Editorial: *Slovo*’s New Home - the Web

There is no substitute for holding a real journal in your hands. On this we all agree. However, with the advent of the Internet many academic and non-academic journals have made the transition from paper to electronic format. *Slovo* is no exception: the web will be its future home.

It all started on a Monday in November 2009, during the regular advanced seminar of the Slavists at Uppsala University. After six years of hibernation, and after discussing the alternatives of letting *Slovo* hibernate “forever” or having it reappear on the Internet, a decision was made to revive the “old”, established and well-known journal using the publishing form of the future. The change in the publishing praxis of the journal also reflects a generation change among Uppsala Slavists. For centuries, since the Gutenberg press produced the printed word, publishers have played a crucial role between the work of authors and their readers. Now, electronic publishing of scholarly papers on the Internet offers rapid and universal access. These are the main reasons for changing the publication format of the journal.

While discussing the destiny of *Slovo*, no one (at the seminar) was aware that the next *Slovo* issue would be the 50th one. It was a coincidence that the transition to the web would occur in an anniversary issue. The new format and the anniversary provide an excellent opportunity for celebration, and also give a possibility for some explanations.

To begin with, the experienced *Slovo* reader will notice the change in the journal’s name, where a new logo is incorporated in the letter ‘S’ and the subtitle, *Journal of Slavic Languages and Literatures*, is added to the original name *Slovo* (Uppsala). Both the logo and the subtitle symbolize the journal’s dedication to the field of Slavic linguistics and literatures in the broadly defined context of historical and synchronic research. Moreover, as *Slovo* appears to be a relatively common title in that field, it seems reasonable to add distinguishing characteristics, including the logo and the subtitle, to clearly separate it from other periodicals. A significant change in the policy of the journal is its invited contributions from scholars not associated with Uppsala University. Previously, only contributions from scholars directly connected with Uppsala University were published. Our goal from now on is to have one invited external contributor for each issue.

The value of a journal lies in the quality of the articles it publishes. First and foremost, this quality comes from the submitting authors, but also from the scholars who voluntarily review these submissions. There is also a considerable time investment on the part of the editors and the advisory board. However, *Slovo*’s transition to an electronically published journal would not have been possible without the technical support of two graduate students in computer science at Uppsala
University: Yunyun Zhu, who created the logo, and Tengjiao Cai, who designed and implemented the homepage. Finally, there are you, the readers, to whom we dedicate our 50th anniversary issue.

This issue aims to combine the tradition with the innovations. The background of the journal and its publication history is presented in an article by Roger Gyllin, one of Slovo’s pioneers. Another key contributor is Lennart Lönngren, who is by far the most experienced Slovo-editor. Our first external contributor is Cynthia Vakareliyska from University of Oregon (USA), one of the world’s leading authorities on medieval Slavic gospels. All other contributors in this issue are active in the field of Slavic languages at the Department of Modern Languages (Uppsala University). Ingrid Maier, Małgorzata Anna Packalén Parkman and Thomas Rosén are all senior researchers who have previously published many articles in Slovo, while Daniela Assenova and Nils Håkanson are publishing for the first time in the journal. Juhani Nuorluoto has been the chair of the Slavic Languages division of the Department since 2008. To emphasize this succession, we also are publishing the complete bibliography of the previous chair of Slavic languages, Sven Gustavsson. The articles in the current issue represent the broad range of research at the Department, thematically, methodologically and language-wise. The editors wish to thank all the contributors for their hard work and patience throughout the long maturing process of this special anniversary and inaugural electronic issue.

Keeping to tradition, we have decided to publish the articles separately, but combined to form a whole issue. So even though Slovo is on the web, you still can read it the traditional way!

Daniela Assenova