they have not been published before, except for the Swedish translation of the *Kalevala*. Now the translation will be published side by side with the original text of Elias Lönnrot's *Kalevala* to facilitate comparison between the source text and the translation. The number of lines in Castrén's translation is not exactly equal to the original, and Castrén left all the lines unnumbered. Therefore, all the references to any specific passages of the original text or the corresponding part of the translation are based on the numbers in Lönnrot's *Kalevala*. In the marginal notes added by the editor, Castrén's translation is compared with some minor parts of the *Kalevala* published in Swedish by other authors before the appearance of Castrén's

full translation. When song lyrics appear in the marginal notes, an oblique stroke marks the division between the lines.

According to his contemporaries, Castrén did not fully write out his lectures on the *Kalevala* or Finnish grammar, but rather used concise notes and read sample song fragments to support his oral presentation. It seems he never had the necessary time to write his lectures out fully, except for some introductory and closing remarks and the phonology section of his grammar lectures. The grammar book remained half-done as well.

The manuscript material published in the present volume is for the most part incomplete. There are numerous gaps, mistakes, crossed out passages and corrections left in the text, as Castrén himself had left them there. Totally unclear and illegible words and expressions occur every now and then and are replaced with technical signs <->.

As Castrén made his manuscripts for his own eyes, and not to be published as such, he used plenty of abbreviations—both conventional and occasional—to accelerate his work. Those abbreviations are written out in full to facilitate reading, except for conventional grammatical categories. Even for those terms, the full forms can be found in the grammar section of this volume. Square brackets are used to indicate the elements added by the editor. In the subchapter 3.4 dealing with the new edition (1849) of the *Kalevala*, there are plenty of abbreviations referring to different languages. To save space, those abbreviations are written out in full only when they occur for the first time in the same text. Otherwise, all the texts are deliberately left as they are in Castrén's own manuscripts. This incompleteness illustrates in an unsettling way the challenging circumstances under which Castrén conducted his pioneering work: there were hardly any previous studies, necessary material collections, or relevant source literature to refer to. It would be anachronistic and unfair to assess Castrén's writings on the basis of modern linguistic research and resources.

I express my gratitude to my fellow editor Timo Salminen, who wrote the first draft for chapter 3 (Vocabularia et commentaria Kalevalae) of the *Kalevala* section. He also provided me the digital microfilm copies of the manuscripts constituting the same chapter. I thank my husband Timo Häkkinen who assisted me in taking digital photographs of all manuscripts of the Finnish grammar section. I thank my friend Martti Nyman for helping me decipher some cryptic words written in Greek. I also thank the Finno-Ugrian Society for inviting me to join the Castrén project and accepting this work to be included in the *Manuscripta Castréniana* series.

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The editor