

SOCIETY FOR SLOVENE STUDIES LETTER

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May 2016

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, Spring 2016

This year, two prominent Slovene scholars will be working at the Ohio State University under the auspices of the Slovene Research Initiative: Dr. **Drago Kunej**, head of the Institute of Musicology at ZRC/SAZU is currently there doing research on old recordings of Slovene folk music made by immigrants in Ohio; and Dr. **Željko Oset** of the University of Nova Gorica will come in August to study the connections between Slovene scholars and their counterparts in the Soviet Bloc after WW II. (Because OSU is receiving two Slovene scholars this year, none will come on the SRI in 2017.) Meanwhile, **Mary-Allen Johnson** of OSU will be going to conduct research in Slovenia again this summer with the help of the Initiative. I am also pleased to report that also this summer, Dr. **Brian Baer** of Kent State U. will be the first non-OSU Society member to be supported by the SRI in Slovenia: he will be pursuing a project in translation studies at a workshop in Piran.

In other SRI-related developments, **Eileen Kunkler** of the Center for Slavic & East European Studies at Ohio State has set up a very handsome webpage for the Initiative at <https://slaviccenter.osu.edu/about/slovene-research-initiative>. Be sure to bookmark this address and check regularly for Slovene-related events at OSU! Finally, the CSEES and SSS also

have established a working relationship between the SRI and the cultural attaché at the Slovene embassy in Washington: we hope this will eventually lead to visiting Slovene artists and scholars making presentations at the university under the auspices of the Slovene Research Initiative.

This spring the Executive Council voted to use money from the Velikonja Fund to enable three worthy graduate students (**Olivia Hellewell**, **Kristina Reardon** and **Kaitlyn Tucker**) to take Michael Biggins's distance seminar at the U. of Washington on Slovene to English literary translation. We are so fortunate to have funds available to put to such good use! Thanks again to our late colleague Jože Velikonja for his generosity.

As always, see below for information about SSS-related events at the ASEES convention in November. Especially note the Society-sponsored panel "The Detritus of Occupation: American Gottscheers and the Memories of WWII in Slovenia," which will feature **Žarko Lazarević** and **Gregor Kranjc** of the SSS and **Oto Luthar**, director of ZRC/SAZU; and the roundtable "Slovenian Foreign Policy after 25 Years: Past Accomplishments and Future Challenges," in which SSS members **Carole Rogel**, **Peter Rožič**,

Charles Bukowski, and James Gow will participate.

Raymond Miller

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**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 California –
Berkeley

Cameron Girvin, Univ. of California –
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 the
U.S.

**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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CALL FOR 2017 CONVENTION PAPERS

Young Scholars Panel at the 2017 ASEES 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 40th anniversary in 2013, “Old Timers” panels are becoming a tradition. We hope to offer a panel in 2017, using R. Minnich’s guidelines (U of Bergen):

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

Contributions to SSS Funds

The Society for Slovene Studies will acknowledge contributions to its special funds: Center Fund, Endowment Fund, Printing Fund, and Rado L. Lenček and Joseph Velikonja scholarship funds. The Printing Fund was established in the early 1980s with a bequest from the estate of Mary Molek. The Endowment Fund was enlarged in the early 1990s with a bequest from the estate of John Nielsen. Fund balances are reported in the 2015 treasurer’s report and are available from the treasurer at any time. These funds enable the society to carry out its mission of dissemination of scholarly information about Slovenia and its people. Please remember that your contributions are tax deductible in the U.S. Our deepest thanks to all contributors.

Dues Notices

2016 dues notices will be mailed with volume 38 (2016) later this year. Any notices for dues 2015 or earlier are included with the current journal mailing. Members may pay on line at www.slovenestudies.com.

Center Fund

Veronica Aplenc
Terence Dragovan
Timothy Pogacar

Barbara Roesmann
Karl Ryavec

Endowment Fund

Paul Barbarich
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James Stariha
Jernej Watson

Rado Lenček Graduate Student Prize

Maria Bernik

Joseph Velikonja Undergraduate Student Prize

Maria Bernik
Karel Bonutti
Joseph Laposa
Jerry Lomshek
Vladimir Rus

Printing Fund

Blase Chemazar
Michael Cummins
Terence Dragovan
Joseph Govednik
Denis Sankovic
Jernej Watson

Deceased Members

Maria B. Bernik

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SCHOLARSHIPS/PRIZES

Joseph Velikonja Undergraduate Prize

The submission deadline for the \$500US 2016 Undergraduate Essay Prize is 30 September 2016. See the Society’s website.

The SSS Rado L. Lenček Graduate Prize

The submission deadline for the 2016 Graduate Student Prize is 30 September 2016. The prize is \$1,000US. See the Society’s website.

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SLOVENE STUDIES: JOURNAL OF THE SSS

Volume 37 no. 1–2 is being sent with this newsletter. Vol. 38 (2016) will be published this year. Back issues of the journal through vol. 32

(2010) are available on the University of Washington Libraries' ResearchWorks Journal Hosting website, linked to www.slovenestudies.com (see publications).

Timothy Pogacar, editor
Gregor Kranjc, book review editor

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MEMBER NEWS

Seattle: Slovenian Prime Minister; Michael Biggins Teaching Slovene

While in Seattle heading a Slovene trade delegation last December, Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia Miro Cerar met with University of Washington President Ana Mari Cauce on the UW campus to express interest in sustained collaboration between UW and academic institutions in Slovenia. More details and a link to photographs of the visit are available here at www.washington.edu/globalaffairs/2015/12/05/slovenian-prime-minister/.

