Preface

The present volume contains Prof. Pobożniak’s most important articles written in English and German. The articles have been chosen according to rather personal, subjective criteria, flowing out both our interests and the language the texts were written in, that was caused by the fact that we wanted to present them to possibly the widest audience. With just a glimpse over the texts included, the readers will, as we hope, have the opportunity to see the renaissance-like diversity of his research.

The volume includes chiefly articles on linguistic issues e.g. *The instrumental Gatha*, which is one of the examples of Prof. Pobożniak’s meticulous works exploring ancient Indo-European languages, such as reconstructed Pre-Indo-European forms, Avestan or Sanskrit. His linguistic diachronic studies were enriched and depended with parallels to Greek, Latin, Old Church Slavonic, Old German, Russian, Polish, Czech, etc., etc.

He was also deeply interested in modern languages, the effect of which were articles on different questions of Hindi grammar (e.g. *The origin of comparison of adjectives in Hindi*, or *Das System der Zahlwörter im Hindi*), where his assumptions found solid support in examples taken from many, old and modern, Indo-European tongues.

One of the most significant fields of linguistic research Professor Pobożniak has ever examined was devoted to the study on the Lovari dialect of Gypsy language. All the extant texts on this issue are much too voluminous to be reprinted here. We
have decided to include here one article on this subject (*Liquid sounds in Gypsy language*), in order to signal this particular and truly unique branch of Professor Pobożniak’s study.

In this volume one can also find studies in which his philosophically inclined mind, translator’s skills and predilection for literary critique, backed by unquestionable fluency in Sanskrit, Pali, Prakrits as well as Old and New Avestan conjoined to be another proof of his many-sidedness. When reading *Mrčchakaṭṭika as a drama of individual characters*, a very concise study in itself, one is really amazed by Prof. Pobożniak’s insightful remarks, which show us the flesh and blood personalities behind the conventional. [Cārudattā] loves Vasantasena, but he remains faithful to his wife, he is also an attentive father. There are many controversies here, and even contradictory features in him, but we know, that this is a psychological fact of human nature.

In *The problem of dream in Milinda-Pañha* we have a sample of Professor Pobożniak’s exceptional translator’s skills as well as a detailed analysis of the view of Buddhist scholars on the problem of the dream, as they are reflected in the discourse. Here the subtlety of philosophical reflections two thousands years ago interlaces with interesting psychological and modern somnological theories to create a complete picture of the problem.

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