

SOCIETY FOR SLOVENE STUDIES

LETTER

No. 76

www.slovenestudies.com

June 2015

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

No doubt, a lot of you noticed something different about our latest election: we had the option of voting online, through Survey Monkey! Thanks to the efforts of the Society's secretary, **Kristina Reardon**, we have entered the 21st century in this and many other ways: Kristina has also thoroughly updated our membership lists in electronic and "paper" formats and has set up a new SSS listserv. Meanwhile, **Tim Pogacar** and **Michael Biggins** are currently updating the Society's website. (Check it out, and if you think there should be any further modifications, please don't hesitate to contact anyone on the Executive Council.) Many thanks to Kristina, Tim, and Michael for all they've done—and continue to do—for us!

Speaking of the election, I would also like to thank all of you who took the time to vote. I am grateful and humbled to be given another term as your president. And I would like to congratulate **Žarko Lazarević**, who will continue as an at-large member of the Executive Council.

The Society for Slovene Studies recently made its second contribution to the Slovene Research Initiative. The Slovene scholar who is coming to Ohio State University this year under the auspices

of the SRI is **Jerneja Kavčič**, from the Department of Classics at the University of Ljubljana. She will be in Columbus from August 25 – September 25, and will be working at the Center for Slavic and East European Studies on a very interesting project connected with the formation of the future in Slovene dialects in the context of the Balkan *Sprachbund*. Traveling to Ljubljana from Ohio State will be SSS member **Mary-Allen Johnson**, who is the curator of the Society's archives at the OSU library. She will be visiting the Jernej Kopitar archives and manuscript collection as part of a project on orthographic reform. She will be spending a month in Slovenia at roughly the same time that Dr. Kavčič will be in the US.

Please join me in congratulating **Gregory Chapman** of University of Washington, who is the most recent winner of the Joseph Velikonja Undergraduate Prize, for his paper "Brothers by Blood, Strangers by Culture," a study of Slovene national self-image in the broader European context; and **Cyrus Rodgers** (University of Washington) who was awarded the 2014 Rado L. Lencek Graduate Prize for "Encoding Suppressed Societal Trauma in Slovene Literary and Visual Arts: Boris Pahor and Lojze Spacal, Drago Jančar and Stane Kregar," an exploration of how Slovene artists in different media addressed the trauma of WW II.

SSS members **Richard Terselic** and **Chuck Debevec**, who have written extensively on the history of recorded Slovene music in America, are currently involved in a project to study the present and future of “Cleveland-Slovenian Polka Music”: who plays it, who listens to it, what can be done to keep it a viable art form. If this is something that interests you, please contact Richard at hubcapman@verizon.net for more information.

My annual visit to Slovenia begins in mid-May this year. I am looking forward to fruitful meetings with our valued colleagues at SAZU and the U. of Ljubljana, as well as further progress on my own Kopitar research. I will be joined for part of the time by my daughter, Hannah, who will be visiting Slovenia for the first time—after years of agitating to have me take her along as a “research assistant”!

Raymond Miller

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THE SOCIETY AT ASEEEES CONVENTION IN PHILADELPHIA, 2015

19–22 November; Listing as of June 2015

Meetings, Slovene-Themed Panels & Yugoslav-Themed Panels that May Be of Interest

Thursday, Nov 19

1:00–2:45pm

– Aspects of Propaganda in Yugoslavia and Successor States: From Politics to Culture (1945–95)

– Policies of Nation Building in the Balkans

3:00–4:45pm

– War and Society in the Occupied Western Balkans, 1915–45

– Yugoslavia in the 1970s: A Step Before Withering Away (roundtable)

– Revisiting a Century of Slovene Literary Culture, 1914–2014: Žižek, Hemingway and the World War I Novels

5:00–6:45pm – Project Power in the Cold War: The Case of Tito’s Yugoslavia

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Friday, Nov 20

8:00–9:45am – Facts of Fiction in Post-Yugoslav Culture(s): The Lost Wars for ‘Better Worlds’

1:45–3:30pm – To The Center Via the Periphery (by Way of the Balkans)

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Saturday, Nov 21

8:00–9:45pm – Society for Slovene Studies business meeting

3:45–5:30pm – Mining Slovene Archives for New Insights into the Thought and Lives of Kopitar and Bartol

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Sunday, Nov 22

8:00–9:45am – Objects of (Counter-)Memory in Post-Yugoslav Cultural Spaces

10:00–11:45am – Practices of Nation-building in Socialist Yugoslavia:

12:00–1:45pm – Assessing Democracy in Contemporary Slovenia

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CALL FOR 2016 CONVENTION PAPERS

Young Scholars Panel at the 2016 ASEEEES Convention in Washington, DC

For the past fourteen 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 2016 meeting, please contact Gregor Kranjc (gkranjc@brocku.ca) by 15 December 2015.

