

# Albanian Historic Syllabics

Eric P. Hamp

The Kenneth E. Naylor Memorial Lecture Series  
in South Slavic and Balkan Linguistics, No. 9

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## Editor's Preface

The Kenneth E. Naylor Professorship of South Slavic Languages and Linguistics 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, now more than twenty years ago. 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 all activities associated with it. A brief biography of Ken is included on page 5 of this publication.

It was my great honor to be named in January 1997 as the first Naylor Professor, and thus to carry on Ken's interest in South Slavic. To that end, one of my first acts was the establishment of 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 extended visit.

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, who 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. The success of that lecture led to the idea of making it public beyond the reaches of the audience on that day, and 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 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 brought out 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 2009, containing the lecture given on May 24, 2002 by Christina E. Kramer of the University of Toronto entitled "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, offered as part of the Fifth International Macedonian-North American Conference on Macedonian Studies and bearing the title "The Anthropocentric Case Theory: How is Man Realized in the Discourse", has now appeared (2014).

Unfortunately, other commitments that Beech Stave Press entered into got in the way of their ability to continue the series, so it has 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 thank SEESA and its current president, Catherine Rudin (a Naylor lecturer herself, in 2011), and its Executive Board, as well as Professor 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 bringing out 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 evolved over the years into SEESA, and moreover that he served as first editor of *Balkanistica*, from 1976 to 1981.

Thus, under the aegis of *Balkanistica* and SEESA, with a slight numerological legerdemain, Number Eight, Tom Priestly's April 28, 2006 Naylor Memorial lecture (the ninth lecture), entitled "From Phonological Analysis at my Desk to Linguistic Activism with Slovene in the Austrian Alps", was published in 2014, and Number Seven, the 2004 Naylor Lecture by the late Ilse Lehiste, entitled "The Structure of the *Deseterac* — The Metre of Serbian Epic Poetry", bundled together with another lecture she gave as part of the special celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Naylor Lecture Series in 2007, will be appearing soon, numbered before the present volume (and Number 8) to preserve the order of the actual lectures themselves through one more volume.

The present volume, however, has its own special history. It is a somewhat unusual volume for the Naylor Memorial Lecture series, since it is not exactly a printing of a lecture given publically at The Ohio State University. Rather, due to a last-minute and rather scary medical emergency suffered by the invited speaker, Eric P. Hamp of The University of Chicago, what was given that day in Columbus (April 16, 2010), in place of the intended lecture by Professor Hamp, was an appreciation by Victor Friedman and myself of the invited speaker's contributions to our field. Those assessments are included herein (pp. xxx-xxx).

Moreover, instead of a write-up of the intended lecture, "South Slavic and its Neighbors—Distant Past and Present", some of the material for which has seen the light of day as a 2010 publication,<sup>1</sup> a different work of Professor Hamp's which had its own rather curious history (see the Foreword, p. xxx) has been substituted. In this way, the

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<sup>1</sup> The reference is "On the etymology of Crimean Gothic *apel*", *North-Western European Language Evolution (NOWELE)* 58/59.453–80.

series still serves the valuable purpose it set out to fulfill originally, namely to bring important works on the languages of the Balkans to the Ohio State and larger reading audience, even if that work in this case is not the Naylor Memorial Lecture per se.

Some things have not changed in this instantiation of a Naylor Lecture publication. In particular, a biographical sketch of the author, Professor Hamp, is included, appearing herein on page xxx.

As the titles of published Naylor Lectures given above indicate, the content of the lectures themselves has been varied, covering the sociology of language, real-world applications of linguistics, poetics, typology, and dialectology. They are united in that they all treat some aspect of language involving the South Slavic linguistic group and/or the Balkans, the part of the linguistic and the physical world that was so important to Ken Naylor and remains so important to many of us.

I have to confess that due to some missteps and a few (perhaps inevitable) technical problems, there have been delays in my ability to bring final manuscripts to publication. Nonetheless, the series is picking up steam and 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. Still, I expect to be able to bring more volumes out in the next 18 months, so that within a few years, the publication series will be current with the annual lecture series, which has its own rhythms and has continued apace; a full list of the lectures through the present date is to be found on pages vii-viii in this work.

This number in the series maintains the rich tradition of scholarship begun with the first and seen as well in the other fascicles, and like all the others, it too serves 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 act of generosity in the name of South Slavic scholarship, and are pleased to be able to honor him through this lecture series.

