

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Papers on Slovene Topics

"Jan Baudouin de Courtenay and World Linguistics," an International Conference held in Warsaw, Poland, September 4-7, 1979

From September 4 to 7, 1979, an international conference took place in Warsaw to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the death of the great Polish linguist, Jan Baudouin de Courtenay. The co-sponsors of this undertaking were the two principal Polish universities, the University of Warsaw and the Jagiellonian University (Cracow), as well as the First Section of the Social Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

The broad scope of his investigations and the theoretical significance of the works of Baudouin de Courtenay, as well as the wide-ranging impact of his thought were evident in the list itself of the participants: there were Slavic and non-Slavic linguists from all over the world. The more than sixty participants from abroad--those who gave papers--represented England, Australia, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Japan, Yugoslavia, Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, the German Democratic Republic, Romania, Switzerland, Sweden, the USA, Hungary, Italy, and the USSR. In all, a hundred papers and talks were presented on the most varied topics. The deliberations, except for the morning of the first day and the last day of the conference, took place in three sections, treating the following topics: (a) Baudouin de Courtenay's research and teaching activities, and bio-bibliographical issues connected with them; (b) theoretical aspects of his linguistic research and the history of the formation of his scholarly views and praxis; (c) the influence of his linguistic thought on contemporaries and successors, and the heritage of his thought in modern linguistics.

The topics of the papers were extremely varied, just as Baudouin de Courtenay's own interests were varied and multifaceted and his personality complicated and rich. It would be therefore difficult to review here all the issues raised at the conference, during which almost every work and every direction of modern theoretical and practical

linguistics were touched upon. The least represented issues involved syntactic matters, narrowly grammatical ones, and topics from the so-called border area between linguistics and literary criticism (metrics, versification, stylistics), as well as those areas which in fact interested Baudouin the least.

Slovene topics were addressed a couple of times during the conference, and those particularly from the point of view of Baudouin de Courtenay's enormous importance as a precursor of Slovene dialectology, in which he stands supreme to the present day in matters of scope, quantity of assembled materials or degree of their investigation, particularly in relation to Resia and the Ter Valley. In many reports the general topic itself led to a mention or a section on Baudouin's Slovene work. Such were the papers by S. Urbańczyk, E. Stankiewicz, H. Schuster-Śewc, and G. Mihaili. Also to this group belong E. Eichler and K. Rymut on the role of Baudouin de Courtenay in the history of Slavic onomastics, Cz. Bartuli and J. Rusk on Baudouin's general Slavic views, and finally Y. Grabowski and R. Lencek, who dealt in different ways with the question of the mixing of languages in multilingual social zones, and the report of the undersigned concerning Baudouin's annotations in the books from his own library.

If we concentrate attention only on those papers whose principal theme was Baudouin de Courtenay's relation to questions of South Slavic linguistics, we must then mention above all the report of Prof. E. Sławski of the Jagiellonian University, "The South Slavic Languages in the Works of Jan Baudouin de Courtenay," which included a fervent appeal for the publication of Baudouin's manuscript dictionaries of the Resian and Ter dialects, which are in the archives of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. One must also mention J. Hamm's report on a similar theme: "Baudouin's Return to Contemporary South Slavic Dialectology." More specifically concerned with Baudouin de Courtenay's role in Slovene linguistics were two linguists from the University of Ljubljana, F. Jakopin spoke in general of Baudouin's role in Slovene linguistics, and J. Toporišič of his role in dialectology.

The Warsaw Conference demonstrated the surprisingly wide range of Baudouin de Courtenay's linguistic thought and his role as precursor in many--often unexpected--areas

and currents in modern linguistics. The materials of the conference (the texts of the papers) will be published in a conference volume prepared jointly by the State Scientific Publishing House (PWN) and the Amsterdam firm of J. Benjamin. Moreover, the publication of an album is foreseen of the materials of the exposition accompanying the conference, in which pictures and texts from the life and work of Jan Baudouin de Courtenay were displayed.