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Senior Scholars Panel in 2016

Since the SSS celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2013, “Old Timers” panels are becoming a tradition. We hope to offer a panel in 2016, 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 2016 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 were reported in the last treasurer's report and are available from the treasurer at any time. These funds enable the Society to carry out its mission of timely 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

2014 and 2015 dues notices were mailed in early 2015. Thanks to all who responded. A second notice will be mailed with vol. 37 (2015) of the journal in September. Members may pay on line at www.slovenestudies.com.

Center Fund

David E. Kromm	Marieta Rolnick
Roberta Kromm	Carole Rogel
Timothy Pogacar	Marjeta von Rabenau
Anthony Ravnik	Barbara M. Roesmann

Endowment Fund

Linda Bennett	Marjeta von Rabenau
David E. Kromm	Anthony Ravnik
Roberta Kromm	Barbara M. Roesmann
Jerry D. Lomsek	William Merrit Singer
Lea Plut-Pregelj	Gojko B. Stare
Vladimir Pregelj	Jernej Watson

Rado Lencek Graduate Student Prize

Linda Bennett	Thomas Luckmann
Michael Biggins	Marjeta von Rabnau
David E. Kromm	Anthony Ravnik
Roberta Kromm	

Joseph Velikonja Undergraduate Student Prize

Linda Bennett	Jerry D. Lomsek
Michael Biggins	Marjeta von Rabenau
David E. Kromm	Anthony Ravnik
Roberta Kromm	

Printing Fund

Linda Bennett	Roberta Kromm
Michael D. Cummins	Rev. John Kumse
Charles Debevec	Marjeta von Rabenau
Terence R. Dragovan	Anthony Ravnik
Joseph F. Govednik	Denis Sankovic
Darko Kajfez	Stephen Wallace
David E. Kromm	Jernej Watson

New Members

Mojca Nidorfer-Šiškovič (Ljubljana); Bill Zolar (Portland, Oregon); Alenka Žbogar (Ljubljana)

Deceased Members

Helga Glušič; Sally Kent; Hilary Rolih; Joseph Velikonja; Gregory Zalar

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SCHOLARSHIPS/PRIZES

Joseph Velikonja Undergraduate Prize

The submission deadline for the \$500US 2015 Undergraduate Essay Prize is 30 September 2015. See the Society's website for [further details](#).

The SSS Rado L. Lenček Graduate Prize

The submission deadline for the 2015 Graduate Student Prize is 30 September 2015. The prize is \$1,000US. [Further details](#).

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SLOVENE STUDIES: JOURNAL OF THE SSS

Volume 36, number 1 (2014) was shipped on 4 June 2015. Vol. 36, n. 2 (2014) is due out in July 2014. Volume 37 (2015) is due out in September. Back issues of the journal through vol. 32 (2010) are available on the Uni. 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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MEMBERS NEWS

Michael Biggins Named 2015 Janko Lavrin Laureate (By Susanna Westen)

The Society of Slovene Literary Translators has named UW affiliate professor and Slavic librarian Michael Biggins as the recipient of its annual Janko Lavrin Prize, awarded each year for lifetime distinguished contributions to furthering Slovene literature abroad. Biggins is the translator of more than fifteen major book-length works of 20th- and 21st-century Slovene literature.

The public award ceremony will be held on 11 June 2015, at 8:00 pm in the Štih auditorium of the Cankar Arts Center (Cankarjev dom), Prešeren Street 10, Ljubljana. The award is named for Janko Lavrin (1887-1986), a Slovene-born scholar of Russian and Slavic literatures who became prominent in Great Britain in the 1930s and '40s as the host of BBC radio programs devoted to Russian literature. Lavrin taught Russian and Slovene at the University of Nottingham, where he founded Britain's only program in Slovene studies, which remains active today.

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Congratulations to Yana Hashamova and Jenny Suchland (By CSEES, 06 Apr 2015)

Yana Hashamova, Professor of Slavic Studies and Dr. Jennifer Suchland, Associate Professor of Slavic Studies and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (both Ohio State) have been awarded a two-year collaborative grant from the Slovenian International Integration Agency and the European Science Foundation to work with three Slovene scholars, Oto Luthar, Simona Zavratnik, and Sanja Cukut Krilić. Their project entitled *Gendered migrations and human trafficking: comparative study of the experiences in the USA and Slovenia* will employ interdisciplinary approaches and generate new data and has the potential to become an innovative study for the combined investigation of gendered migration and human trafficking.

