

The History of the Kenneth E. Naylor Memorial Lecture Series

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I had the distinct honor to be named in 1997 the first Kenneth E. Naylor Professor of South Slavic Linguistics, filling a 30% endowed position in the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures (since renamed as the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures) that was created officially on November 5, 1993 through gifts to The Ohio State University from the estate of my good friend and long-time colleague, Ken Naylor, after his tragic death on March 10, 1992. Ken's death brought an untimely end to a productive life, but his scholarly legacy, with its focus on the languages of the Balkans, but especially the South Slavic languages that he loved so much and which occupied most of his scholarly life, lives on through this professorship and through various activities associated with it.

I became the first Naylor Professor and my appointment has been renewed five times since then, including most recently in 2022.

The endowed position carried with it a generous research fund, and with that fund at my disposal, as a way of honoring Ken's legacy at The Ohio State University, where he had taught for 25 years, and by way of memorializing in a public way his intense interest in South Slavic and the Balkans, I established an annual lecture series in his memory that would bring a leading scholar in Balkan and/or South Slavic linguistics to campus each spring for a public lecture and if possible, an extended visit with time to talk with students and/or contribute to a relevant class in the department. Thus was born the *Kenneth E. Naylor Memorial Lecture Series in South Slavic Linguistics*, now slightly amended onomastically to the *Kenneth E. Naylor Memorial Lecture Series in South Slavic and Balkan Linguistics* so as to more accurately reflect the content of the various lectures over the years.

The first Naylor Lecture was delivered on May 28, 1998 by Victor A. Friedman, Professor and then-Chair of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Chicago, and a long-time friend of Ken's, and he spoke on the subject of "Linguistic Emblems and Emblematic Languages: On Language as Flag in the Balkans," a topic that Ken himself was especially interested

in and was working on at the time of his death.

There have now been lectures every year since then except for 2020 when the COVID pandemic precluded our holding the lecture. We had to adapt to a new regime in 2021 and 2022, as COVID forced us to hold the lecture as a virtual event via the Zoom platform. A complete list of the presenters and the titles of their respective lectures is given as *Appendix A* below, and even a brief glance at the roster shows the diversity of topics covered even within the seemingly narrow rubric of South Slavic and Balkan linguistics: the sociology of language in the Balkans, language and dialect contact, language ideology, poetics, textual analysis and historical development, among others, as well as studies of various aspects of individual Balkan languages.

The success of that lecture led to the idea of making it public beyond the reaches of the audience on that day, and thus we started the *Kenneth E. Naylor Memorial Lecture Series in South Slavic Linguistics*, now slightly amended onomastically to the *Kenneth E. Naylor Memorial Lecture Series in South Slavic and Balkan Linguistics* so as to more accurately reflect the content of the volumes in the series. Professor Friedman's lecture was published as a fascicle in 1999 by the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures of The Ohio State University as the first number in the series. Two subsequent lectures were published in the same format: the second, "In Honor of Diversity: The Linguistic Resources of the Balkans," delivered on April 7, 1999 by Ronelle Alexander of the University of California, Berkeley, was published in 2000; and the third, "What Is a Standard Language Good for, and Who Gets to Have One?," presented on May 19, 2000 by Wayles Browne of Cornell University, came out in 2002 along with a previously unpublished companion piece by the same author, "Open and Closed Accent Types in Nouns in Serbo-Croatian."

These separata enjoyed a reasonably good distribution, but after the fourth lecture, a thought-provoking and carefully considered position on "The Balkan Linguistic League, 'Orientalism,' and Linguistic Typology," given by Howard I. Aronson of the University of Chicago on May 25, 2001, I decided to seek a less irregular means of publication as a way of enhancing the series by lending it greater visibility and making it available to a wider range of potential readers.

