

SOCIETY FOR SLOVENE STUDIES

LETTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last month the Society lost another of its founding members. Metod Milač passed away on 24 September, eight days short of his ninety-second birthday. Metod was one of the first people to welcome me to the SSS, and he was unwaveringly supportive of all my endeavors. He served as president of the Society from 2001 to 2006 (see the article below).

As usual, there will be an array of Slovene- and Yugoslav-themed panels at this month's ASEES convention. You will find a detailed list below. I would like to call your attention in particular to "Slovenian Foreign Policy after 25 Years" on Thursday, 17 November (chaired by Carole Rogel and featuring a paper by Peter Rožič SJ); and "After Civil Wars: Historiography in Divided Society" on Sunday, 20 November, with papers by Gregor Kranjc and the director of ZRC/SAZU, Oto Luthar. Please note that the SSS Business Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, 19 November at 8 A.M. All Society members are encouraged to participate!

I am most pleased to report that a reception for the Society for Slovene Studies will be held at the Slovenian Embassy on Friday evening, 18 November. Please see the RSVP information on p. 3 of this newsletter.

The Center for Slavic & East European Studies at Ohio State University has announced that there will be a lecture on Monday 14 November by Dr. Drago Kunej, director of the Institute for Musicology at ZRC/SAZU, entitled "Historical Sound Recording of Traditional Slovenian Music & the Development of Polka in America." Dr. Kunej is working at OSU on the Slovene Research Initiative, which is co-sponsoring his talk along with the School of Music. The lecture will be held in Room 205 of the 18th Avenue Library and will begin at 4 P.M.

It is with some sadness that I finish this message—my second term as SSS President ends in March, and so this is the last report I will write in this capacity. It has been an honor to serve you and I am proud of all that we have been able to accomplish the past four years. Although life in retirement is drawing me in a variety of different directions, I intend to remain active in Slovene studies and in our Society. I would like to express my gratitude to all the members of the Executive Council, Carole Rogel, and Lea Plut-Pregelj who have been unstinting in their support throughout both of my terms. And thanks to all of you members who make the Society for Slovene

Studies one of the most dynamic scholarly organizations in the world!

Raymond Miller
Bowdoin College, ret.

**THE SOCIETY FOR SLOVENE STUDIES
AT THE ASEES CONVENTION**

**Washington Marriott Wardman Park,
Washington, D.C., 17–20 November 2016**

**Meetings, Slovene-Themed Panels & Select
Yugoslav-Themed Panels of Interest**

Thursday, 17 November, 1–2:45 P.M., Madison B
*Left Histories, Left Readings: Approaching
Institutions from Below in (late) Socialism*

Chair:

Marina Antic, Indiana Univ.

Papers:

Goran Music, Univ. of Graz, “LCY's Central
Committee 13th Session: Echoes on the Shop
Floor”

Rory Archer, Univ. of Graz, “Gendered and
Classed Attitudes Towards the Institutions of
Self-Management in Late Yugoslav
Socialism”

Ognjen Kojanic, Univ. of Pittsburgh,
“Railway Workers' Memories of
Geographical and Social Mobility in Socialist
Yugoslavia”

Discussant:

Chiara Bonfiglioli, Univ. of Pula

Thursday, 17 November

3–4:45 P.M., Tower Suite 8218

*Coordinating Slavic Terms for the Ethnographic
Thesaurus*

Chair:

Natalie Kononenko, Univ. of Alberta

Roundtable Members:

Ronelle Alexander, Univ. of CA – Berkeley

Cameron Girvin, Univ. of CA – Berkeley

Veronica Muskheli, Univ. of Washington

Margaret Hiebert Beissinger, Princeton Univ.

Thursday, 17 November, 3–4:45 P.M.,
Washington Room 6

*Slovenian Foreign Policy after 25 Years: Past
Accomplishments and Future Challenges*

Chair:

Carole Rogel, Ohio State Univ.

