

MANAGING EDITOR'S NOTES

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I took over the management of this newsletter in 1993 after David Kideckel had already done everything to the Special Issue: War Among the Yugoslavs except to print it. After some minor editing involving updates of articles, I had it printed and shipped it to the membership list. That was my initiation to life as an editor.

Ten years later, I end my stewardship of these newsletters with another special issue. With this one, as with the first, Krista Harper did all the heavy editing. I just compiled the articles, insured a consistent format, and sent it to the printers. Who says life doesn't have its little symmetries.

I got my Ph.D. in the late 1970s when anthropological interest in Eastern Europe was wholly concerned with updating an interest in folklore and national ethnography to more pressing questions of socialist political economy, the transformation of agriculture under centralized control, and the threat of the disappearance of minority groups. When this newsletter started at the University of Michigan in 1981 under the editorship of Bill Lockwood, there were no more than twenty American anthropologists working in Eastern Europe. At the meeting of the East European Anthropology Group at the annual American anthropological Association meeting, everyone one of them would be in the same room.

The newsletter served our needs in a different way then than it does not. We needed to know about the comings and goings of researchers, who had gotten what grants, who was working with which specialists in the East European museums and research centers, which granting agencies were earmarking money for East Europe research, and what books had recently been published.

I think the last time I saw everyone in the same room was 1988 in Washington D.C. and by then we had begun to sense that the breakup of Yugoslavia was immanent. It was a heated session. There was a lot of arguing among the specialists about what would lead to a peaceful outcome and what would lead to a blood bath. The next year, the East German state ceased to function and the dominos began to fall. The Hungarian, Czechoslovak, Polish, Romanian Bulgarian and CIS states would all undergo relatively peaceful transformations in the next few years. In January 1992, Yugoslavia ceased to exist. The division of that state among its constituent regions was anything but peaceful.

What happened to the EEAG was that it never again would we all be in the same room. The older scholars began to retire and ceased to attend meeting. Development money took several of us out of ethnographic writing and into policy work. A whole new generation of anthropologists entered the newly configured Eurasian region as scholars of post-socialist culture.

My tenure as editor has coincided with the period from the Fall of Yugoslavia to the recent by Poland and the Czech Republic to enter the European Union. We have had to change the name of the journal to include the emergent states of the Baltic and Central Asia belt. A specialist group of Russian-speaking scholars established their own annual conference and agreed to publish papers from that event in our autumn number.

I am not so narrow as to think that AEER was in the forefront of post socialist student in the last decade. There were several refereed journals whose collections attract more attention even among anthropologists. Our purpose was never to be the journal of record. Rather we strove to maintain Bill Lockwood's original vision of being a journal of the community of scholars. I hope you have found that this effort served the community well.

The mantel now passes to the generation of post-socialist scholars represented by the new editor, Barbara West and her associate editor Nancy Ries. If this issue is any indication of where the journal is going, then we can all rest assured that the community will continue to be well served.

A special thank you to Eva Huseby-Darvas, who more than anyone supported my efforts with the journal and organized the EEAG meetings at AAA every year. Special thanks go to Michael Mezey, Dean

of Liberal Arts and Sciences at DePaul, who supported the publication of the newsletter. Thanks as well to Nancy Ries, Barb West, Matti Bunzl and Laszlo Kurti for their contributions over the years. And to all my issue editors, authors, subscribers and fellow members of EEAG, thank you for all your help.