Consequently, after several false starts with other publication possibilities, I turned in 2004 to the (then-)newly founded Beech Stave Press for publication of Professor Aronson's lecture and subsequent ones. I thank the founders of the Press,

Benjamin W. Fortson IV and Steve Peter, for their interest in this project and their willingness to take it on. Professor Aronson's lecture appeared in 2007 as the first in Beech Stave's Naylor Memorial Lecture Series and Number Four overall, and the second, Number Five overall, appeared in 2010, containing the lecture given on May 24, 2002 by Christina E. Kramer of the University of Toronto and bearing the title *Minority Language Rights in Primary Education: A Century of Change in the Balkans*. Booklet Number Six, the revised text of Zuzanna Topolińska's May 2, 2003 Naylor Memorial lecture, "The Anthropocentric Case Theory: How Is Man Realized in the Discourse?," offered as a keynote address at the Fifth International Macedonian-North American Conference on Macedonian Studies, was published in 2014 under the title *Anthropocentric Case Theory: How Are Humans Coded in Discourse?*

Unfortunately, other commitments that Beech Stave Press had entered into got in the way of their ability to continue the series, so it migrated once more, this time finding a home as a subseries attached to the journal *Balkanistica*, published under the editorship of Donald Dyer of the University of Mississippi on behalf of the Southeast European Studies Association, known widely by its acronym SEESA. I take this opportunity to thank SEESA and its president at the time, Catherine Rudin (a Naylor lecturer herself, in 2011), and its Executive Board, as well as editor Dyer, for taking on the publication of this series. This is probably where the series should have been in the first place, had I had the appropriate clarity of vision earlier, but I am very glad that it seems to have found a real home, at last. It can be noted, by way of signaling the appropriateness of producing the Naylor Lectures under the aegis of SEESA, that Ken Naylor himself was the first president of the American Association for South Slavic Studies, the organization that has morphed over the years into SEESA, and moreover that he served as the very first editor of *Balkanistica*, from 1976 to 1981.

Under the banner of *Balkanistica* and SEESA, four new volumes have appeared and several more are in the works. The numbering of these volumes will in part reflect the chronology of the actual lectures themselves on which they are based, but some allowances for the passage of time and the ability of the editor (me) and authors to produce the relevant works have had to be made and have necessitated our making no pretense at preserving the absolute historical order or even being completely true to the annual lectures themselves. Still, some memorable works are now in print, and more will follow in the coming months and years. Number Eight continued the series in 2014 with the text of Tom Priestly's April 28, 2006 Naylor

Memorial lecture (actually the ninth lecture, as it happens), entitled *From Phonological Analysis at My Desk to Linguistic Activism with Slovene in the Austrian Alps*. Number Nine followed in 2015, *Historic Syllabics*, by (the now-late) Eric P. Hamp, standing in for his planned April 16, 2010 lecture that ended up being turned into an appreciation of his contributions to Balkan linguistics due to his having fallen ill just before the lecture; further, also having appeared recently is Number Twelve in the series, Donald Dyer's *Reimagining the Balkans and Widening the Bund: Does Moldova Belong?* with content deriving from Dr. Dyer's April 2014 Naylor Lecture. This volume is especially noteworthy as it is the first and still the only Naylor lecture dedicated to the Eastern Romance languages in the Balkans,¹ and it appeared in a new and aesthetically pleasing format. Soon to follow will be Number Ten, Cynthia Vakareliyska's *Action Heroes: A Survey of Recent English Loanblend Open Compounds across the South Slavic Languages*, based on her 2012 Naylor Lecture and Number Eleven, Olga Mladenova's *The Rise of Modern Bulgarian Literacy in the 17th Century: New Facts and Interpretations*, the publication of which will restore a modicum of chronological validity to the order of the volumes. After that there will come Number Seven by Ilse Lehiste, based on her 2004 lecture, but delayed by various complications in connection with Dr. Lehiste's unfortunate demise in December 2010, and my own meagre contribution from the tenth lecture in 2007.

Special mention must also be made of one recent volume. To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Naylor Lecture series, it was decided to mark the anniversary in a special way, holding a weekend conference with all previous (living) Naylor lecturers invited to give a presentation; the papers were published in 2019 as *The Current State of Balkan Linguistics: Celebrating Twenty Years of the Kenneth E. Naylor Lectures*, co-edited by Brian D. Joseph, Donald Dyer and Mary Allen Johnson, and the volume was brought out as volume 32:1 of *Balkanistica*. The contents of that volume are given in *Appendix C*, below.

