

Werk

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Kaare Erling Thomsen Hansen was born in Copenhagen in 1924 and died in 1997. He received his M.A. in Turkic philology in 1952, and in 1959 he became a university lecturer of Turkish. His mentor was the famous Kåre Grønbech, but he was also influenced by Louis Hjelmslev—not so much in Hjelmslev's role as a theoretician but rather in his less known role as a philologist and language teacher. Kaare frequently referred to the courses in Lithuanian held by Hjelmslev as some of the most inspiring experiences of his academic training.

From Kåre Grønbech he obtained the broad perspective with an equal interest in both Turkic and Mongolian languages. He received from Hjelmslev a solid training in historical-comparative linguistics and, except for his two surveys in *Philologiae turcicae fundamenta* 1 of Kazan-Tatar and the language of the Yellow Uygurs and Salar, the rest of his publications were all devoted to diachronic Turkic and Mongolian studies and almost equally divided between the two fields. His main research interests were the phonological interpretation of central textual sources such as the Volga-Bolgar inscriptions and *The Secret History of the Mongols*, and the problems of Turkic and Mongolian vocalism.

Although Kaare Thomsen Hansen may not have published much and his articles were short, his writings were to the point. He disposed much more than is evidenced from his published material, of a large knowledge he willingly shared with his colleagues and his small flock of students. As a teacher, Kaare was inspiring and challenging and his lectures were spiced with the best of Danish wit.

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