

IN MEMORIAM VIKTOR PAVLOVIČ KALYGIN (1950 – 2004)

The biographical particulars summarised by Anna Muradova make known that Viktor Pavlovič Kalygin before his untimely death devoted his life entirely to investigation and scholarship.

In his early student life he was fortunate in having extraordinarily able and renowned teachers: E.A. Jartseva, E.A. Makaev and L.G. Hezenberg. Jartseva whom our late colleague always remembered with gratitude and admiration ranks high in the development of Celtic Studies in Russia, as she had acted as collaborator with the legendary A.A. Smirnov, as investigator, as organiser and as a guide of generations of Russian linguists and philologists. As a result of their various works on Indo-European, from Armenian to Scandinavian, Makaev and Hezenberg had gained recognition throughout the Western world as well.

Among the projects established by Kalygin, his *Vvedenie v kel'tskuyu filologiyu* (Moskva: Nauka, 1989) which he carried out in collaboration with A.A. Korolyov is certainly one of the most outstanding. Arranged in an admirably thorough and well disposed way, this book provides us with a critical research report on Celtic Studies of the time. Its meticulousness and originality becomes apparent by the fact that A. Ellis Evans, undoubtedly one of the leading Celtic experts of the present day, suggested and inaugurated its translation into English.

My wife and I often remember our meetings with Viktor Pavlovič and his wife Nataša during the time when Kalygin carried out his research work at Bonn University as a holder of an Alexander-von-Humboldt scholarship. Imperturbability and a deep sense of humour characterised the personality of this scholar. Any kind of superficial pushing was foreign to his nature. During our talks he untiringly and with great patience attempted to improve my confidence in spoken Russian. His knowledge of Russian culture and history was outstanding. Among the books that he presented to me were three volumed edition of Pushkin works, as well as the most useful *Encyclopedia of the Russian Language* (Moskva, 1997).

In Viktor Pavlovič Kalygin Celtic and Indo-European Studies loose a scholar of unusual farsightedness and working power. His friends and colleagues will always recall him as an unpretentious, liberal and generous personality.

Karl Horst Schmidt