

Silvin Košak

10.3.1942 – 18.4.2022



On Easter Monday, following a brief serious illness, the creator of the '*Konkordanz der hethitischen Keilschrifttafeln*' passed away shortly after his 80th birthday. He was born in Marburg an der Drau, Slovenian Maribor, a city with German and Slovenian speaking population. From 1960 to 1966 he studied Indo-European comparative linguistics in conjunction with prehistory and archaeology in Ljubljana. In the following period he worked for a time as a translator and moved temporarily to Italy to study Etruscan with Ambros Pfiffig and Massimo Pallottino. Fortunately, his interest in Hittite, which he had already learned in Ljubljana from his teachers Bojan Čop and Viktor Korošec, prevailed in the end. He continued his Hittite studies in Marburg an der Lahn with Heinrich Otten, whose seminars he often recounted with enthusiasm, and later with Oliver Gurney in Oxford. He received his doctorate in 1975 in Ljubljana with a thesis on the Arzawa lands. From 1980-85 he worked with Harry Hoffner and Hans Güterbock on the Chicago Hittite Dictionary, while simultaneously writing his postdoctoral thesis on Hittite inventory texts submitted in Ljubljana. In 1985 he accepted Heinrich Otten's offer to come to the research center of the Academy of Sciences in Mainz on the condition that he would be able to take up the already promised visiting professorship in Changchun for at least one year. Since then, he worked tirelessly on the concordance of the Hittite cuneiform fragments and made over two thousand join sketches for the reconstruction of the tablets. For fifteen years beyond his official retirement, he supervised this central project of Hittitology. He was always enthusiastic about current research results of younger colleagues and had an almost inexhaustible reservoir of good humor and optimism - to the very end. We will miss him.