Brian D. Joseph  
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## Kenneth E. Naylor, Jr.

Kenneth E. Naylor, Jr., was born on February 27, 1937 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He received his A.B. degree in French Linguistics from Cornell University in 1958 and his A.M. in General Linguistics from Indiana University in 1960. At Indiana, he began to study Slavic with Professor Edward Stankiewicz, who became a personal friend and mentor. When Professor Stankiewicz moved to the University of Chicago, Ken went with him. There, after studying in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia under a Yugoslav Government Exchange Fellowship and an NDFL Title VI Fellowship for Serbo-Croatian from the United States government, he received his doctorate in Russian and South Slavic Linguistics in 1966. He was an assistant professor at the University of Pittsburgh from 1964 to 1966, and began teaching Slavic linguistics at The Ohio State University in 1966. At the time of his death on March 10, 1992, he was the Acting Director of the Center for Slavic and East European Studies at Ohio State.

As best can be determined, Ken was the only African American<sup>2</sup> Slavicist of his era; in fact, he may very well have been the very first African American Ph.D. in Slavic studies and quite possibly still the only one ever. This fact about his life and accomplishments was specially noted at the University of Pittsburgh during a special symposium held there in February 2010 on “African-American Perspectives on Russian and Slavic Studies”.

Kenneth Naylor was the recipient of numerous awards, grants, and fellowships from many sources, including the American Council of Learned Studies, the Fulbright program, and the countries of Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, by which he was awarded medals of honor (the 1300 Years Bulgaria Jubilee Medal and the Order of the Yugoslav Flag with Golden Wreath, respectively). In 1982, under the auspices of the Fulbright-Hays Program, he held a Senior Lecturership as a guest professor at the University of Novi Sad. In 1990, he testified before the U.S. House of Representatives, Foreign Affairs Committee, on ethnic rivalry in Yugoslavia and the development of what was then called the Serbo-Croatian language (now more usually referred to as “BCS”, for Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian or “BCSM” for Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian-Montenegrin)

His research centered on the Serbo-Croatian language and on South Slavic languages in general, but especially in their Balkan context. He edited two volumes of *The American Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies* (1967 and 1968/1969), was guest editor of Volume 1 of *Folia Slavica* (1977), and was co-editor of *Slavic Linguistics and Poetics: Studies for Edward Stankiewicz on His 60th Birthday* (Slavica, 1982). In addition, he served as editor of the journal *Balkanistica*, producing the first five volumes (1975-1977, 1980, and 1981). The overwhelming majority of his 100-plus articles, reviews, and edited works focused on Serbo-Croatian and Balkan linguistics, with several notable and much quoted ones among them. A collection of 18 of his most important papers on Serbo-Croatian and Balkan sociolinguistics, translated into Serbo-Croatian by Mirosljub Joković, was published posthumously in Belgrade, under the title *Sociolingvistički problemi među Južnim Slovenima* (Prosveta, 1996), containing as well an overview of his life by Milorad Radovanović and an appreciation of his scholarly

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<sup>2</sup> I use this term advisedly, as I am aware that different people have different sensibilities about using it as opposed to other designations, such as *Black*, for instance. I unfortunately do not know what Ken’s own preference was in this regard.

career by Pavle Ivić.

Ken Naylor inspired many with his work. His dedication and many accomplishments live on in his scholarly publications but more importantly, perhaps, in the love of the field he instilled in his students and his colleagues.

He is survived by two sisters, Myrtle and Connie, and by his niece Khia.

