

Hotel Forum
Warszawa

22.X.1987.

Dear Ivan,

Excuse me for writing in English - however, I trust Marjetica to translate competently, and I have not much time after a busy day. I arrived here on 19.X for the conference on "developments in the methods of comparative Slavonic philology from 1750 to 1830", organised by the Instytut Słowianoznawstwa of Polska Akademia Nauk.

There were fifteen papers mostly concerned with the work of Czech, Polish, Russian and German scholars - some with familiar names - Leibnitz, Schläzer, Lomonosov, Lindle, Karadžić. Thanks to Dr. Moravec and NUK I was able to inform the conference about the work of Žiga Popovič and Marko Poklin. My paper was quite well received and will do something, I hope, to promote interest in their work.

I spent a good deal of time after our return to England trying to decipher Popovič's notes and comparing these with the corresponding articles in Poklin's *Glossarium Slavicum*. I had to travel into the British Museum to find a copy of this but I think the movement was good for me. The article should be about twenty or twenty five pages of typescript. It will appear together with the other conference papers - fairly soon, the editor says. Judging from past experience, it will be a couple of years or so.

Tomorrow or the day after I am travelling to Kraków where I am to read one or two papers on questions of lexicology and comparative translation. If the opportunity occurs I shall speak about Popovič and Poklin also. I have brought the Xerox copy of Popovič's materials with me to stimulate interest.

One of the participants here, Professor Jan Petr from Prague, asked a question about attitudes to the ^{advantages} relative ^(or disadvantages) of etymological

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word order against alphabetical order in dictionaries during our period.

Thanks to the edition by Professor Anton Stodujak of Čop's correspondence which I received from SAZU I was able to direct Professor Petr's attention to the criticism of etymological word order in Urban Jarnik's *Etimologička*, - criticism expressed in Čop's correspondence with Prešeren.

I have been staying in the Hotel Forum and shall be glad to leave tomorrow, as the air conditioning annoys me and this morning I woke with a sore throat. I haven't seen any aggressive dogs - but then I have not been going out for walks, although the weather is very pleasant. My free time has been spent in libraries and book-shops.

Katie went to Oxford a fortnight ago. We didn't realise how quiet the house would be without her. She seems to be happy with her choice of subject and is enjoying her musical duties. We visited her in her room, a rather shabby and dingy place. Monika did all she could to brighten up the walls which are a dirty yellow colour. The piano provided by the college for Katie as junior organist is in a very bad state and would be thrown out of any army canteen or low dive. Katie was hoping the college would change it. I don't know what has happened. She certainly must not ruin her ears by playing that monstrosity.

It's almost midnight, time to retire.

All the best to you

Ivan, Branka and family!

from

Harry.