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SSS Members at the 2014 ASEES Convention

Report by Veronica E. Aplenc (22 Nov 2014):

This year, the Society enjoyed a strong presence at the ASEES annual convention in San Antonio. Society members and others put together five Slovene-themed panels at the conference, including a Senior Scholars' Panel, featuring Robert Minnich, Leopoldina Plut-Pregelj and Peter Vodopivec, with Patrick Patterson and Maria Todorova as discussants, as well as a Junior Scholars' Panel. In addition, there were over three Yugoslav-themed panels and over ten Yugoslav-themed papers that would be of potential interest to Society members.

For the second year in a row, the Society worked with colleagues to co-organize the Central Europeanists' Reception, but this event was not held. After initiating and later leading the organization of this networking event for a good eight years, I felt that it was time to hand it over to colleagues. Unfortunately, leadership for this event did not materialize, and we can hope that it will be revitalized in the future.

For more impressions, see the photo corner.

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Report by Igor Maver (22 Oct 2014): The interdisciplinary PhD program American Studies of the Philosophical Faculty at the University of Ljubljana hosted a successful defense Irena Markovič about the well-known Slovene missionary entitled *Native Americans in the Area of Activity of the Missionary Irenej Friderik Baraga*, under the mentorship of Matjaž Klemenčič and co-mentorship of Igor Maver.

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IN MEMORIAM NINA LENČEK (1924–2014)

Obituary (The NY Times, Dec 7 2014, excerpts)

LENCEK--Nina A., (nee Lovrencic), died on November 25. Born on January 18, 1924 in Ljubljana, Slovenia, Nina Antonia Hedvika was the fourth of five children of Antonietta Manzoni and the poet/writer Joza Lovrencic. Nina had boundless energy, courage, good judgment, and a fierce intelligence that helped her survive the trauma of World War II, the rigors of post-war displacement to Italy, and eventual resettlement in the United States. Adaptable and inventive, she excelled in every profession in which she worked: as interpreter/secretary for the British Red Cross

and the Allied Military Government for Occupied Forces in the aftermath of WW II; radio broadcaster in Trieste; EKG technician in Chicago; in various areas of library science at the libraries of Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology; University of Illinois; and, until her retirement in 1989, as Slavic and East European Bibliographer, Columbia University. She had studied Slavic philology at the University of Ljubljana, where she met her future husband, Dr. Rado L. Lencek (1921–2005), Professor Emeritus of Slavic Languages and Cultures, Columbia University. They married in Gorizia, Italy, in May 1946. Her account of the Allies' forced repatriation of thousands of captured anti-Communist Yugoslavs and Russians in the spring 1945 - among them members of her own family - was included in the historian Nikolai Tolstoy's expose of the ensuing atrocities. Her memory is lovingly honored by her daughters Bibi and Lena; grandchildren Bianca Lencek Bosker (Nguyen), Misko and Katrina Lencek-Inagaki, relatives, friends, and colleagues. She lived the motto: "Quidquid agis, prudenter agas et respice finem!" She will be buried in Ljubljana in May 2015.

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A Brief Personal Tribute to Nina Lencek

I met Nina through Rado, of course, but never really got to know her until Rado's death. I do remember her as a charming hostess, who was always prepared to treat her guests with a delicious *potica* in the beautiful Lencek apartment on Riverside Drive. After Rado died in 2005, perhaps more out of a sense of duty to my beloved former professor than anything else, I began to call her about once a month, to see how she was coping. Our chats went from formal to friendly in short order. And since she was resolutely upbeat, no matter what life was dealing her at the moment, I soon realized that I, more than she, had become the true beneficiary of our phone conversations. We had a shared love for Italy, and she enjoyed hearing about our travels all over that country. And she in turn told me about her delightful, extended Tuscan holidays with her daughters and grandchildren, of whom she was tremendously proud. On the rare occasions when I got to New York, I usually did manage to visit with Nina. The last time was in February 2013. We looked over family photographs, and Nina

told me about her childhood, her education, her parents, and her connection to Alessandro Manzoni, one of Italy's most important writers. We talked about Trieste, a city where we have some very close mutual friends, and about the rigors and rewards of her move to the U.S. At that visit, Nina gave me a wonderful gift—an insight into a fascinating life well lived from beginning to end. I will always remember her for that, and be deeply grateful for our friendship.