### The Kenneth E. Naylor Memorial Lectures, 1998 – 2015

- May 28, 1998: “Linguistic Emblems and Emblematic Languages: On Language as Flag in the Balkans”, by Victor A. Friedman
- April 7, 1999: “In Honor of Diversity: The Linguistic Resources of the Balkans”, by Ronelle Alexander
- May 19, 2000: “What is a Standard Language Good For, and Who Gets to Have One?”, by Wayles Browne
- May 25, 2001: “The Balkan Linguistic League, ‘Orientalism’, and Linguistic Typology”, by Howard I. Aronson
- May 24, 2002: “Minority Language Rights in Primary Education: A Century of Change in the Balkans”, by Christina E. Kramer
- May 2, 2003: “The Anthropocentric Case Theory: How is Man Realized in the Discourse”, by Zuzanna Topolinska
- May 28, 2004: “The Structure of the *Deseterac* — The Metre of Serbian Epic Poetry”, by Ilse Lehiste
- April 29, 2005: “Discourse Markers as Balkanisms”, by Grace E. Fielder
- April 28, 2006: “From Phonological Analysis at my Desk to Linguistic Activism with Slovene in the Austrian Alps”, by Tom Priestly
- April 27, 2007: “Why We Need History in Balkan Linguistics”, by Brian D. Joseph
- April 25, 2008: “Language Planning in the Yugoslav Successor States: New Languages and Old Controversies”, by Robert D. Greenberg
- May 18, 2009: “The Line, the *Which*, and the War Trope”, by Marc L. Greenberg
- April 16, 2010: “An appreciation of Eric P. Hamp”, by 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 Zivot*”, by Catherine Rudin

- April 27, 2012: “Action Heroes: The English NN Construction across the South Slavic Languages”, by Cynthia Vakareliyska
- March 22, 2013: “The Rise of Modern Bulgarian Literacy in the Seventeenth Century: New Facts and Interpretations”, by Olga Mladenova
- April 11, 2014: “Reimagining the Balkans and Widening the *Bund*: Does Moldova Belong?”, by Donald L. Dyer
- March 6, 2015 “Observations on the lexicon of the earliest Macedonian vernacular gospels (Konikovo and Kulakia Gospels)”, by Joseph Schallert



## Eric P. Hamp

Eric Pratt Hamp, Robert Maynard Hutchins Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus, University of Chicago, is one of the world's leading Balkanists, Indo-Europeanists, and historical linguists, now and ever. Noted for his encyclopedic knowledge of the relevant languages, but with special attention to Celtic, Albanian, Greek, and various other languages of the Balkans, Dr. Hamp has been engaged in the study of these languages for over 65 years. Approaching his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday this November, he received his Ph.D. from Harvard in 1954 with a dissertation (published in 1993 by UNICAL, Rende di Calabria) on the phonology of the Albanian dialect of Vaccarizzo, and proceeded to publish over 1200 articles on a wide range of topics pertaining to his languages of interest and general historical linguistic issues.<sup>3</sup>

His honors have been numerous, and include honorary doctorates from the University of Wales (1987), the University of Calabria (2000), and the University of Edinburgh (2012), a Guggenheim Fellowship (1973-74), a Fulbright Senior Research Fellowship at the University of Athens (1955-56), and grants from the American Council of Learned Societies, the National Science Foundation, and the American Philosophical Society. He has been a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Linguistic Society of America, which he served as President in 1971. He has been honored by no fewer than six Festschrift volumes, reflecting the different areas of Linguistics that he has made major contributions to (Balkan Linguistics, American Indian Linguistics, Celtic Linguistics, Indo-European Linguistics, and Albanian Linguistics):

*Studies in Balkan Linguistics to Honor Eric P. Hamp on his Sixtieth Birthday. Folia Slavica* 4.2-3 (1981), edited by Howard I. Aronson and Bill J. Darden.

*International Journal of American linguistics* 51.4 (1985), *Issue presented to Eric Pratt Hamp, on the occasion of his sixty-fifth birthday*, edited by Michael Silverstein.

*Celtic Language, Celtic Culture: A Festschrift for Eric P. Hamp* (1990), edited by A. T. E. Matonis and Daniel F. Melia (Van Nuys: Ford & Bailie Publishers)

*Festschrift for Eric P. Hamp: Volume One* (Journal of Indo-European Studies Monograph No. 23), 1997, edited by Douglas Q. Adams.

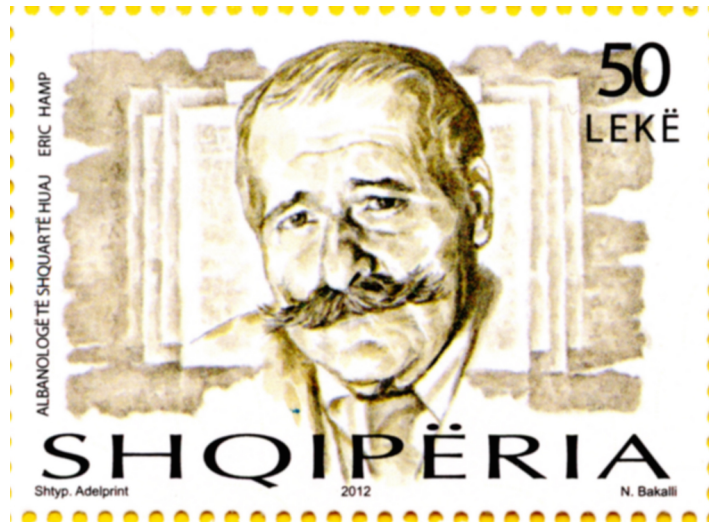
*Festschrift for Eric P. Hamp: Volume Two* (Journal of Indo-European Studies Monograph No. 25), 1997, edited by Douglas Q. Adams.

