

Titel: BREV TIL: Roman Jakobson FRA: Louis Hjelmslev (1946-01-02)

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Anvendt udgave: Louis Hjelmslev og hans kreds

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Roman Jakobson, 6

AIR MAIL

2nd January, 1946.

Professor dr. Roman Jakobson,
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New York 27, N.Y.

Dear Roman,

Thank you for your letter of 15 Decbr., which reached me on New Year's Eve. The fact is that your first letter did reach me all right, and that I wrote an air mail letter to you on September 26. I am sorry to learn that the letter has been lost.

I shall soon be sending you the publications I have reserved for you; my chief publications during the war period have been a paper 'Langue et parole' in the Cahiers Saussure II, and a Danish version of my Prolegomena to Glossematics (title: 'Omkring sprogtæoriens grundlæggelse', in Festskrift of our University Novbr. 43); a French version is forthcoming. Uldall and his wife were here in September and October; they have spent most of their time in Baghdad during the war. They are in London by now, and they are probably leaving in a fortnight for Buenos Aires, where Uldall is taking over a job for the British Council for some years. I am not very fond of this new separation, ~~but~~ ~~facilitates~~ our collaboration. We had not very much time left in Copenhagen to compare notes, but fortunately we found that we had been working on the same lines, so that our common work can go on regularly, although with a very considerable delay. We hope the 'Outline of Glossematics' can be published in the year to come. The Uldall's asked me to give their love to you both, which I actually did in my last letter, which was written during their stay here (by the way, I am going to ask Uldall if that letter of mine to you is still in his pocket; he might have promised to post it for me, and he was extremely busy all the time seeing his family and digging out things he had left here in a great hurry in various places at the outbreak of the war).

I have given notice about your first letter in a meeting of our Linguistic Circle, and I can give you the greetings of several of our members. We have been glad to be informed about your Linguistic Circle and about 'Word'. We are very grateful for the invitation to collaborate, and we shall certainly not fail to do so. As for me, I do not know when I can send you anything of the kind. I have been extremely busy this autumn. Seareste from Esthonia is working in Copenhagen for some time and has been living with us, and of course Uldall's visit meant that I had to put off many of my dates; furthermore I have been a member of the jury for the vacant chair of Romance languages and literatures, which meant a large amount of work; the Swede Hasselrot has been appointed. A publication 'Danish Scientific Activities During the Second World War' is being published shortly; I have written there about Linguistics. You might perhaps have a look at that before deciding

if there is any need for a survey of Danish Linguistic Life in your periodical. My next papers have been promised for the next volume of the 'Travaux' of our Circle; but I shall certainly not forget to send you a paper for 'Word' as soon as I can, though I cannot tell when that may be; I have so much work to do that I cannot give any further promises.

I have had letters from Sommerfelt and Vendryes, among others. I have no direct news yet from Czechoslovakia, but I have been informed that Krozny and Trnka are all right. So is Vočadlo, although he has been in two German concentration camps; he has paid a visit to London, and is now in Mathesius's chair. This involves, as far as I have understood, that Mathesius is still alive but has retired. Havranek has been in London too. Mrs. Martinet is here in Copenhagen with her eldest daughter. You know perhaps that Martinet was a prisoner of war in Germany; he is in Paris now and has taken up his activities (and published a book 'La prononciation du français actuel', based on materials collected in the prison camp); his nerves seem to have suffered a good deal. Benveniste is in Paris too; he ~~was~~ was first in a camp in Northern France, but escaped to Lyon and from there to Switzerland; during the camp period I had some letters from him that were rather depressed; I have not heard from him since. Vendryes has been in prison twice but is all right. Marcel Cohen has been under ground and is all right, and seems to have taken an active part in the resistance movement. Maspero died in Buchenwald. You may have been informed that van Ginneken died recently; I do not know any details about him. Most of this information may have reached you in the mean time, but I thought I had better tell you what I know. There are no news about Mary-Kowicz whatsoever; I still hope that he has not disappeared.

I am very much looking forward to hearing from you again, and to seeing you some time in the future. What about your going to Norway, as Sommerfelt suggests in a letter to me? It would be nice to have you back in Scandinavia.

Thank you so much for remembering our family. They all ask me to give you both their love. Best wishes, and a very happy New Year from both of us.

Yours ever,

Helge Poulsens 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. - Holger Pedersen is all right; he has just now published a book 'Lykisch und Hittitisch', in the 'Meddelelser' of our Academy. He is almost 79 by now, but he is still at work, and his health is good.