Henry R. Cooper, Professor Emeritus of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Indiana University, and past President of SSS

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IN MEMORIAM SALLY KENT (1955-2015)

Sally Kent, professor emerita of history, died in February 2015, in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. She was a member of the history faculty from 1987 until her retirement in Spring 2014. A specialist in modern Croatian history, she taught courses in Russian and East European history. She served as chair of the History Department for three years and served several terms on the Faculty Senate. She was involved in First-Year Interest Groups and served as chair for a session on Women and War for the Wisconsin Institute for War and Peace. She was an adviser for the UW-Stevens Point Amnesty International Club, receiving the ULA Mentor Award for that position. She was a research fellow at the Institute for Research at UW-Madison, at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C., and at the Institute for Contemporary History in Zagreb, Croatia. In 1997 she helped to monitor elections as executive secretary to the Provisional Election Commission, OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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IN MEMORIAM JOSEPH VELIKONJA (1923–2015)

Joseph Velikonja, a retired University of Washington Professor of Geography, died on May 23, 2015 in Nova Gorica, Slovenia. Born on April 17, 1923, he was the third of 13 children of Ivanka Jeglic and Narte Velikonja. In 1941, he traveled to Zagreb to volunteer for the Yugoslav National Army but on arrival was arrested and

imprisoned by German-allied Croatian Ustasha forces and narrowly escaped execution. His university studies, begun in 1941 in Ljubljana and in Rome, were interrupted by war and another detention, by Italian forces. Following the wartime closure of the University of Rome, he joined the (democratic) Slovenian Home Guard (the 'Domobranci') with whom he stayed until the war ended. After the war he spent several months in a British-run POW camp in Italy. He earned his PhD in Geography in 1948 the University of Rome. He subsequently found a position teaching at a Slovenian high school in Trieste, Italy. There he met his wife, Matilde Rus, a teacher at the same school; they married in 1950 in Rome.

Without Italian citizenship their job security was tenuous, and the couple emigrated to Cleveland in 1955. He entered the University of Chicago for post-doctoral study, but his professors soon helped him secure a teaching position at Elmhurst College near Chicago. In 1960 he became a professor at Southern Illinois University, spent 1963-64 at Yale University, and in 1964 moved to the University of Washington in Seattle - teaching in both the Department of Geography and the School of International Studies - until his retirement in 1993. His focus was 'Human Geography,' the relation of people to their environment; he specialized in early 20th-century Italian immigration to the US and other countries. He made several visits to Argentina in the early 1980s to study that country's Slovenian immigrant population.

He followed closely the progress of Slovenian immigrants in the United States, and for years contributed obituaries to the Cleveland-based Slovenian newspaper *Ameriška Domovina* ([our] American Home). In the early 1990s, he was angered by comments of a Slovenian government official who belittled the accomplishments of Slovenians in America; his answer was to publish several editions of [Who's Who of Slovenian Descent in the United States](#).

Consistently denied travel visas to Yugoslavia from 1973 to 1987 because of his anti-communist views, he became a regular visitor to Slovenia following its independence in 1991. But he found there that even after the fall of communism, war memorials commemorated only communist

partisan guerrillas killed during the war. Accordingly, he supported a campaign, initiated by his brother, Tine Velikonja, to include all war dead in Slovenian memorials, and also to remember victims of Yugoslavia's post-WWII political purges.

Travel always brought him his greatest happiness, and in retirement he was able to visit not only Slovenia, but Australia, the Philippines, Russia, the Netherlands, and Armenia. His wife died in 2003. In 2008, his health beginning to falter, he moved to Brooklyn to live with his older son; in 2014 he moved back to Slovenia. He died there after a brief hospitalization.

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UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

The 34th Obdobja Symposium will take place on 19–21 November 2015, devoted to "Grammar and Dictionary – Current Language Description" Details about this, past, and future symposia are at the website: www.centerslo.net.

The 51st Seminar of Slovene Language, Literature and Culture entitled *The State and the Nation in Slovene Language, Literature and Culture* will take place on 6–17 July 2015 in Ljubljana. [Details and registration](#).

The Centre for Slovene is also organizing its annual, now **34th Summer School of Slovene Language** from 19 June 29–24 July 2015.

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The IX World Congress of ICCEES (International Council for Central and East European Studies) will be held in Chiba, Japan, on 3–8 August 2015. The congress is held every five years. More: www.iccees.org.

