

LINGUISTICA BALTICA

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From the Editors

Baltic Linguistics, one of the youngest offshoots of comparative Indo-European Grammar, has reached its age of emancipation in the 20th century. Thanks to such great comparatists as Schleicher, Brugmann, Leskien, de Saussure and Kuryłowicz, who demonstrated by their own research how important the Baltic material is for Comparative Grammar, a host of linguists has emerged who have devoted themselves specifically to research on the Baltic languages. At the European universities, besides chairs of Slavonic Philology, chairs in the field of Balto-Slavonic and even exclusively Baltic scholarship have also been founded.

The extraordinary events of the past few years, in the course of which we have witnessed the reemergence of Lithuania and Latvia as independent states, have also brought about a revival of native languages as tokens of national identity. This historical process seems to hold the promise of a renaissance of linguistic investigations in the Baltic countries, similar to that which manifested itself after the First World War. On the other hand, this process opens new possibilities for broad international scientific cooperation no longer hampered by political considerations. It also constitutes a challenge for those who have chosen the Baltic languages as the domain of their scientific activities.

The last volume of the *Studi baltici*, founded in 1931 by Giacomo Devoto, was published in 1969. After that time, there was no journal outside the Baltic countries serving as an international means of communication between the Baltologists of Lithuania and Latvia and their colleagues all over the world. It is the intention of *Linguistica Baltica (LgB)* to take over this role, and the idea of its foundation has been agreed with the participants of the 6th International Congress of Baltologists held in 1991 in Vilnius.

Like any other scientific journal, *LgB* is meant first of all as a forum for discussion and polemics serving, in the broadest sense, the cause of progress in the discipline it represents.