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<sup>3</sup> The exact number of Eric's publications is hard to determine, as he has continued to publish widely into his 90s. An available bibliography that Victor Friedman and I have tried to maintain has over 1200 numbered entries, but the total is certainly much higher; the Wikipedia article on Eric, for instance, says that he "has written more than 3,500 articles and reviews" (accessed 9 August 2015). A full and accurate tally is in the works.

*Scritti in onore di Eric Pratt Hamp per il suo 90. Compleanno (2010)*, edited by Giovanni Belluscio and Antonio Mendicino (Cosenza: Università della Calabria).

A signal acknowledgment of his contributions to our understanding of the history and dialectology of Albanian came in 2012 when the Republic of Albania published a stamp honoring him as one of three foreign Albanologists of note from different eras.<sup>4</sup>



His dedication to scholarship and to the people and languages of the Balkans has been an inspiration to several academic generations and scores of linguists. Although he is a fitting Naylor Lecturer on the basis of his research alone, he is especially appropriate as he was one of Ken Naylor's teachers at the University of Chicago in the 1960s.

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<sup>4</sup> The other scholars recognized were Holger Pedersen (1867-1953) and Norbert Jokl (1877-1942).

## Editorial Foreword to *Historical Albanian Syllabics*

Brian D. Joseph

As noted in the Preface, the present work has a somewhat curious history. As Eric told me the story of it, he had begun it in the late 1980s or early 1990s for the volume on the Indo-European languages edited by Anna Giacalone Ramat and Paolo Ramat, with general survey articles covering each branch.<sup>26</sup> At one point, the editors inquired into his progress, he told them he was doing well and had about twenty pages written; they said that was wonderful as that was about the length they had had in mind for the Albanian chapter. Eric responded that there was more to come as he had just barely covered the vowels with his twenty pages! The Ramats found a replacement author (the noted Albanian doyen of Albanian linguistics, Shaban Demiraj), and Eric's manuscript on the history of Albanian vowels sat without a home.

While Eric was giving a week-long series of lectures on Albanian at Ohio State University in December of 1999,<sup>27</sup> the existence of this manuscript came to my attention, though I was not sure what to do with it. I eventually had my then-assistant (and now-colleague) Hope Dawson type it up from Eric's handwritten version and I returned it to Eric in that form for him to work on further at his leisure. Nothing came of it until 2006 when I was telling Victor Friedman about the manuscript, and he urged me to get after Eric about it and to publish it in some form. I took responsibility for getting Eric to focus on putting this into publishable shape and therein began a series of visits, some with Eric coming here to Columbus and some with me visiting him in Beulah, Michigan, where he had relocated to live with his daughter, our thinking being that face-to-face meetings would allow for more efficient editing and augmenting of the existing manuscript. It took several such meetings, but the real break-through came 26-28 July 2012 (in Beulah) where a suitable version emerged, but further editing was needed and it took another visit in Beulah 24-25 August 2013 and another in October 2014 to finalize the manuscript presented here. Given that the typescript evolved over a more than ten-year stretch, there were inevitable font problems that had to be dealt with, and some of the delays noted here can be attributed to such technological issues.

But the important thing is that this document now exists and is ready for the Albanological world to see and benefit from. It sums up a lifetime of work on and thinking about the historical development of the syllabics of Albanian and stands as a fitting tribute to Eric P. Hamp's contributions to Albanology.

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<sup>26</sup> Anna Giacalone Ramat & Paolo Ramat (eds.), *Le lingue indoeuropee* (Bologna: Società editrice il Mulino, 1993), published in 1998 in an English translation by Routledge as *The Indo-European languages* (Routledge Language Family Descriptions).

<sup>27</sup> That visit and Eric's lectures were funded by the Naylor Professorship fund, so that in a sense, he gave his Naylor Lecture(s) then!