

EDITORIAL INTRODUCTION

On behalf of his world-wide circle of students, colleagues and friends, we are very pleased to present this volume of papers and good wishes to Professor Rado L. Lencek in honor of his sixty-fifth birthday. From its conception three years ago to its presentation now, close to Rado Lencek's sixty-sixth birthday, this Festschrift has been for us a mark of homage and a labor of love for a scholar whose many ideas and initiatives have so enriched the fields of linguistics, ethnography, history, literary criticism, Slavistics and Slovenistics, and for the human being who has given so much of himself so unstintingly to nurture, encourage and support those around him. We include in this volume a bibliography of Rado Lencek's specific contributions to the several scholarly fields represented in it; and the footnotes to and remarks in many of our articles bear witness to the impact his thinking has had on our disciplines. But it is our title, we hope, that captures in a nutshell our true appreciation of Rado Lencek's life work to date. The phrase

Lubi Slovenci

is taken from Primož Trubar's introduction to his translation of St. Matthew's Gospel, *Ta Evangelii Svetiga Matevsha* of 1555. Trubar was an innovator and trailblazer who, living far from home, nevertheless preserved a deep affection for his "dear Slovenes", and generously shared with them the fruits of his erudition. For his time and place he was an internationalist, using Latin and German, the languages of international communication of the day, while remaining ever mindful of the soil from which he sprung and of his mother tongue, the beauty, dignity and power of which he never tired of bringing to his countrymen's attention. Nor was he hesitant in apprising foreigners of his homeland or of encouraging their interest in it. The parallel seems clear to us, and we draw it with respect and affection for our esteemed colleague.

To the many individuals who have contributed to this volume, with papers, with congratulations, with suggestions or with financial support, we wish to extend our deepest thanks. We would like to note with particular gratitude the generous subvention of the Department of Slavic Languages of Columbia University towards this publication. Once again we wish to thank Professor Carole Rogel, President of the Society for Slovene Studies, for her good offices in making this publication possible and for her extraordinary hospitality last October in hosting the dinner at which plans for this Festschrift were made public. And, finally, we wish to the dedicatee of this volume, on the eve of another birthday, **AD MULTOS ANNOS!**

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