The full list of published and to-be-published works is given in *Appendix B* below. The varied content of the lectures and the scope of the printed versions of these presentations show the vitality of the field, but in addition at the same time show unity through their treatment of some aspect of language involving the South Slavic linguistic group and/or the Balkans, that part of the linguistic and the physical world that was so important to Ken Naylor and to many of us.

I have to confess that, due to some missteps and a few (perhaps inevitable)

technical problems that have plagued this series, there have been delays in my ability to bring final manuscripts to publication. Nonetheless, as indicated above, the series is picking up steam and I would like to thank Dr. James Joshua (“Josh”) Pennington for his invaluable help in preparing the final version of Number 12 and other soon-to-be-published manuscripts, without which assistance the delay might have been even greater.

The lectures continue, with the 25th taking place in spring of this year, now more than 30 years after Ken Naylor’s death, and as the preceding comments attest, publication of the lectures will continue. Current plans call for publishing as many of the lectures as is possible in the newly reconstituted *Balkanistica*/SEESA series, recognizing that various issues sometimes get in the way of the ability of authors (and editor!) to bring a particular lecture into print.

The lecture series thus maintains the rich tradition of scholarship begun with the first lecture in 1998, and seen as well in the various booklets that have been produced. All of these together serve as a fitting tribute to Ken Naylor’s memory, and to the intellectual legacy he left at The Ohio State University. We here, together with others around the country and around the world, miss Ken, but we also take heart in his final act of generosity in the name of South Slavic and Balkan scholarship, and are pleased to be able to honor him through this series, both the lectures themselves and the volumes that have ensued and will continue to appear.

Note

1. Dorin Urițescu, Professor Emeritus at the University of Toronto and a formidable Romanian scholar, was invited to deliver the Naylor Lecture in 2019. Unfortunately, he was stricken with an aggressive form of cancer and had to withdraw from giving the lecture; sadly, he passed away on April 15, 2019. His lecture was to have been on Romanian, with the title “Geolinguistic Variation and Language Change in Romanian.”

Appendix A

The Kenneth E. Naylor Memorial Lectures 1998-2022

- May 28, 1998: “Linguistic Emblems and Emblematic Languages: On Language as Flag in the Balkans,” Victor A. Friedman
- April 7, 1999: “In Honor of Diversity: The Linguistic Resources of the Balkans,” Ronelle Alexander
- May 19, 2000: “What Is a Standard Language Good for, and Who Gets to Have One?” Wayles Browne
- May 25, 2001: “The Balkan Linguistic League, ‘Orientalism,’ and Linguistic Typology,” Howard I. Aronson
- May 24, 2002: “Minority Language Rights in Primary Education: A Century of Change in the Balkans,” Christina E. Kramer
- May 2, 2003: “The Anthropocentric Case Theory: How Is Man Realized in the Discourse?,” Zuzanna Topolińska
- May 28, 2004: “The Structure of the *Deseterac* — The Metre of Serbian Epic Poetry,” Ilse Lehiste
- April 29, 2005: “Discourse Markers as Balkanisms,” Grace E. Fielder
- April 28, 2006: “From Phonological Analysis at My Desk to Linguistic Activism with Slovene in the Austrian Alps,” Tom Priestly
- April 27, 2007: “Why We Need History in Balkan Linguistics,” Brian D. Joseph
- April 25, 2008: “Language Planning in the Yugoslav Successor States: New Languages and Old Controversies,” Robert D. Greenberg
- May 18, 2009: “The Line, the *Which*, and the War Trope,” Marc L. Greenberg
- April 16, 2010: “An Appreciation of Eric P. Hamp,” Victor A. Friedman and Brian D. Joseph, standing in for (an ill) Eric Hamp and for his planned lecture entitled “South Slavic and Its Neighbors — Distant Past and Present”
- April 15, 2011: “The New Bulgarian: Turkisms and Europeanisms in the Language of *Bai Ganyo* and *Nov Zhivot*,” Catherine Rudin
- April 27, 2012: “Action Heroes: The English NN Construction across the South Slavic Languages,” Cynthia Vakareliyska

