

**[0734] PREFACE**

Some 19 years ago Bo Sjölin left the Frisian Institute of the University of Groningen for a professorship in Frisian at the University of Kiel. By then he had been a member of the staff of the Groningen Institute for about 13 years. Now, in the winter of 1997, Bo Sjölin has retired from his Frisian chair at Kiel University. We, as editors of this special volume of the Groningen journal of Frisian studies, *Us Wurk*, have taken the initiative to collect a number of papers specially written to honour Bo Sjölin on the occasion of his retirement. We have invited some of his graduates and colleagues to contribute to this publication, not with the intention, nor with the ambition, to give a representative overview of the fields Bo Sjölin is interested in, but rather in the hope that these papers would address 'Frisian' topics which have always had Bo Sjölin's closest attention, i.e. questions related to Frisian historical linguistics and sociolinguistics, lexicography, and philology in a broad sense.

With the publication of this volume of *Us Wurk*, dedicated to Bo Sjölin, we would like to honour him for the important work he has done for the study of Frisian. This field has been, and still is, dominated by quite a number of his publications from the years he was carrying out his research at the University of Groningen. Here we mention in particular his pioneering contribution on code-switching and interference, *'Min Frysk'* (1976), his *Einführung in das Friesische* (1969), his influential paper on the classification of Old Frisian (1966), and his exemplary text edition *Die 'Fivelgoer' Handschrift* (1970). To some of us, Bo Sjölin should be even more credited for his criticism of the ideological orientation of the study of Frisian, for his criticism of data collection without theorizing, and for his plea for international orientation and scientific debate, in short, for the study of Frisian as part of a more general scientific enterprise.

Germ de Haan,  
Oebele Vries,  
editors

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