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The 2016 AATSEEL Conference will be held on 7–10 January 2016 in Austin, Texas. Visit the [2015 CFP page](#). The Society for Slovene Studies is an affiliate of AATSEEL.

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The Midwest Slavic Conference will take place on 8–9 April 2016 at Ohio State University. [More](#).

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The 20th Biennial Conference on Balkan and

South Slavic Linguistics, Literature and Folklore will take place at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City on 28–30 April 2016. [More](#).

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The 2016 ASEEEES 48th Annual Convention will take place in Washington, DC at Marriott Wardman, 17–20 November 2016.

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

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OF INTEREST TO SSS MEMBERS

Slovenian Online Classes

Enroll in Slovenian online classes 101 or 201 in the Fall 2015 at CSU (Modern Languages). [More](#).

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SSS Election Results

Thank you to everyone who voted online or via mail-in ballot. I am happy to report the results of our recent election:

RAYMOND MILLER will serve as president for another three years, until February 2018;

ŽARKO LAZAREVIČ will serve as an executive council member for three years, until February 2018.

Kristina Reardon, SSS Secretary

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On Slovenes in the Raba Region (HUN)

Tibor Horvat and Joël Gerber created in 2005 a bilingual website (German and English) about the history, culture and traditions of the Slovenes living in the Raba Region (Porabje) in Hungary in order to preserve cultural heritage of the Hungarian Slovenes. More: www.vendvidek.com

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PHOTO CORNER



SSS Business Meeting: the 2014 ASEEEES Convention
photo by Peter Rožič SJ



from left to right: Peter Vodopivec, Gregor Kranjc,
Robert Minnich, Aleš Gabrič
photo by Peter Rožič SJ



SSS Executive Council Meeting – from left to right:
Carole Rogel, Tim Pogacar, Michael Biggins, Peter
Rožič SJ
photo by Veronica Aplenc

POETRY: TRANSLATED BY N. LENCEK

To My Beloved...

On the occasion of her 25th birthday.

Joža Lovrenčič, 31.12. 1948.

I.

It was a quarter century ago
That icy January, deep in winter,
Buried us, like Eskimos, in snow
And conjured flowers on the glass.

Silence. No sound of song
Outside my own immersion in the rhyming
Of an undulating tide of feeling,
Swollen still with the summer's sun.

Then, in that mythical freeze, a frail child
With a tender, lovely, fairy face,
Bid welcome to the earth

Like the fabled blue flower of romantics
That ecstasy had brought to life –
These five-and-twenty years ago.

II.

There was the time of prattle, the time of school ,
The time of summer rest,
There were holidays... and a radiant joy
Came with the cherished child.

The child grew beautiful, into a girl
Who in my verse became the Rose of Jericho
Though she deserved the honors of lyrical acrostics
And all the tributes of Parnassus' bards.

In her — my dearest song found life, found
voice in the expression of her eyes
And on her own she seconded my song

So that, no credit claiming for her own invention,
She was her father's living fairy tale
And gladdening him, was glad with him.

III.

Then came the fabled hour: into her curious soul
Stole silent dreams of life
And in her first, sweet longing
Encountered Rado and his love.

When floral May across the meadow swept
And lilies of the valley chimed their incantation,
Despite the bitter partings and the horrors of the war
They found their Eldorado in their love.

Now by his side, with daughters Jelvica, Alenka,
Who are Goriza's springtime sun
As dear to her as she is to my heart

She brings her fairy tale to wondrous life,
And I, to mark her quarter century, send
Her the flowers of my verse...

IV.

With this bouquet, my precious Nina,
Made with your father's love,
Find loving thoughts and wishes
And a fragrant sprig of rosemary.

May happiness extend across your sky
May God's kind hand
Continue to protect you
And grant you and your family full health.

For you and yours your father, my beloved,
Will never cease to pray
So long as he can bring his hands together.

And he would wish, while still he may,
To press you to his heart, and in your home,
With you rejoice.

Papa/ Očka

Translated by Lena Lenček

SSS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Officers

President: Raymond Miller (Bowdoin College)
[change of e-address: rejmill04@yahoo.com]

Secretary: Kristina Reardon (U of Connecticut)

Treasurer: Timothy Pogacar (Bowling Green SU)

Conference Program Coordinator: Veronica E.
Aplenc (U of Pennsylvania)

Editor, *Slovene Studies*: Timothy Pogacar

Book Review Editor, *Slovene Studies*, Gregor
Kranjc (Brock U)

Editor, *Letter*: Peter Rožič SJ (Santa Clara U)

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,
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