

Preface

At a memorable dinner during the 13th Fachtagung in Salzburg in 2008, I had the privilege of sitting next to Alexander Lubotsky and Michael Meier-Brügger. The three of us all had our minds set on hosting the next Fachtagung, and indeed there was much to recommend both Leiden and Berlin. I shall never forget their kindness and generosity when they turned to each other, asking “Shall we let them have it?”, and then nodded approvingly.

Four years later, from 17–22 September 2012, the 14th Fachtagung of the Indogermanische Gesellschaft was held at the University of Copenhagen under the *Rahmenthema* “Etymology and the European Lexicon”.

This theme was chosen in accordance with the research focus of the project *Roots of Europe: Language, Culture, and Migrations*. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to the University of Copenhagen for its generous funding of that project, making it financially viable to host the Fachtagung.

The Fachtagung committee consisted of the project members: Jens Elmegård Rasmussen, Adam Hyllested, Anders Richardt Jørgensen, Guus Kroonen, Oliver Simkin and the four editors of this volume. Head of coordination was Benedicte Nielsen Whitehead together with the conference secretaries, students Christina Løye Hejl, Janus Bahs Jacquet, Marie Heide, Nikolaj Hansen (Dalianis) and Tobias Mosbæk Søborg. We wish to extend our thanks to the five of them for putting a heroic and engaged effort into all conceivable practical details before, during and after the conference. The numerous student volunteers who helped to make everything run efficiently during presentations are also deserving of mention, as is the Department of IT and Media which saw to it that podcasting, including internet debating, ran smoothly and professionally.

Our heartfelt thanks go to all participants at the conference, speakers and listeners alike, for their individual contributions, academic and social, to the 14th Fachtagung.

The present proceedings contain the written versions of most of the presentations given at the Fachtagung. We thank the Department of Nordic Studies and Linguistics for subsidising the proceedings, and Reichert Verlag for accepting the manuscript for publication.

The volume is dedicated to the memory of Jens Elmegård Rasmussen. It seems only fitting that the Copenhagen conference turned out to be an absolute highlight of his career as an Indo-Europeanist. He thoroughly enjoyed every minute: the deeply moving personal speech by the president of the Indogermanische Gesellschaft, Rosemarie Lühr, the presentations and scholarly discussions, the social occasions, and, perhaps most of all, the happy meetings with old and new colleagues and students in his own habitat.

On behalf of the editors,

Birgit Anette Olsen