Roundtable Members:

Charles Bukowski, Bradley Univ.

Peter Rožič, Univ. of Ljubljana

James Gow, King's College London

Božo Cerar, Ambassador of Slovenia to U.S.

**Reception at the Embassy of the Republic of
Slovenia, 17 November, 5:30–7:30 P.M. Society.
See RSVP information on p. 3**

**Society for Slovene Studies business meeting
Saturday, 19 November, 8–9:45 A.M.,
Buchanan**

Saturday, 19 November, 8–9:45 A.M., Taylor
*Transnational Dialogs and the Trauma of
Globalization in Post-Yugoslav Film,
Performance, and Literature*

Chair:

Dilyana P. Ivanova, American Research
Center in Sofia

Papers:

Sunnie Trine'e Rucker-Chang, Univ. of
Cincinnati, “Yugoslav Filmic Imaginings in a
Post-Yugoslav Context”

Tatjana Rosic Ilic, Singidunum Univ.,
“Contemporary Art and the Culture of Fear in
the Post-Yugoslav Context”

Vessela S. Warner, Univ. of Alabama –
Birmingham, “Globalizing the Local:
Performed Identities in Variations of Voidan
Cernodrinki's Macedonian Blood Wedding”

Discussant:

Sanja Lacan, UCLA

Saturday, 19 November, 1:45–3:30 P.M.,
Washington Room 6

*Yugoslavia and the International: Performing
Yugoslav Socialism Abroad*

Chair:

Wendy Bracewell, Univ. College London

Papers:

Catherine Baker, Univ. of Hull, “Yugoslav
Popular Music and Global Histories of the
Cold War”

Vladimir Kulic, Florida Atlantic Univ., “In
Search of Self-Management: Staging

Yugoslav Pavilions at International Exhibitions, 1958–1967”
Jelena Subotic, Georgia State Univ., “JAT - More Than Flying”: Constructing Yugoslav Identity in Air”

Discussant:

Wendy Bracewell, Univ. College London

Sunday, 20 November

10–11:45 A.M., Washington Room 6

After Civil Wars: Historiography in Divided Society

Chair: Petra Svoljšak, Milko Kos Historical Institute

Papers:

Gregor Kranjc, Brock Univ., “The Detritus of Occupation: American Gottscheers and the Memories of World War II in Slovenia”

Oto Luthar, Scientific Research Center (Ljubljana), “Reading Post-Socialist Memorial Landscape and “Cultural Wars”: Slovenian Anti-Monuments as Continuation of 1941–45 Civil War?”

Bojan Godeša, Institute for Contemporary History (Ljubljana), “Fight for the Truth” – Post-Communist Interpretations of the Second World War in Slovenia and Comparison to Other Former Yugoslav Nations”

Discussant:

Ulf Brunnbauer, Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (Regensburg)

Sunday, 20 November

10–11:45 A.M., Wilson C

Was There Ever a Yugoslav Literature?

Chair:

Nada Petkovic Djordjevic, U of Chicago

Papers:

Dunja Dusanic, Univ. of Belgrade, “One Language, One Nation, One Literature? The Debates on ‘Yugoslav’ Literature 1913-1919”

Adriana Marcetic, Univ. of Belgrade, “Yugoslav Literature(s) after the WW II”

Vladimir Zoric, Univ. of Nottingham, “Humanism Lost and Found: Zoran Konstantinović’s Mediation between Yugoslav and Central European Canon”

Discussant:

Slobodanka Millicent Vladiv-Glover, Monash Univ.

Sunday, 20 November

10–11:45 A.M., Taylor

National Indifference, Indeterminacy and Ethnic Surfing in the Upper Adriatic

Chair:

Emily Greble, City College of New York

Roundtable Members:

Vanni D'Alessio, Univ. of Rijeka

Borut Klabjan, Univ. of Primorska

Dominique K. Reill, Univ. of Miami

Matthew Worsnick, New York Univ.

