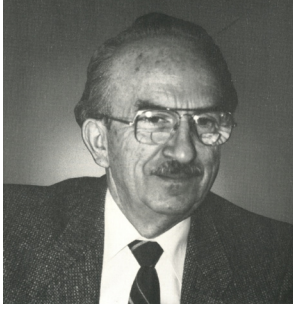


## Obituary



## Bruno Lewin

(July 18, 1924-June 18, 2012)



Professor Bruno Lewin, the father of Korean studies in Germany, and one of the founding members and sometime vice-president of the Association for- Korean Studies in Europe (AKSE), passed away on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June at the age of 87 years. With him we have lost another pioneer of Korean studies outside Korea.

Prof. Lewin began his academic life in 1946 with Slavic Studies, Philosophy, and General Linguistics at Humboldt University (Berlin), where he also took courses in Chinese Studies, and from 1948 on, Japanese Studies as well. After finishing his studies he worked in a Berlin publishing house, concentrating on the preparation of textbooks on Russian literature and Russian grammar for two years. In 1952 he moved to München University where he completed his PhD after two years with a dissertation on the influence of Russian literature on the Japanese author Futabatei Shimei. He started teaching immediately, but the crowning final test of his qualification to become a university professor was his *habilitation* thesis on the “Aya and Hata. Continental Ethnic Groups in Ancient Japan,” based on Chinese, Japanese, and Korean source materials. (Lewin 1962, 238) In these two thesis we can already see the leitmotiv of his methodological interests: Japanese language and literature, both classical and modern, but in a wider perspective of comparative and historical studies, and a special focus on Korean studies.

An interest in the role of cultural exchange between the Korean peninsula and the islands of Japan led him to later divide his energy between Japanese language and literature studies and Korean studies.

During a research trip to Japan in his early years, when most people (including academics) still believed that Korea was merely the backyard of Japan, he took a boat to Busan and hiked to Gyeongju. Having realized that the (in those days underestimated) Korean culture was an important voice in the East Asian orchestra, he wrote a number of groundbreaking

books and articles on Korean language and history. His textbook (1974), with a systematic outline of the Korean grammar, was the first one suitably designed for German students and their learning habits (up to then German students depended on textbooks based on American methodology of language teaching). His systematic outline of the grammar, together with his earlier morphology of the verb (1970), amount to a basic grammar of modern Korean. His analysis and the terminologies he introduced are to this day unsurpassed in German scholarship and are still widely used as a reference. The only earlier work in German in this area had been by Andre Eckardt, who, however, had started from the assumption that Korean was an Indo-German language, upon which his analysis was naturally structured.

Another area of his innovative research was about the role of immigrants from the Korean peninsula in the cultural development of Japan and the role of the Buyeo, Goguryeo and Baekje language(s) in the formation of the Japanese language. In fact, in those days, it was still politically sensitive in both countries to advocate any relationship between Japan and Korea.

As the next step in his academic career he became junior professor in East Asian philology at Münster University, where he was made full professor in 1962.

When he became founding professor for the East Asia Department of the newly established Ruhr University at Bochum in 1964, he added Korean Studies to the curriculum. This was the beginning of Korean studies as an academic degree course on a par with Japanese and Chinese studies in West Germany, where until then there had only been a language course at München University, and occasionally at a few other universities (often as short-lived 2-hours per week introductory courses in linguistics departments). Among his students from the early days, when Bochum University was the only place to provide a full academic program in Korean Studies, were Profs. Eikemeier in Tuebingen (em.), Sasse in Bochum, and later Hamburg (em.), Dormels in Vienna, Huwe in Bonn, Haftmann in EUFH Brühl, Kneider in HUFS Seoul, and lecturer Hoppmann in Bochum. I cannot add here the long list of Japanese studies scholars in Germany who were also trained by Prof. Lewin.

When the ministry offered to honor his scholarly achievements on Korean language and culture by adding Korean Studies to the official

title of his chair (which had been “Japanese Language and Literature”), he turned the offer down in order not to stand in the way of establishing a full professorship solely for Korean Studies at Ruhr University Bochum. His intention was realized indeed in 1988, and Korean Studies, until then already a full program but still under the umbrella of the Japanese Language and Literature Department, had finally become independent.

Prof. Lewin is well known as an outstanding philologist, but there is one aspect of his works which most people have overlooked up to now. Philologists, in the German tradition, connect research into ancient sources and linguistic studies with ethnological and historical research. Prof. Lewin had always had a deep interest in combining his research results with the findings in the latter two disciplines, thereby widening the scope of Korean studies to that of comprehensive cultural studies. His early outline of Korean history (1964) is still the best of its kind in German, and, moreover, is highly readable. His arguments are always presented in short paragraphs with a summarizing sub-heading, making his context easy to follow, along the main steps in the development of his argument. Needless to say, he also added maps and appendixes, and extensively provided sources and suggestions for further reading.

A great scholar he was indeed, a fact which can also be seen from the invitations as guest professor by the Universities of Michigan (1967), Minnesota (1970), Zürich (1975 to 76), three times by the University of Tokyo, and in 1981 to 1982 by the National Institute for Japanese Literature. In 1974 he was the first Japanologist to become a member of the Rheinisch-Westphälische Akademie der Wissenschaften.

But maybe even more importantly, as a teacher he was a shining example of how a scholar should also be a model gentleman, combining serious scholarship, a deep humanity, understanding, kindness, and humor. His students can never forget his personal and academic wholeheartedness, and his cautious and always positive guidance.

