

## PREFACE

In 1976, Russell Schuh co-edited a festschrift for William Welmers, Professor of Linguistics at UCLA and America's leading African linguist of his day. At the time, Russ could not have imagined that 30 years later he would be occupying that position, that he would have established himself as one of the world's most prominent African linguists of *his* day, and that he would be the recipient of a festschrift in his honor (appearing like the earlier one as an *SAL* supplement). But that is the way things have turned out and we are extremely pleased to applaud Russ's enormous contributions to African linguistics, in both research and teaching, by means of this congratulatory volume. It is a testimony to the breadth of Russ's interests and his scholarly impact that the articles in this festschrift are not limited to Chadic, Russ's primary area of specialization, but also cover a range of West African languages extending from Nigeria to Senegal.

The contributors to the volume have all had long-term personal and professional connections with Russ (in a couple of cases including co-authors who graciously agreed to participate). Will Leben and Russ were in the Peace Corps together in Niger working on similar adult literacy projects. Norbert Cyffer, Phil Jaggar, Roxana Ma Newman, and Ekkehard Wolff interacted with Russ in northern Nigeria in the mid 1970s when Russ was working at the Centre for the Study of Nigerian Languages, Abdullahi Bayero College, now Bayero University. (Roxana Newman had worked with Russ a few years earlier on a comparative Chadic syntax project.) Herrmann Jungraithmayr, the doyen of Chadic linguistics, first met Russ at conferences and throughout the years greatly appreciated and supported his work.

Alhaji Maina Gimba, Phil Jaggar, Leslie Moore, and Mariame Sy were Ph.D. students of Russ at UCLA. Russ and Gimba have since been co-investigators on a major NSF-supported Chadic project in northeastern Nigeria. Abdullahi Bature met Russ when he was a Ph.D. student of Will Leben at Stanford. Later, back in Nigeria, Bature worked closely with Russ on an innovative Hausa video project. In recognition of Russ's long time commitment to the development of local languages, evident in his publications list, both Bature and Gimba agreed to write their contributions to this volume in Hausa.

Chris Ehret and Ian Maddieson have been valued colleagues of Russ at UCLA (Ian also being Russ's running partner). The two of us editors have had long and

close relationships with Russ. Larry Hyman and Russ were fellow Ph.D. students at UCLA and worked together on *Studies in African Linguistics* in its early years, both having served as editor at different periods. They remained close colleagues when Larry was at USC and later Berkeley, and the two of them co-authored a major paper on tone. Paul Newman hired Russ as a graduate research assistant on his comparative Chadic project, research that formed the basis of Russ's Ph.D. dissertation, and later enticed him to join the research team of the fledgling Centre for the Study of Nigerian Languages. They frequently exchanged ideas, resulting in an important jointly authored paper on the Chadic aspect system.

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