John E. Ashbrook, Sweet Briar College

Sunday, 20 November

12–1:45 P.M., Taylor

History, Memory and Space in the Italo-Yugoslav Borderland

Chair:

Vjeran Ivan Pavlakovic, U of Rijeka (Croatia)

Papers:

Borut Klabjan, Univ. of Primorska, “Memory Activism in Cold War Trieste/Trst”

Tanja Petrovic, Scientific Research Center (Ljubljana), “Spacing Memories of Socialist Shopping: Triestine Ponte Rosso as Memory Site”

Miha Kosmač, Univ. of Primorska, ““Foiba di Basovizza”: the Process and Narratives of building new Italian Identity”

Discussant:

Nancy M. Wingfield, Northern Illinois Univ.

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18 NOVEMBER RECEPTION AT THE EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

The Ambassador of Slovenia, Dr. Božo Cerar, will host the third Slovenian science showcase highlighting Slovenian scientific expertise worldwide. Representatives of Društvo VTIS will present. Our society and other organizations are taking part as well. The program and reception are on **Friday, 18 November 2016**, at 5:30 P.M., 2410 California Street, N.W. Washington DC. An RSVP to office.vwa@gov.si is required to enter the premises of the embassy. Attire: Business.

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CALL FOR 2017 CONVENTION PAPERS

Young Scholars Panel at the 2017 ASEEEES Convention in Chicago, IL

For the past fifteen years the SSS has sponsored a panel featuring younger scholars in Slovene Studies. The sessions have been well received and provide an opportunity for the Society to learn about new researchers in the field. If you are currently doing graduate work or have recently completed a graduate degree, and wish to prepare a paper for the 2017 meeting, please contact Gregor Kranjc (gkranjc@brocku.ca) by 15 December 2016.

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Senior Scholars Panel in 2017

Since the SSS celebrated its fortieth anniversary in 2013, “Old Timers” panels have become a tradition. We hope to offer a panel in 2017, using Robert Minnich’s (Univeristy of Bergen) guidelines:

The underlying thought is to mobilize long-term perspectives on developments in the study of Slovenia and the Slovenes by members of the society. We ask older members to reflect over how, in the course of their professional careers, their *respective* disciplines have adapted (theoretically and substantially) to transformations in the world of the Slovenes.

Anyone interested in preparing such a paper for the 2017 convention should contact Carole Rogel (rogel.1@osu.edu) by 15 December.

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FROM THE TREASURER

Dues Notices

Dues notices will be mailed at the end of 2016, along with annual meeting information. The treasurer regrets that dues notices have been behind for two years. They will be up to date in 2017.

Contributions to SSS Funds

Rado Lencek Graduate Student Prize

Michelle Hazard

Joseph Velikonja Undergraduate Student Prize

Jerry Lomshek

Printing Fund

Jerry Lomshek

Timothy Pogačar, treasurer

IN MEMORIAM

Metod M. Milač (1924–2016)

Metod Milač, 91 years old, a resident of Syracuse, New York for the past five decades, passed away on 24 September 2016. Metod was born on 2 October 1924 in Prevalje, Slovenia, son of the late Ivan and Jerica (nee Ivac) Milač. He detailed his experiences and the horrors of both WW II and the civil war in Slovenia, from 1934 to 1950, in a book entitled *Resistance, Imprisonment and Forced Labor - A Slovene Student During World War II* (2002). Milač moved to the U.S. in 1950. He did factory work in Cleveland while advancing his education. He received a B.A. and M.A. in Musicology from the Cleveland Institute of Music in 1960, and continued his studies at Case Western Reserve University, where he earned an M.A. in Library Science in 1962. He then joined the faculty at Syracuse University, where he was a member of the Syracuse University libraries. After his retirement, he completed his Ph.D. at the University of Syracuse. During his time in Cleveland he was one of the founding members and first director of the Slovene singing society Korotan (1951–62). He was also a member of the American Musicology Society, American Slovene Congress, and American Association of Advancement of Slavic Studies. Milač served as the Society of Slovene Studies’ fifth president (2001–2006). Like his predecessor, Henry Cooper, he advanced work on a center for Slovene studies. He played a key role as the society’s secretary after unexpected changes in its leadership following the 1998 annual meeting. Milač made frequent scholarly contributions to the journal *Slovene Studies* and at annual meetings of the Society for Slovene Studies.

