

From the Editor

In addition to four interesting articles and four reviews of new books in our field, this issue contains a Reflections piece by me, examining the history and sociology of our organization. It also, sadly, includes two In Memoriam pieces for our dear friends and esteemed colleagues, Jens Nørgård-Sørensen and Charles Townsend. I knew both of these individuals well and am grieved at their loss. Jens was an active member of SLS, and we always found time to enjoy each other's company at meetings. He was warm and kind, full of life and wit. Jens left us far too soon and will be sorely missed. Charlie was someone I have been so close to, and for so many years, that I feel justified in exploiting my editorial position to write in more personal terms about him and about the impact he had on my life.¹

For me, Charlie wasn't always Charlie, although now I cannot imagine calling him anything else. I started Russian in high school, back in 1969. I loved it but did not understand why. At the time I had no idea that one could *just* study the language; I thought one *uses* Russian to study history, literature, politics, and so forth. It was Charles Townsend who showed me that Russian could be an object of study in and of itself, and this insight changed my life. I first met my future mentor and lifelong friend at Indiana University's summer Slavic language program, where he was teaching Level 7 (the dreaded "Russian Word-Formation" course) as he did for many years after. I was starting at Princeton in the fall and wanted to get some guidance about what to do with my Russian. Charlie enlightened me and later turned me on to Slavic linguistics. Back then, of course, "Professor Townsend" was very intimidating. He knew everything, I knew little, and his job seemed to be, to us students, to remind us repeatedly of this intellectual gulf. But as we got to know him, what we students gradually discovered about

¹ The reminiscences which follow are gleaned in part from my talk at the tenth annual SLS meeting (as is much of my Reflections piece in this issue) and in part from my comments at a memorial celebration for Charles Townsend held at Princeton University on 26 September 2015.

Charlie was that inside he really was a big teddy bear. My wife Karen's favorite adjective for Charlie was always "gallant"—not gallant as in "brave" or "heroic" but rather gallant as in "chivalrous." I on the other hand grew to see Charlie most of all as forthright: with me he typically spoke his mind, sometimes a bit too bluntly, but always kindly and with the best of intentions. The most apt description of Charlie that sticks in my mind, however, is as an "avuncular curmudgeon."² I think he loved to play that role, the crusty uncle, and indeed, maybe Charlie was waxing a bit curmudgeonly at the time. But his crustiness was just that—crust. To me at least, it has been his deep-down teddy-bear nature, that revealed itself most often. He watched my family form and grow, as I watched his. Charlie and his wife Janet were a solid rock in our lives, Karen's and mine, and they both were incredibly kind and patient with my parents. I miss Charlie terribly. His decision to enter home hospice care took us all by surprise. No matter how conscientiously he tried to say his goodbyes and to let those who loved him see him off, we cannot help but be pained. Charlie was remarkably prepared, but I certainly wasn't, and I doubt that any of his friends or family could have been either. He bravely embraced the inevitable. But for all us who loved him, he left a gaping hole in our worlds. Charlie was a big part in many lives, and still lives in our collective memories and in our collective hearts.

After Charlie died I wanted to preserve his memory in some lasting way and realized that SLS provides the perfect forum for this. So I worked with the board to create a new fund intended to honor him and to perpetuate his legacy. The Charles E. Townsend Memorial Fund recognizes young contributors to the field of Slavic linguistics by awarding a lifetime membership in SLS to the best graduate student paper presented at either of the previous two annual Slavic Linguistics Society meetings. This means that any graduate student who presented at SLS in Heidelberg this year or who presented at Seattle in 2014 is eligible to receive the award in Toronto in 2016. If you are reading this, I hope you will consider making a donation to the Fund. These can be

² This epithet was provided by Craig Cravens when we presented Charlie with a surprise Festschrift back in 2002 (Indiana Slavic Studies Volume 13: *Where One's Tongue Rules Well: A Festschrift for Charles E. Townsend*, edited by Laura Janda, Ronald Feldstein, and myself). Many of Charlie's friends could not make the event, so we read their letters to those gathered to celebrate his career.

made either by sending a check to our treasurer, Catherine Rudin, or online at the SLS web site.³

Speaking of meetings, I remind you that the 11th annual SLS meeting will be taking place at the University of Toronto, 23–25 September 2016. You can find a call for submissions immediately following this column. I expect our first Canadian meeting to be lively and well attended. I look forward to taking part and to seeing you there. At the Heidelberg meeting, which was a great success, two new members were elected to the Executive Board: Joseph Schallert and Jacek Witkoś are replacing Laura Janda and Sylwester Jaworski, whose three-year terms were complete. Also, Anton Zimmerling graciously agreed to continue on for next year as chair. In other news, our webmaster, Andrea Sims, plans to step down in this capacity, so we are looking for someone to replace her in September 2016. So please let Anton and Andrea know if you might be interested.

Please also join me in welcoming as a new *JSL* Associate Editor Roumyana Pancheva of the University of Southern California. Her areas of expertise are diverse, and her research is largely concentrated on issues of syntax-semantics interface, particularly from diachronic and experimental perspectives. Roumi will be replacing Hana Filip, who is stepping down after ten years of service. Thank you, Hana, for your dedication and hard work in making *JSL* a quality publication. I also take this opportunity to thank all the continuing Associate Editors for giving so much of their time and energy to the journal and to the society. Your work in shepherding scholarly articles and book reviews to publication is absolutely essential.

In keeping with our efforts to standardize procedures (the Submission Guidelines and Style Sheet in 23.1), at the end of this issue you will find a list of recommended abbreviations. Also, a new publication ethics statement is now available on the Slavica website.

Finally, *JSL* 24.1 will be a special issue devoted to matters of agreement in Slavic languages, guest edited by Marijana Kresić, Nedžad Leko, Andrew Nevins, Boban Arsenijević, and Jana Willer-Gold.

Steven Franks
Editor-in-Chief

³ Her address can be found in the list of Associate Editors and the URL for donations is: <http://www.slaviclinguistics.org/charles-e-townsend-memorial-fund>.