- March 22, 2013 “The Rise of Modern Bulgarian Literacy in the Seventeenth Century: New Facts and Interpretations,” Olga Mladenova
- April 11, 2014 “Reimagining the Balkans and Widening the *Bund*: Does Moldova Belong?,” Donald L. Dyer
- March 6, 2015 “Observations on the Lexicon of the Earliest Macedonian Vernacular Gospels (Konikovo and Kulakia Gospels),” Joseph Schallert
- April 1, 2016 “Do We Really Write in a More Complex Way than We Speak? The Case of Bulgarian,” John Leafgren
- Jan. 20-21, 2017 “The Current State of Balkan Linguistics—Where Do We Stand?”: A conference with all past Naylor Lecturers
- March 30, 2018 “Language Planning and Its Limits: The Case of Croatian,” Keith Langston
- April 5, 2019 “Greek Dialect Features in the Speech of Greek Canadians: An Unexpected Treasure Trove,” Panayiotis Pappas
- Spring 2020 CANCELLED DUE TO COVID
- April 2, 2021 “Cappadocian (Asia Minor Greek): The Life and Times of a Language Once Believed Extinct,” Mark Janse (virtual)
- April 8, 2022 “Torlak in the Slavic Family and the Balkan *Sprachbund*: Linguistic Problems and Methodological Challenges,” Andrey N. Sobolev (virtual)
- April 24, 2023 TBA, Motoki Nomachi

Appendix B

Publication History of the Lecture Series by Year

Under the aegis of the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures, The Ohio State University:

1999—Naylor Memorial Lecture Series #1, *Linguistic Emblems and Emblematic Languages: On Language as Flag in the Balkans*, by Victor A Friedman

2000—Naylor Memorial Lecture Series #2, *In Honor of Diversity: The Linguistic Resources of the Balkans*, by Ronelle Alexander

2001—Naylor Memorial Lecture Series #3, *What Is a Standard Language Good for, and Who Gets to Have One? and Open and Closed Accent Types in Nouns in Serbo-Croatian*, by Wayles Browne

Under the aegis of Beech Stave Publishers:

2007—Naylor Memorial Lecture Series #4, *The Balkan Linguistic League, 'Orientalism,' and Linguistic Typology*, by Howard I. Aronson

2010—Naylor Memorial Lecture Series #5, *Minority Language Rights in Primary Education: A Century of Change in the Balkans*, by Christina E. Kramer

2014—Naylor Memorial Lecture Series #6, *The Anthropocentric Case Theory: How Are Humans Coded in Discourse?*, by Zuzanna Topolińska

Under the aegis of SEESA/*Balkanistica*:

2014—Naylor Memorial Lecture Series #8, *From Phonological Analysis at My Desk to Linguistic Activism with Slovene in the Austrian Alps*, by Tom M.S. Priestly

2015—Naylor Memorial Lecture Series #9, *Historical Albanian Syllabics*, by Eric P. Hamp

Balkanistica 36 (2023)

2019—*The Current State of Balkan Linguistics: Celebrating Twenty Years of the Kenneth E. Naylor Lectures*, co-edited by Brian D. Joseph, Donald Dyer, and Mary Allen Johnson (= *Balkanistica* 32(1)) [= Proceedings of conference that served as Naylor Memorial Lecture #20]

2022—Naylor Memorial Lecture Series #12, *Reimagining the Balkans and Widening the Bund: Does Moldova Belong?*, by Donald L. Dyer

2023 (expected)—Naylor Memorial Lecture Series #7, *The Structure of the Deseterac—The Metre of Serbian Epic Poetry*, by Ilse Lehiste

2023 (expected)—Naylor Memorial Lecture Series #10, *Action Heroes: A Survey of Recent English Loanblend Open Compounds across the South Slavic Languages*, by Cynthia Vakareliyska

2023 (expected)—Naylor Memorial Lecture Series #11, *The Rise of Modern Bulgarian Literacy in the 17th Century: New Facts and Interpretations*, by Olga Mladenova

Appendix C

BALKANISTICA 32:1

The Current State of Balkan Linguistics: Celebrating Twenty Years of the Kenneth E. Naylor Lectures

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