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SLOVENE RESEARCH INITIATIVE AT OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Slovene Research Initiative updates 2016–17

The Slovene Research Initiative (SRI) at The Ohio State University conducted three faculty exchanges in its third year.

From Ohio State, Mary Allen “Pasha” Johnson, the Curator of Slavic Early Printed Books and Manuscripts at the Hilandar Research Library and assistant professor in the OSU Libraries, conducted research in Ljubljana, Slovenia in September 2016. Her research focused on the archives of Jernej Kopitar in order to find information on Kopitar’s work and involvement in the establishment of the standardized orthographies and literary languages for the South Slavs in the 19th century. Additionally, Johnson surveyed the medieval manuscripts in the Manuscripts, Rare and Old Prints Collection of the National and University Library to determine which materials Kopitar may have had access to and which manuscripts would complement those currently held in the Hilandar Research Library here at Ohio State.

From the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Zeljko Oset and Drago Kunej traveled to Columbus, Ohio. **Zeljko Oset**, assistant professor of history at the University of Nova Gorica, used the Slovene Studies Society Archives housed in Ohio State’s University Libraries to investigate the connections and communications between Slovene immigrant scholars in the United States following WWII in August 2016. In October and November 2016, **Drago Kunej**, an assistant professor and Head of the Institute of Ethnomusicology at the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, visited both Columbus and Cleveland, Ohio to research old recordings of Slovene polka music made by Slovene immigrants in Ohio.

During his visit, **Drago Kunej** in collaboration with SRI and the School of Music at Ohio State delivered the lecture, “Historical Sound Recording of Traditional Slovenian Music and the Development of Polka in America” on 14 November 2016. In his lecture, Drago addressed recordings of Slovenian instrumental traditional music in the 1920s and 1930s. These recordings

were made by possible by record companies that were aggressively trying to increase the sales of gramophones and records and that therefore pushed to record ethnic music to suit the tastes of local consumers. These recordings from the 1920s and 1930s are invaluable ethnomusicological and ethnochoreological materials because they are some of the oldest sound recordings of this type of music, giving insights into the history of Slovenian music in the United States and the activities of the artists and audiences.

In April 2017, **Tanja Petrovic**, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Culture and Memory Studies of the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, will deliver the second annual address of SRI. More details to come in the spring!

Eileen Kunkler, assistant director
Center for Slavic & East European Studies

VELIKONJA FAMILY SUPPORTS SLOVENE STUDIES ENDOWMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Through the generosity of individual benefactors and with the support of the Society for Slovene Studies, this fall the University of Washington established its first ever Slovene Studies Endowment with an initial principal balance of just over \$110,000.

Interest from the endowment will support a variety of ongoing activities at UW involving Slovene studies. It ensures a solid future for the UW-University of Ljubljana Scholars Exchange, which is perhaps the most prominent of a handful of exchanges that exist between Ljubljana and U.S. universities; each year the UW-UL exchange sends two or three UW faculty and PhD students from all disciplines to collaborate with their counterparts in Ljubljana and hosts an equivalent number of University of Ljubljana faculty visiting their UW counterparts in Seattle. As just one example of the exchange’s wide-ranging impacts, UW-UL exchange alumnus Professor Louis Wolcher of the UW School of Law served as mentor during his 1994 visit and beyond to a young UL law professor named Miro Cerar.

