

Foreword & Acknowledgements

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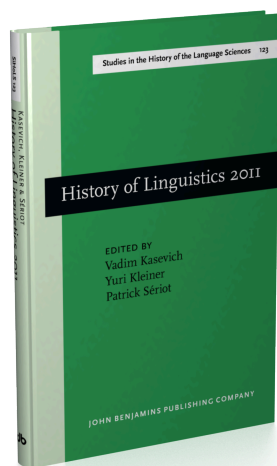
History of Linguistics 2011: Selected Papers from the 12th International Conference on the History of the Language Sciences (ICHoLS XII), Saint Petersburg, 28 August - 2 September 2011

Edited by Vadim Kasevich, Yuri A. Kleiner and Patrick Sériot
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Foreword & Acknowledgments

From 28 August to 2 September 2011, St. Petersburg State University hosted the 12th International Conference on the History of the Language Sciences. It was presided over by Ludmila Verbitskaya, President of the University and Chair of the Department of General Linguistics; the Organizing and the Program Committee included scholars from ten countries.

During the opening session of the Conference, welcome speeches were given by Ludmila Verbitskaya and E. F. K. Koerner (*in absentia*, delivered by T. Craig Christy, University of North Alabama).

The Conference Sections, organized either on a chronological (*Classical Antiquity to the Enlightenment, the 19th Century*) or a thematic basis (*Sociolinguistics, Psycholinguistics, Anthropological Linguistics, Problems and Methods in 20th-Century Linguistics, Early Grammars. Origin of Linguistic Traditions. Archives*), and a Special Panel devoted solely to Russian and Soviet Linguistics, included 121 papers by linguists from thirty countries.

The charm of St. Petersburg's Indian Summer in combination with the beauty of Russia's 'Northern Capital' were delightfully conducive to discussion of very serious topics in a strictly academic manner in the conference rooms, an ambience which carried over into friendly atmosphere of the lunch- and coffee-break areas. This was especially important for the local participants, who, for many decades, had been isolated from their Western colleagues. The contact became possible due to the willingness of all the participants to present their achievements in St. Petersburg and the efforts and generosity of St. Petersburg University and its Philological Faculty who made this reunion a reality.

The post-Iron Curtain situation required a lot of paperwork including invitations, visas and related matters, all efficiently handled by the respective departments of St. Petersburg University. Our thanks in this connection go to the International Department of the Philological Faculty and to the Research Department (Elena Ošujko, Olga Fiščeva and Irina Vasiljeva).

The long-term collaborative member of the Philological Faculty, Pilgrim Services, relieved us of the burden of the non-academic portion of organization work connected with accommodation, lunches, guided tours and other necessary logistics.

During the Conference, a student team of volunteers led by Diana Kovaš used their much-appreciated expertise in different languages to help the Conference participants feel at home within the walls of the Philological Faculty.

At every stage of the Conference, we were able to have recourse to the experience and advice of all the members of the Organizing Committee (Anders Ahlqvist, Vladimir Alpatov, Aleksandr Asinovskij, Sylvain Auroux, Sergey Bogdanov, Aleksandr Bondarko, Gerda Haßler, Sergey Krylov, Vladimir Mazhuga, and Patrik Sériot) and the Program Committee (Anna Dybo, Douglas A. Kibbee, Andrew R. Linn, Anneli Luhtala, Christian Puech, Sergej Romashko, Pierre Swiggers, and Daniel J. Taylor).

We regret to have to thank posthumously the outstanding historian of linguistics Pavel Klubkov, a dear friend to many of us, who kept fulfilling his duties in the Program Committee practically until the last day of his life (1949–22 June 2011) and Aleksandr Asinovskij (1951–25 January 2014), who did his part as Member of the Organizing Committee, even while struggling with a severe illness.

Throughout the entire Conference, many tasks were in the reliable and responsible hands of the Secretary of the Organizing Committee, Anna Isanina, ably assisted by Irina Značeva, who did a great job in preparing the Conference and the present volume cannot be overestimated. In this part of our work, the role of Anke de Looper of John Benjamins Publishing Company was indispensable. Our gratitude in this connection is also to Dr. Christopher Pascone, whose talent of a linguist and editor helped in revising the non-native English-language portion of the volume.

Special thanks are due to the anonymous reviewers of the individual contributions, whose advice and corrections were extremely useful and valuable.

The original idea of holding the Conference in St. Petersburg belongs to Konrad Koerner, the father-founder of the history of the language sciences as a special discipline in its own right. Regretfully, he was unable to attend in person. Nevertheless, throughout the whole of the wonderful atmosphere of this Conference, his supportive and encouraging aura was tangibly felt by all.

The Editors
St. Petersburg, March 2014