

Three years of transformations in the nations of eastern Europe, Russia and Eurasia—the Association's new formulation of its jurisdiction—have transformed the tasks of our profession. Different outcomes in “eastern Europe” have laid bare the enduring socio-economic and cultural characteristics at work variously in one region or another, occasioning fresh examination of nationhood, statehood and geopolitical groupings: it is not clear that any term of convenience, whether “eastern” or “central,” will or should prevail.

The passing of the Soviet Union has retired the term “Sovietology,” formerly a useful fiction in our work, and revealed the full complexity of inter-ethnic and inter-state rivalry and dependency. The entire region from the borders of Germany through the ex-Soviet Union is undergoing transition to markets under the most difficult imaginable circumstance—the simultaneous disintegration of the erstwhile Soviet economic and political empire. Meanwhile, the previous Soviet Union offers up a major challenge to historians' paradigms, calling for yet another examination of the break between imperial and bolshevik Russia. Finally, the transformation of real borders mandates reexamination of the symbolic borders our disciplines have drawn—western and eastern, urban and rural, civil and spiritual.

*Slavic Review* plays a pivotal role in our profession's own transformation. Its Editorial Board must translate the profession's traditional standards to an era of thorough-going innovation. Its editors must join with the profession to publish works of transformative power and to spark discussion of new departures; together we must increase the volume and timeliness of information and its assessment in reviews of print and film media. The new Editorial Board of *Slavic Review* is committed to the use of the most current methods and theories deriving from our several disciplines as they apply to research throughout eastern Europe, Russia and Eurasia; for the Editor that will constitute a test of publishability.

After a 50th Anniversary year of prolific publishing, *Slavic Review* now has no backlog. It is my intention, in view of the pace of transformation, to keep the *Review's* backlog very short and to establish a “fast track” to timely publication; social science researchers in particular should take this as an invitation to venture more regularly into the pages of *Slavic Review*. I intend to increase the number and scope of books reviewed, to undertake review of other media, starting with film, and to pursue my own glasnost' policy of soliciting conference reports from closed or distant conferences. I have converted the type to a less angular one and returned it to the traditional larger size; I would like to see the journal move toward much greater use of its white space for graphics.

One concession to these changes has been the elimination of the “Books Received” column: in recent years publishers have become so selective in submitting their books to journals that “Books Received”

lost its capacity to be comprehensive. We will endeavor, however, to retain "Doctoral Dissertations on Russia, Eurasia and Eastern Europe," the annual listing of research by young scholars entering the field. The listing for 1990–1991, by Jesse J. Dossick, will appear in the Summer 1992 issue of *Slavic Review* and will be Dr. Dossick's last contribution. *Slavic Review* readers have been immensely served by Jesse Dossick's labors, and on their behalf I send him our many thanks and best wishes.

Language is herald of the oceanic changes taking place in our area of study. I am currently finishing up a two-thousand entry work "Russian Politics and Economics since 1985: A Lexical Commentary." From *avtarkhiia* (autarchy) to *iastreb perestroiki* (hawk of perestroika) the language of Russian political discourse, like other languages in the area, is undergoing a vast replenishment and complex transformation. Some of these changes are landing on our English-language shores and will become *Slavic Review* custom as they attain legitimacy: Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Belarus. It will always be psychologically difficult for me, a one-time student in Leningrad, to remember to say "St. Petersburg"—for all the validity to the assertion that, if Berlin is to be the capital of Germany and Moscow the capital of Russia, then St. Petersburg is verily Peter's city. Slips of the tongue are sure to be a fixture of our professional discourse for some time as our linguistic consciousness strives to keep abreast of the wrenching transformations in social consciousness throughout the lands we study.

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