This spring quarter (April–June 2016) the University of Washington has also been offering a 3-credit course on Slovene to English literary translation, taught by Prof. Michael Biggins. In addition to graduate students at UW, students elsewhere around the world – on the U.S. East Coast and in Europe – have enrolled in the course and participate in twice-weekly class sessions via live audio-visual link.

In autumn 2016, we will start up UW's 5-quarter accelerated Slovene language sequence again, beginning with SLVN 401 (elementary Slovene 1, autumn 2016) and culminating in SLVN 406 (intermediate Slovene 2, autumn 2017) and SLVN 499 (advanced Slovene, winter 2018). For more information contact mbiggins@uw.edu.

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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 52nd Seminar of Slovene Language, Literature and Culture entitled *Otherness in Slovene Language, Literature and Culture* will

take place on 4–15 July 2016 in Ljubljana. Details and registration: www.centerslo.net.

The Centre for Slovene is also organizing its annual, now **35th Summer School of Slovene Language** with various courses for the period 4–29 July 2016.

The 2016 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.

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

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IN MEMORIAM RUDOLPH MATT SUSEL (1940–2016)

Dr. Rudolph (Matt) Susel, one of the founding members of the Society for Slovene Studies, recently died in Cleveland. Dr. Susel served on the society's first executive council, 1973–75, while he was an assistant professor of history at Arizona State University. He had previously been a research associate at the University of Minnesota's Immigration History Research Center. Between 1979 and 2008, Dr. Susel edited the Slovene-language pages of the newspaper *Ameriška domovina* in Cleveland. He also edited the Slovene pages of the American Mutual Life Association's (AMLA) *Our Voice*. Dr. Susel was a member and leader of many Slovene-American organizations, including the Slovenian-American Heritage Foundation (Cleveland) and United Americans for Slovenia, an AMLA affiliate that lobbied for Slovene independence.

Dr. Susel contributed a great deal to the Society for Slovene Studies (SSS) over the course of four decades: as a regular participant in annual SSS scholarly meetings and Midwest Slavic Conference meetings, reader of journal submissions and contributor to the journal, and editor of the third issue of *Papers in Slovene Studies* (1977, with assistance from Toussaint Hocevar and Carole Rogel). He was a regular and reliable advisor to *Slovene Studies* editors and SSS officers. Dr. Susel wrote detailed summaries of the society's annual meetings for *Ameriška domovina*. He welcomed many visitors from Slovenia to Cleveland. Perhaps no one could better introduce them to the history, accomplishments, and challenges of the Slovene-American community there.

IN MEMORIAM ALEŠ DEBELJAK (1961–2016)

Longtime SSS member Aleš Debeljak died of injuries incurred in a traffic accident in Slovenia on January 28. He was 54. Aleš joined the Society during his first extended period of residence in the U.S., while pursuing graduate studies in sociology at the University of Syracuse. At the time he was a frequent participant in Society conferences and panels. After completing his American Ph.D. he returned to Slovenia to embark on a productive career in academia studying and teaching the sociology of culture. One of the most influential Slovene poets and essayists of his generation, in America he cultivated contacts with colleagues in a wide range of spheres—academic, political and literary—helping to build momentum for wider trans-Atlantic collaborations between Slovenia and the U.S. that carried through the 1990s and 2000s. Dr. Debeljak's colleagues in the Society and throughout North America mourn the loss of this energetic, forward-thinking and gifted colleague and friend.

IN MEMORIAM CHARLES EDWARD GRIBBLE (1936–2016)

Longtime SSS member Charles Edward Gribble (1936–2016), professor emeritus of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures, died on

3 June 2016. He contributed to the field of South Slavic linguistics for nearly sixty years, thirty-five of which he spent at Ohio State University. He studied under Roman Jakobson at Harvard and V. A. Zvegintsev at Moscow State University. At Ohio State, he taught the Structure and History of Russian, Old Church Slavonic, South Slavic Linguistics, South Slavic Cultures, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Bulgarian, Czech, and other subjects. He was the author of numerous publications, including *Monastic Traditions: Selected Proceedings of the Fourth International Hilandar Conference* (with Predrag Matejić 2003). In recognition of his scholarship, Dr. Gribble was presented with a festschrift on the occasion of his seventieth birthday, *Studia Caroliensia: Papers in Linguistics and Folklore in Honor of Charles E. Gribble* (edited by Robert A. Rothstein, Ernest Scatton, and Charles E. Townsend, 2006). In 1996, he founded Slavica Publishers to promote high-quality textbooks and monographs on literature, folklore, and linguistics. During his thirty-year editorship, Slavica grew to become the largest venue for Slavistic publications in the Western Hemisphere. He received several honors from Bulgarian institutions and, in 2006, the Marin Drinov Medal, the highest honor given by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. In the course of his long career, Dr. Gribble supported and encouraged colleagues with interest in Slovene studies. SSS members remain very grateful for his help.

from Dr. Daniel Collins's obituary
Ohio State University

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PHOTO CORNER



SSS Business Meeting: the 2015 ASEES Convention:
Raymond Miller and Kristina Reardon



From left to right: Veronica Aplenc, Robert Minnich,
Gregor Kranjc, and Michael Biggins



Michael Biggins, Carole Rogel, Lea Plut-
Pregelj

Photos by Peter Rožič SJ

SSS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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Kranjc (Brock U)
Editor, *Letter*: Peter Rožič SJ (U of Ljubljana)

Elected Members

Michael Biggins (U of Washington)
Gregor Kranjc (Brock U)
Žarko Lazarević (Institute for Contemporary
History, Ljubljana)

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