

Koltay-Kastner, László Ország* and Lajos Tamás. Professors Előd Halász, József Herman, Mátyás Horányi, László Kéry, Tibor Klaniczay, Péter Nagy, Ferenc Papp and György Rába were elected to deputy chairmanships; Professor Tibor Frank was elected Secretary General.

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Anikó Miski

JOHN LOTZ MEMORIAL SYMPOSIUM IN STOCKHOLM

In September 1983, a commemorative symposium was held at Stockholm University to honour the memory of János (John) Lotz, who had died ten years earlier in 1973 at the age of 60 years. Lotz came to Sweden from Hungary in the year 1935 to teach Hungarian at Stockholm University. In 1947 he went to America to be professor at Columbia University, New York, and he worked in America until his death in 1973, from 1967 in Washington, D. C. During his American years he upheld his contacts with his two earlier countries, Hungary and Sweden. He was a visiting professor both in Budapest and in Stockholm during this period.

The memorial symposium at Stockholm University was initiated and organized by Dr. Eva Martins, who was a pupil of Lotz and published her doctoral thesis on the language of Ferenc Kazinczy in 1970. She became Lotz's successor as *docent* of Hungarian at Stockholm University, and at the first international congress of Hungarology in Budapest in 1981 she received the John Lotz memorial medal, awarded then for the first time, as a sign of appreciation of her activities to spread knowledge of the language and culture of Hungary.

Ten lectures, followed by discussion, were given at the symposium, most of them by scholars who had been personal friends of John Lotz. The first was by Ferenc Kiefer, Budapest, and had the title *John Lotz and Hungarian Grammatical Research*. Kiefer pointed out that Lotz's studies in Budapest took place in a period, the early 1930's, when the influence of the neogrammarian school was still very strong. The history of language was considered the most important and almost the only important part of linguistic research. When Lotz came to Sweden in 1935, he met a linguistic atmosphere of much the same kind. He became one of those who introduced the new aspects on

* See the obituaries in the present issue of Hungarian Studies, pp. 291—296.

linguistic science represented e.g. by the Prague school. His Hungarian grammar *Das ungarische Sprachsystem*, published in Stockholm in 1939, was a pioneer work in Hungarian linguistics with its exclusive emphasis on synchronical description. But in Hungary his points of view did not make much impression until the 1960's, when he developed more intimate relations with the linguists of Hungary. Nowadays he is generally acknowledged in Hungary as a pioneer of Hungarian grammatical research.

The second lecture was given by Östen Dahl, Stockholm, and had the title *Notes on Aspect, Case, and Transitivity*. It dealt with the system for object marking in Finnish, which shows some points of similarity with Russian and some other Slavic languages. In Finnish, aspect is an important factor in the choice of case form for the object. Dahl referred to some earlier papers written by himself or in collaboration with Fred Karlsson, and also to an article by Hopper and Thompson on *Transitivity in Grammar and Discourse*.

Hans Karlgren, Stockholm, gave a lecture with the title *To Make Intellectual Demands on the School*. His starting-point was the demands on stringency and precision that John Lotz made on all kinds of scientific representation and also on textbooks for the schools. An illogical or muddled way of presenting the facts in a schoolbook is also unpedagogical. Karlgren gave some instances of Lotz's criticism of Swedish schoolbooks on grammar. Lotz had found that the current textbooks on Swedish grammar were to a great extent obsolete and illogical, and Karlgren now examined some of the books used in the Swedish schools of our days in order to find out if they had improved since Lotz's activities in Sweden in the 1930's and 1940's. The result of the scrutiny was however disheartening. On the whole, the present textbooks on grammar were found to be as obsolete and illogical as before. Karlgren's conclusion was that it is high time to make intellectual demands on the school and abandon the present sloppiness in the presentation of grammar to pupils.

The title of the lecture given by Claes-Christian Elert, Umeå, was *The Geometrical Metaphor. Pictures and Diagrams in Linguistics*. He pointed out that Lotz had been a pioneer in the use of graphs of various kinds to illustrate linguistic relationships and linguistic theories. Lotz had a highly developed visual sense, which found great satisfaction in expressing with a few lines relationships that would take much space to explain verbally. The lecturer gave a survey of different kinds of graphical representations commonly used nowadays in linguistic literature. In many of these cases Lotz was a pioneer, who used these kinds of illustrations at a time when they were not, by far, as common as they have since become. Special attention was directed to Lotz's work *The Structure of the Sonetti a corona of Attila József*, published in 1965 as No. 1 of the series *Studia Hungarica Stockholmiensia*.

During his whole life as active linguist Lotz had a deep-rooted interest in metrics, and Lars-Gunnar Hallander, Stockholm, gave a description of his activities in this field in his lecture entitled *A Bird's-Eye View of Metrics*. Of great importance in this respect

was the cooperation with Roman Jakobson which Lotz began when Jakobson lived in Sweden during the war. Lotz had wide perspectives and saw poetry with a "bird's-eye view" as an intercultural phenomenon. He was very interested in trying to find a general typology comprehensive enough to cover as completely as possible all metrical systems.

