

PREFACE

This sixth volume of the Proceedings of Conferences of the Finno-Ugric Studies Association of Canada features papers from the XVIIth, XVIIIth, and XIXth meetings of 2010, 2012, and 2014, respectively. The earlier volumes came out in print after the conferences of 1988, 1991, 1993/1995, 2002, and 2004/2006/2008. Not all FUSAC conferences have led to such publications, and not all the presentations at a given meeting have been included in a selected year's publication. Still, the accumulated volumes are quite representative of the range of topics covered at our meetings and the contributions of FUSAC scholars to research on the languages, cultures, and migrations of Finno-Ugric peoples.

The present volume is the first one made available in electronic form, as an online publication. We are most grateful to the University of Alberta Library for making this possible. This should make it easier for members of the academic ranks and/or Finno-Ugric ethnic communities around the world to find our presenters' papers and make use of their findings. We intend to present future Proceedings volumes also in this format, and hope to be able to soon publish some of the work published in earlier print editions in electronic format.

The same kind of information-sharing technology is also providing new opportunities and resources for activists trying to preserve Finno-Ugric languages and cultures, to link the diaspora communities with their ancestral home territories, and to facilitate mutually beneficial contacts, both between representatives of different nationalities and with supportive outsiders. This is particularly important for the smaller Finno-Ugric groups on the verge of final assimilation. Awareness of what other groups have done to maintain their distinctive ways and how researchers of non-native backgrounds find Finno-Ugric case studies valuable for clarifying broader issues in their fields can inspire efforts to document, publicize, and revitalize lore that would otherwise be lost. While there is much to bemoan about the modern world's impact on linguistic and cultural diversity, it is not just a story of the undermining of traditions. There are also new possibilities and helpful trends.

FUSAC publications are helping to identify and investigate such developments. We are proud to offer the latest volume, in this new format, to disseminate our presenters' papers more easily and quickly to their counterparts in other associations and communities.

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