

## THE 1974 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SLAVIC STUDIES AT BANFF

The International Conference on Slavic Studies was held at Banff in Canada from September 4-7, 1974 and was sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, the British National Association for Soviet and East European Studies, the British Universities Association of Slavists, and the Canadian Association of Slavists. Most of the participants were members of the above associations with a smattering of delegates from other countries, including Russia, Poland and France. The Congress was conducted in English.

The reports covered the following general unities: 1) Economy, Politics, and Society, 2) International Relations, 3) History, 4) Languages and Literatures, 5) Education, Philosophy and Religion. The meetings of the Congress were divided into regular panels and special sessions. Because of my particular field of interest, I attended for the most part those sessions dealing with Language and Literature as follows:

### *I. Regular Panels*

1. Slavic and East European Descriptive Linguistics.
2. Methodology of Slavic Language Teaching.
3. Problems of Slavic Accentuation.
4. Socio-linguistic Problems in Eastern and Southern Europe.
5. Studies in Slavic Literatures.
6. South and West Slavic Literatures.

### *II. Special Sessions*

1. South Slavic Linguistics.
2. Culture, Religion and Modernization in Russia during the reign of Nicholas I.

The programme, with some 400 papers on the agenda, was not strictly adhered to due to many absences, additional reports and adjustments. In addition to the reports and discussions, separate meetings were held by various committees such as those of the Western Slavic Association, American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, publishers, lecturers, exchange professors and so on, with film projections, choirs, displays of publications etc.

In those sessions which I attended, very rarely was any reference made to Greece and Greek linguistic phenomena, but there were interesting references to language phenomena similar to the Greek (such as the phonemic status of *(i)* and *(j)* in Russian, the relative clause in Serbian, etc).

Certain papers were of general linguistic interest, such as the teaching of languages with electronic computer aids (with a demonstration), stress patterns and so on.

To convey a fuller picture of the Congress, I cite some topics that were discussed at the regular panels and in the special sessions.

I. 1. Demographic Aspects of the Process of Industrialization in Central Europe and the Soviet Union, Science Technology and Society, Income Distribution in the Socialist Countries, Agriculture in the USSR and Eastern Europe, Organization and Efficiency, Mass Media in the Socialist countries, etc.

2. Origins of the Cold War in Eastern Europe, the USSR and the Third World, etc.

3. Spontaneity vs. Planning in the Revolutionary Process, Old Bolsheviks, Myths and Realities of the 17th Century crisis in Russia and Eastern Europe, Social Classes and Urbanization in the 18th Century, the Imperial Bureaucracy in the 19th Century, etc.

4. Contemporary Marxism, etc.

II. The Catholic communities of the Soviet Union, Modernization in Hungary, Slavic bibliography, Church-State relations in Eastern Europe (1918-1945), East European Politics, Revolutionaries and Biographers, and so on.

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