Eva Martins gave a lecture *On Graphic Interference*, which dealt with the problems that may be caused by the graphic identity of words belonging to different languages, although they have nothing else to do with each other. Some examples of this kind of interference between English and Hungarian are the Hungarian words *hat* 'six', *hall* 'hear', *rest* 'lazy', which are also English written words with completely different meanings.

Erling Wande, Uppsala, gave a lecture on *Contrastive Aspects of Swedish and Finnish*, in which he discussed the question whether Finnish is more difficult to learn than Swedish (and other Germanic languages), which seems to be a rather widely spread popular opinion, based mainly on the synthetic character of Finnish morphology as opposed to the analytical character of Swedish. The most common argument is the great number of cases in Finnish. Those who maintain that Finnish is not particularly difficult generally point to the correspondence between the Finnish case endings and the Swedish prepositions, meaning that one is not more difficult to learn than the other. Wande's lecture discussed several modern investigations of a psycholinguistic character dealing with this and similar problems. He showed that the relationship between the case system of Finnish and the prepositional system of Swedish, and in general between different kinds of linguistic structure from the learner's point of view, is really much more complicated than is usually supposed.

The lecture of Tryggve Sköld, Umeå, dealt with *The Finnish Word for 'ten', kymmenen, its Origin and Place in the Fenno-Ugric Numerical System*. He gave an account of the etymologies proposed earlier for the Finnish word *kymmenen* and also of the numerical systems found in various Fenno-Ugric languages. His own answer to the question was that the Finnish word may be a Proto-Fenno-Ugric loanword from an Indo-European language, most probably an old form of Indo-Iranian where the palatal *k* had not yet become a fricative sound. The Indo-European word that he had in mind was the one represented e.g. by Latin *decem*, where the first syllable may have disappeared in Fenno-Ugric.

Bo Wickman, Uppsala, gave some glimpses from the older history of Fenno-Ugric linguistics, mainly with reference to the question whether the Hungarians János Sajnovics and Sámuel Gyarmathi active towards the end of the 18th century can justly be regarded founders of comparative linguistics. This question was answered positively, mainly on the basis of the great importance these scholars attached to the comparison of grammatical forms. Some earlier achievements in the field of Fenno-Ugric comparison by Swedish scholars were also mentioned.

The last lecture of the symposium was given by Robert Austerlitz, New York, and dealt with the activities of John Lotz in the United States during the period from 1947 to his death in 1973, first in New York and then in Washington, D. C. In those days Lotz had more or less intimate contacts with most of the prominent linguists in America, and Austerlitz's lecture gave an interesting survey of the various trends in American linguistics of that time.

These lectures have been published as a volume 4, (entitled as *Symposium in memoriam János Lotz (1913—1973)*, edited by Bo Wickman) in the series *Studia Hungarica Stockholmiensia*. The symposium was held in Swedish, but some of the authors have sent in their manuscripts in English, and the lectures in Swedish have been provided with English summaries.

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Bo Wickman

TO THE MEMORY OF LÁSZLÓ ORSZÁGH

Professor László Országh who died on Jan. 27th, 1984, in his seventy-seventh year (born in Szombathely 1907) will be remembered by most people as the editor of a number of English–Hungarian and Hungarian–English dictionaries. Meeting a constant demand, these volumes have become useful, and for a great number of people simply indispensable tools always to be kept within hand-reach. Their well-deserved, spectacular success, easily measurable by the number of copies sold, is nevertheless somewhat harmful to László Országh's reputation, as it brings into focus only one, and not necessarily the most important, of his scholarly activities, overshadowing his manifold achievements in other fields, or even in the field of lexicography. While his bilingual dictionaries are duly appreciated, less than adequate attention is given to the unilingual *A Magyar Nyelv Értelmező Szótára* (Explanatory Dictionary of the Hungarian Language, 7 volumes, Budapest, Akadémiai Kiadó, 1959—1962) a great feat of lexicography, bearing the hall-mark of the erudition and managerial genius he displayed in his capacity as general editor. In addition to his practical work in this field, he also wrote a series of longer and shorter important articles on theoretical, historical, methodological and technical questions related to dictionaries and dictionary-making.

But his contribution to lexicography can claim no priority over the rest of his oeuvre. Not even chronological priority. Long before his first English–Hungarian dictionary appeared in 1948, he had made his name as a research scholar, critic, teacher and writer of textbooks, never restricting his activity to a single field. The very first items on his list of publications,* five book reviews dating from 1929, a time when he was still an

*("The Publications of L. Országh (1929—1977)" in *Angol Filológiai Tanulmányok — Hungarian Studies in English* vol. XI. (1977), pp. 231—239. So far the most complete.)