ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The present volume is an outcome of the seminar “Ideology and Status of Sanskrit in South and Southeast Asia” organized under the auspices of the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), Leiden, 17-19 November 1994. When working on the organization of the seminar and on the publication of this volume, the editor incurred a pleasant debt of gratitude to numerous individuals and institutions. The generous support and assistance provided by the then newly founded IIAS made the seminar possible, and the active and enthusiastic participation of a considerable number of scholars made it a success. Apart from the contributors to this volume, the following persons deserve special mention: Professors L. Leertouwer, D.H.A. Kolff and H.W. Bodewitz, Professor Hannes Kniffka, Mrs. Iwona Milewska, Dr. Max Nihom, Professor Peter Raster, Dr. Herman Tieken, Dr. J.-M. Verpoorten, Professor T.E. Vetter and Dr. J.H.A. Vivekanand. Thanks to the organizational skills of Mrs. Esther Guitjens, latent practical problems during the seminar were already solved before they manifested themselves.

Professor Johannes Bronkhorst (Lausanne) should be mentioned as the one who guided me through all critical phases in planning and organizing the seminar and in solving organizational problems in the publication of this collective work. All participants contributed to the formulation of the concept of the present volume, which attempts to provide an overview of the historical depth and geographical and cultural extension of the ideology and status of Sanskrit, as well as of the major themes and theoretical problems associated with it in modern research.

When working on this volume as an IIAS research fellow, I received all the necessary support and facilities from the IIAS, personalized for me in the enthusiastic members of its Staff, Prof. W.A.L. Stokhof, Mrs. Sabine Kuiper, Mrs. Karin van Belle, Mrs. Kitty Yang and Mrs. Maya Gal, and the editor-in-chief of all IIAS-publications, Paul van der Vel-
de. It is hoped that this volume will serve as a fitting tribute to their commitment to academic quality, continuity and innovation in Asian Studies.

Here I would also like to record my gratitude to Prof. Paul Dundas (Edinburgh) for writing an excellent contribution to this volume even though he could not be present at the seminar. The staff of the library of the department of South and Central Asia (Kern Institute) was always helpful in providing material and bibliographical assistance. Of all others who helped in various ways in the realization of this book I would here like to mention especially my friends Dolf J.B.F. Hart-suiker (Utrecht), and Frans H.P.M. Janssen (Utrecht), as well as Prof. J.G. de Casparis (Leiden), Dr. Marijke Klokke (Leiden), Prof. K.R. van Kooij (Leiden), Prof. E. te Nijenhuis, and Prof. T.E. Vetter (Leiden).

Finally, I am grateful to the staff of E.J. Brill publishers for giving this volume a place in their series “Brill’s Indological Library.”

Leiden, May 1996

Jan E.M. Houben