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"South Slavic Linguistics," American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages, December 27, 1979, San Francisco, CA

William W. Derbyshire, Rutgers University, "The Loss of Tone as a Factor Giving Rise to Homonymy in Modern Slovene"

The paper draws analogies to the system of tones in Serbo-Croatian, which are in flux and which some linguists claim are no longer viable for that language. It is true that the role of tones in the various dialects of Slovene varies from region to region. Some official grammars and dictionaries ignore tones and accept only vowel length. If the latter situation becomes generalized, then a number of homonyms arise in modern Slovene as a result of the loss of tone. A number of verbal forms formerly distinguished by tone now merge into homonymous forms with long syllables. Likewise, a number of nouns coincide within their individual paradigms, and in some cases nouns of different origins, adjectives of different origins and some adjectives and verbs and nouns and verbs coincide.

Conferences

May 14-17, 1980. "The Conference to Honor Jernej Kopitar, 1780-1980," took place in Evanston, IL on May 14-15, 1980. It was sponsored by the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures of Northwestern University and the Institute on East Central Europe of Columbia University, in cooperation with the Center for Balkan and Slavic Studies of the

- University of Chicago. The following papers were presented:
- Rado L. Lencek (Columbia University), "Kopitar's Share in the Evolution of Slavic Philology"
- Jože Pogačnik (University of Novi Sad), "Kopitar's Austro-slavism"
- Eric P. Hamp (University of Chicago), "Kopitar, the First Balkanist"
- Milan Fryščák (New York University), "Kopitar and Dobrovsky: The Genesis of the Institutiones"
- Henry R. Cooper, Jr. (Northwestern University), "Kopitar and the Beginning of Bulgarian Studies"
- Kenneth E. Naylor (The Ohio State University), "Kopitar as Slavacist"
- Hanna Orzechowska (Warsaw University), "Kopitar's Influence on Contemporary Grammars of the Slavic Languages"
- Jože Toporišič (University of Ljubljana), "Kopitar as Grammarian"
- Pavle Ivić (Serbian Academy of Sciences, Belgrade), "Kopitar and the Evolution of Vuk Karadžić's Views on the Serbian Literary Language"
- Thomas Butler (Harvard University), "Kopitar and South Slavic Folklore"
- Olga Nedeljković (University of Illinois/Chicago Circle), "Vrhovac, Mahanović, Kopitar: 1814"
- Benjamin Stolz (University of Michigan), "Kopitar and Vuk"
- Sergio Bonazza (University of Naples), "Kopitar's Reception Among the Slovenes"
- Franc Jakopin (University of Ljubljana), "Kopitar's Share in the Work of F. Miklošič"

Following the Conference to Honor Kopitar, the University of Chicago's Center for Balkan and Slavic Studies hosted a two-day conference on South Slavic linguistics, May 16-17, 1980, at the Hyde Park Campus of the University of Chicago.

Future Conference

November 5-8, 1980. The American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies will meet in Philadelphia, PA, on November 5-8, 1980. The following panels are being sponsored or cosponsored by the Society for Slovene Studies:

The Slovene Economy in the Eighties

Presiding: Warren F. Mazek (Florida State U.)

- Papers: "Slovenia's Economic Relations with the United States," Karl Bonutti (Cleveland State U.)
- "Structural Transformations in the Economy of Slovenia," Toussaint Hocevar (U. of New Orleans)
- "The Role of the Agricultural Sector in the Slovene Economy," Frank Orazem (Kansas State U.)

Discussant: To be announced

Twentieth Century Slovene Political and Social Development

Presiding: To be announced

- Papers: "Louis Adamic: Political Activist," Mary Molek (Dover, Delaware)
- "Edvard Kardelj's Impact on Socialist Yugoslavia," Carole Rogel (Ohio State U.)
- "Slovene Rural Youth," Theodore Buila (Southern Illinois U.)

Discussant: To be announced

Topics in Slovene Linguistics

Presiding: David F. Stermole (Indiana-Purdue at Fort Wayne)

Papers: "Foreign Borrowings as Homonyms in Contemporary Slovene," William W. Derbyshire (Rutgers U.)

Herbert Galton (U. of Kansas)

"Dialectology of a Slovene Declension," Ruth Golush (Harvard U.)

"South Slavic Place System," Radmila Gorup (Columbia U.)

"Remarks on Bezljaj's Etymological Dictionary," Eric Hamp (U. of Chicago)

Discussant: Rado L. Lencek (Columbia U.)

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