

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

This is the last issue to be published under my editorship, and I would like to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to the people who have helped me do the work in the ten-plus years since I took over. They are many; without them, I (quite simply) would not have been able to do the job.

First, to my co-editors: Olga B. Nedeljković and Henry R. Cooper, Jr., for *Slovene Studies* 9/1-2 (1987), the Lencek Festschrift; Aleš Lokar and Warren F. Mazek for *Slovene Studies* 11/1-2 (1989), the Hočevar Festschrift; and guest editor Rado L. Lencek, for *Slovene Studies* 12/2 (1990);

Second, to the assistant editor, David Stermole, and the book review editor, Rado L. Lencek;

Third, to the members of the editorial board, all of whom I have frequently and without warning imposed upon for reading and advising about manuscripts;

And fourth, to the very many other colleagues who have agreed to assess potential contributions. Beginning with volume 8 (1986) we instituted a system of 'double-blind' refereeing (i.e., manuscript assessment procedures so arranged that neither the assessors nor the authors are informed of each others' names), and have used it ever since for all submissions that were not invited (invited articles were conference proceedings and Festschrift contributions) and, in more recent years, for most conference proceedings also. Since instituting the system some fifteen colleagues at the University of Alberta and more than three times that number at other universities in the U.S.A., Canada, Slovenia, Austria, Great Britain and elsewhere have been involved. I would have preferred to have here printed their names, so that I could acknowledge their help publicly; however, given the interdisciplinary nature of our journal, the number of specialists in some fields on the list is small, and their anonymity would be at risk if I did publish their names. — In every instance, the assessments they provided were valuable; in several instances, the assessments were

crucial, for the advice they contained helped authors amend into something worth publishing what we would otherwise have had to reject. Since most of the submissions which benefited in this way were from younger contributors, these assessors were acting in effect as mentors for the next generations of specialists in Slovenistics. Not only I and the members of the editorial board, but all readers of *Slovene Studies* and indeed all who are interested in the development of scholarship about Slovenia, are greatly indebted to them.

The job has not always been easy, and not always a pleasure; but it has given me great satisfaction, and also great pride in being involved in the propagation of scholarship about Slovene social sciences, humanities, and fine arts. The present volume, which both spans this spectrum and includes several articles in my own field of interest, is one which I am very happy to bow out with.

Tom Priestly