

Editor's Foreword

This volume launches a critical edition of Matthias Alexander Castrén's writings, Manuscripta Castreniana series. It contains Castrén's archaeological and historical writings as well as texts connected to his activities as a university teacher, except for whole series of lectures that will be published separately.

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 travelogues.

There are five texts of archaeological or historical character and two longer university texts as well as some shorter notes presented by Castrén in the University Senate. The archaeological and historical texts have all been published before. So are the two longer university texts consisting of lectures, but Castrén's addresses in the University Senate have not been printed anywhere until this volume. They are valuable in shedding interesting new light on his views on the task of the academic community in society.

The texts have been edited on the basis of the original manuscripts, where available. The preserved manuscripts can be found in the collections of the National Library of Finland and the University of Helsinki Central Archives. The aim has been to reconstruct the final version by Castrén. The changes made by him have been shown in the marginal notes except for the cases when he has only corrected a miswriting. If the manuscript has been lost, the earliest printed publication has been used. The notes have also been used to provide texts with explanations. Experts of different fields have taken part in writing the commentary to the archaeological and historical part of the volume; every note with commentary is signed with the commentator's initials.

The volume has been structured in parts, as follows: the archaeological and historical writings with an introduction and followed by indices, and the university texts with their indices. Instead of a separate introduction, the contextualizing information for the university texts is provided alternating with Castrén's own writings. Castrén's archaeological field notes are found in his travel diaries and will be published in connection with them, hopefully in 2018.

Cyrillic-written names have been transliterated according to the scholarly standard, except for names that have an established spelling in English (Yenisei, Solovetsky). If it has not been possible to identify a place mentioned by Castrén, his own spelling is used *in italics*.

I express my gratitude to everybody who has helped me in the editing process, 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.

In Riihimäki, May 2017

The editor

Explanation of technical signs

- < > an unclear or illegible word or expression; the length of the illegible word is shown with <---->
- [] parts of words abbreviated by Castrén
- italics* || 1. (in the marginal notes), the final version, followed by the outstricken version(s) – In cases of expressions consisting of more than one word, the note number referring to text critical notes is mostly put after the first word, but if the first word is provided with a commentary, it can be found after the last word of the expression.
- ~ an unaltered part of the sentence or expression