

Titel: BREV TIL: Roman Jakobson FRA: Louis Hjelmslev (1945-09-26)

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Anvendt udgave: Louis Hjelmslev og hans kreds

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Roman Jakobson, 4

AIR MAIL

26 September, 1945

Professor Dr. Roman Jakobson,
Columbia University,
Dept. of Comparative Linguistics,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Roman,

Thank you ever so much for your very kind letter. Uldall's are staying here with us for the time being, and we are all of us so glad to know that you are all right both of you and that you have been pursuing your work under good conditions. I am glad to know about your publications and about your plans. As for me, my chief publications during the war period are a paper in Cahiers Saussure II about 'Langue et parole', and my Prolegomena to Glossematics (written in Danish: 'Omkring sprogteoriens grundlæggelse', in Festschrift from our University November 43; the book will be translated into French). I need not mention some minor papers of less importance. The war period has not been very favorable to scientific work; it has been difficult to concentrate, and the lack of international cooperation means a psychological drawback. Uldall and I, who have not seen each other and not been able to exchange letters during a period of more than five years, have been working separately on our glossematic theory, and we were very eager indeed to compare notes, as you may easily understand; the fact is that we have been working in the same direction, and that we have partly reached the same results; of course we are very relieved to see that. We are now going through the whole thing as far as possible, but I fear that there will be only little spare time; the Uldall's are very busy seeing their family and digging out all the things they left here in a hurry in various places at the outbreak of the war; furthermore they are not staying long, and they are going as far as to Buenos Aires, where Uldall is going to take over a job for the British Council. He shall stay down there for some years; this will not mean much facility to our cooperation, but we must now make a practical arrangement; the main thing is that we have taken contact.

Thank you for telling me about the Linguistic Circle of New York. We shall be only too glad to collaborate as far as possible and to receive the "Word". I shall give notice about this in the next meeting of the Linguistic Circle of Copenhagen.

We hope eagerly that it should be possible to see you in the time to come. Sommerfelt tells me in a letter that he hopes you will come to Norway.

I have not had any news yet from Czechoslovakia. Helge Foulson's address seems to be 62 Hjallesvej, Odense; I have heard nothing of him during the last five years, so I am sorry I cannot give you any details.

Best wishes to both of you from the Uldall's, from my family and from myself.

Yours ever,