Werner Sasse

## Publications<sup>1</sup>

1962. *Aya und Hata: Bevölkerungsgruppen Altjapans kontinentaler Herkunft*. Vol.3 of *Studien zur Japanologie: Monographien zur Geschichte, Kultur und Sprache Japans*, edited by Horst Hammitzsch, with Otto Karow and Bruno Lewin. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz.
1964. "Geschichte Koreas." In *Abriß der Geschichte Ausereuropäischer Kulturen*. Vol.2, 199-239, 333-37, 359-60, 390-93. München: R. Oldenbourg.
1966. *Brockhaus Enzyklopädie*. s.v. "Geschichte Koreas."
1966. Review of *Grammatik der koreanischen Sprache: Übungsbuch der koreanischen Sprache*, by Andre Eckardt. *ZDMG* 116:434-40.
1968. Review of *Korean and Indo-European. Inquiries into the Korean Language's Membership of the Indo-European Language Family*, by Andre Eckardt. *Mundus* 4 (3): 203-05.
- 1968-69. Review of *A Korean-English Dictionary*, by Samuel E. Martin, Yang-Ha Lee, and Sung-Un Chang. *Oriens* 21-22:592-95.
1970. *Morphologie des koreanischen Verbs*. Vol. 5 of *Veröffentlichungen des Ostasien-Instituts der Ruhr-Universität Bochum*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, VIII.
1971. "Der interpersonale Bezug im Koreanischen." In *Acta Orientalia, Neerlandica, Proceedings of the Congress of the Dutch Oriental Society: On the Occasion of its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Leiden, May 8-9, 1970*, edited by P. W. Pestmann, 195-205. Leiden: Brill.
1971. "Alte Lehrbücher des Japanischen in Korea." In *Asien, Tradition und Fortschritt: Festschrift für Horst Hammitzsch zu seinem 60 Geburtstag*, edited by Lydia Brüll and Ulrich Kemper, 389-406. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz.
1972. Review of *The Early History of Korea. The Historical Development*

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1. The following bibliography lists all Korean Studies related monographs and articles taken from the bibliography of Japanological (107 items) and Koreanological publications in the Festschrift offered in 1989 upon his retirement. I am aware that he continued publishing a number of articles, but my resources—I am presently living in Korea—are limited, and therefore, unfortunately, I must omit his latest contributions to the field.

- of the Peninsula up to the Introduction of Buddhism in the Fourth Century A.D.*, by Kenneth H.J. Gardiner. *NOAG* 111:78-79.
1973. "Japanese and the Language of Koguryō." In vol. 4 of *Papers of the C.I.C. Far Eastern Language Institute*, edited by Richard B. Mather, 19-33. Ann Arbor: Panel on Far Eastern Language Institutes of the Committee on International Cooperation.
1973. Review of *Beginning Korean*, by Samuel E. Martin and Young-Sook Lee, with the assistance of Elinor Clark Horne. *Linguistics* 100:92-96.
1974. *Einführung in die koreanische Sprache*. (co-authored with Tschong Dae Kim). Heilbronn: Verlag Vorspann-Werbung Dr. G. Scherer, VIII.
1975. Review of *Korea: A History*, by Choy, Bong-youn. *NOAG* 117: 82-84.
1976. *Der koreanische Anteil am Werden Japans*. Opladen: Westdeutscher Verlag. [Rheinisch-Westfälische Akademie der Wissenschaften (ed.): Vorträge G 215]
1976. "Japanese and Korean: The Problems and History of a Linguistic Comparison." *The Journal of Japanese Studies* 2 (2): 389-412.
1977. Editor and preface to *Geschichte der koreanischen Sprache*, by Ki-Moon Lee. Wiesbaden: Dr. Ludwig Reichert Verlag, XIII. Originally published as *Gugeosa gaeseol* (Seoul: Minjung Seogwan, 1972).
1978. "Eine annotierte Bibliographie wissenschaftlicher Veröffentlichungen aus Nordkorea. Erster Teil." In vol. 1 of *Bochumer Jahrbuch zur Ostasienforschung*, edited by Lewin et al., 456-84.
1978. "Anmerkungen zum Stand des japanisch-koreanischen Sprachvergleichs." In *Referate des IV. Deutschen Japanologentags in Tübingen*, edited by Fritz Opitz and Roland Schneider, 106-20. Hamburg: [MOAG LXXIII].
1980. "Paekche-Adel im alten Japan." In *Mélanges offerts à Monsieur Charles Hagenauer en l'honneur de son quatre-vingtième anniversaire. Etudes Japnnaises*. Collège de France. Bibliothèque de l'Institut des Hautes Etudes Japonaises, 87-101. Paris: l'Asiatèque.
1980. "Sprachkontakte zwischen Paekche und Yamato in frühgeschichtlicher Zeit." In *Japanische Sprachwissenschaft*, edited by ...

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1981. “Archaic Korean: A Component to Clarify the Origin of Japanese?” In *Proceedings of the International Symposium on the Genetic Relationships of the Japanese Language, Oct. 10-13, 1980*. 2 (4): 201-15. Kyoto: The Bulletin of the International Institute for Linguistic Sciences, Kyoto Sangyo University.
1981. “International Symposium on the Genetic Relationships of the Japanese Language.” *Ural-Altaische Jahrbücher* 53:135-37.
1983. “Korean and Indo-German: Earlier German Theories about the Relationships of the Korean Language.” *Korea Journal* 23 (11): 21-27.