

Titel: BREV TIL: Louis Hjelmslev FRA: Roman Jakobson (1945-09-13)

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Anvendt udgave: Louis Hjelmslev og hans kreds

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Roman Jakobson, 3

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13/X/45

Dear Louis,

We were happy at receiving your cable and letter, and glad to know that you are all well and safe. I hope to receive soon your publications since 1941. From Cahiers ~~SAUSSURE~~ Saussure I have known that you have published many things and I am very eager. Since 1942 I'm teaching at Ecole Libre des Hautes Etudes / New York French University/ as professor of general linguistics and Slavic languages. Moreover, since 1943 I have been working as visiting professor of comparative linguistics at Columbia University. I didn't publish much since I ~~came~~ came to this country: a paper on Paleosiberian languages in AA; some contributions to Slavic philology; a Czech book on the history of the Czech national idea, particularly in the Middle Ages; and an article about the late Boas, as linguist, in the resumed Journal of American Linguistics. Now Voegelin, at Indiana University, edits it. During the last years of Boas, I was very close to him and learned to like and appreciate him very highly. As soon it will be possible technically I'll send you all these. But the principle result of my research of the last years, ~~is~~ a large book "Sound and Meaning", is still unfinished. I hope to publish it in the next year, and I would so much like to ~~discuss~~ discuss with you these basic problems. In this book I pursue to the end the work which I began years ago: the dissociation of the phonemex into the ultimate ~~nuclei~~ nuclei, "distinctive features", and on these undissociable units I try to base both the phonemic transcription and the classification and typology of the phonemic systems. The remarkable results of the acoustic investigations of the Bell Company were very helpful to this work. My other publications, in printing and preparation, are comprehensive analysis of the Russian ancient epos /Igor's Tale/, a monograph about the Czech glosses in the Hebrew texts of the 11-13 th centuries, and a structural analysis of the Gilyak language. I have just returned from Chicago where I lectured at the University about the meaning as a pivotal problem of modern linguistics and it becomes now my concern. I'm anxious to know what are your current subjects and plans. We organized here a linguistic circle which united most of the linguists of this city and the neighboring towns. We began publishing a review "Word"; the first issue appeared, the second is in print and I shall ~~send~~ send them to you. My study on comparative metrics will appear probably in the third issue. We will be very happy to have contributions from you and your friends, particularly from Urdall.