

Johannes Bronkhorst (1946–2025)
Professor of Sanskrit and Indian Studies
at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland

In mid-May 2025, we have received the sad news of the death of our dear colleague and friend, Professor Johannes Bronkhorst. Some of us remember meeting him in 1990, at the World Sanskrit Conference in Vienna. Later, in 1993, he was our guest in Kraków at the International Conference on Sanskrit and Related Studies organised by an enthusiastic team of young Indologists from the Jagiellonian University's Institute of Oriental Studies. For us at the Institute, the conference was a ground breaking event. It was, in fact, the very first time that we were able to host in Kraków our colleagues from all over the world after the 1989 political change in Poland. We sent invitations to many distinguished scholars, many of whom kindly accepted, probably partly out of curiosity. Among these scholars was Johannes Bronkhorst, who soon became one of our most frequent visitors. We were very proud to host him several times in our department, but we also met him on many other occasions, both informally over a cup of coffee, and at more formal events, such as lectures and discussions at World Sanskrit Conferences, organised by different Indological institutions around the world every third year.

The beginnings of our journal, Cracow Indological Studies, are connected with the aforementioned 1993 conference, as the first volume presented contributions based on the conference papers. In 2011, we invited Johannes to join the journal's Scientific Council, an offer which he kindly accepted. We took this as a sign of his trust in our team. He was always ready to help, offering useful advice and reviewing some of the contributions.

Although we stayed in a regular touch with Johannes, the news of his death came as a shock and we found it hard to accept, given that he was in his creative prime. At the start of every year, we anxiously waited for his email message with links to his numerous articles that he had published the previous year.

It is impossible to imagine delivering lectures on the early Indian culture, ascetic practices, beliefs in rebirth and goals of liberation from worldly existence without referencing Johannes's seminal work, *Greater Magadha: Studies in the Culture of Early India*, or writing on Indian religions and the relationship between Buddhism and Hinduism without citing *How the Brahmins Won: From Alexander to the Guptas*. However, Johannes Bronkhorts's academic interests were still broader.

In memory of our dear colleague, we dedicate this volume of Cracow Indological Studies to Him. Johannes has played an important part in the success of this journal.

On behalf of Editorial Board of Cracow Indological Studies,
Marzenna Czerniak-Drożdżowicz
Lidia Sudyka



Prof. Johannes Bronkhorst (sitting between Professors
Greg Bailey and Michel Hulin in the second row of the chairs)
at the opening of the Conference on Sanskrit and Related Studies,
23 September 1993, Kraków, photo from the private archive
of Marzenna Czerniak-Drożdżowicz