The endowment will also support scholarships for UW students to participate in the summer intensive Slovene language programs offered by the University of Ljubljana. Over time, as we continue to raise funds to grow the endowment, it will also support visiting lectures and talks in Seattle by outstanding Slovene writers, artists and others, help us maintain UW's outstanding library collections of books, journals and other media pertaining to Slovene studies, and eventually help fund a permanent Slovene studies lectureship.

A UW faculty member who was instrumental in establishing the UW-UL exchange in 1979 was the late Professor Jože Velikonja, and it is to strengthen his legacy in Slovene studies at UW that his children, Marko and Maria Velikonja, directed that a bequest from their father's estate be used to match another generous offer of private support for UW Slovene studies. On behalf of the many UW students and faculty, as well as members of the Seattle community who will benefit in perpetuity from the endowment, we in the UW Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures extend our heartfelt thanks.

Michael Biggins
University of Washington

SCHOLARSHIPS/PRIZES

Joseph Velikonja Undergraduate Prize

The submission deadline for the \$500US 2017 Undergraduate Essay Prize is 30 September 2017.

The SSS Rado L. Lenček Graduate Prize

The submission deadline for the 2017 Graduate Student Prize is 30 September 2017. The prize is \$1,000US. See the society's website.

SLOVENE STUDIES: JOURNAL OF THE SSS

Volume 38.1–2 (2016) will be published in December 2016. The volume will contain a variety of scholarly articles and translation materials.

Timothy Pogacar, editor
Gregor Kranjc, book review editor

BOOK NOTES

SSS member Marko Juvan of the Institute of Slovenian Literature and Literary Studies has published a second, corrected, and expanded edition of his *Imaginarij Krsta v slovenski literaturi* (1990, 2016), available free of charge at <http://ezb.ijs.si/fedora/get/ezmono:imaginarij/VIEW>

Juvan takes an intertextual approach to analyzing the history of France Prešeren's *Krst pri Savici*, a key text in Slovene literature, for almost two centuries since its publication (and into the 1980s). The new edition provides further findings, after 1990.

Slovenian American Inventors and Innovators is the title of a new book by Edward Gobetz. His latest work focuses on Slovenian-Americans and their contributions to the science and technology. Dr. Gobetz is professor emeritus at Kent State University and founder of the Slovenian Research Center of America (SRCA).

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

The 35th Obdobja Symposium will take place on 10–12 November 2016, devoted to “Toporišičeva Obdobja” Details about this, past, and future symposia are at the website: www.centerslo.net.

The 2017 AATSEEL Conference will be held on 2–5 February 2017 in San Francisco. Visit: www.aatseel.org/cfp_main. The Society for Slovene Studies is an affiliate of AATSEEL.

The 2017 Midwest Slavic Conference at Ohio State University, 7–9 April 2017. [More here](#).

The 53rd Seminar of Slovene Language, Literature and Culture will take place during the summer of 2017. Details and registration: www.centerslo.net.

The Centre for Slovene is also organizing its annual, now **36th Summer School of Slovene Language** with various courses in 2017.

Trafika Europe hosts a seminar at American Comparative Literature Association ([ACLA](#)), at Universiteit Utrecht, 6–9 July 2017.

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Medialnost in literatura

The Slavistično društvo Slovenije and Filozofska fakulteta, University of Ljubljana have organized a 24–25 November 2016 conference on digital media and literature. SSS member Urška Perenič is the conference organizer (urska.perenic@ff.uni-lj.si).

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The 2017 ASEES 49th Annual Convention will take place in Chicago, IL at Marriott Downtown, 9–12 November 2017.

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For more institutional & affiliate ASEES member news see www.asees.org/about/affiliate

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SSS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Officers

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For further information regarding the Society for Slovene Studies, membership applications, journal subscriptions, and other details, contact: Kristina Reardon, secretary, Society for Slovene Studies, 155 West Main Street, apt. 309, Vernon, CT 06066, or at kristina.reardon@gmail.com
