Editors' Introduction

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This issue of the EEAG Newsletter marks a number of noteworthy changes. First, editorial responsibilities for the Newsletter have been transferred from Bill Lockwood to Sam Beck and David Kideckel. Bill founded the Newsletter in 1981 when it seemed that growth in the anthropology of East Europe demanded a forum for communicating between increasing numbers of diverse practitioners. Without Bill's efforts and persistence, our organization and its Newsletter would not have survived. We owe him a debt of gratitude for his efforts which have provided us with a solid base of support and interest to carry us into the future.

Barring unforeseen events, Beck and Kideckel are committed to the editorial task for three years (1989 1992). Support from Cornell University and Central Connecticut State University will keep us afloat for this period. However, your timely contributions are most critically needed to help meet the costs of publishing, mailings, and the renting of space during our annual meeting.

Along with the change in editors, the EEAG Newsletter is also changing in style, content, and manner of production. These changes, we hope, are designed to reflect the on-going, often startling changes within East Europe, itself. Events in Poland, Hungary, and the Soviet Union, the waning of the Cold War, as well as the spectacle of the post-1992 European Community, all speak to the need to revise our conception of the region and how anthropology fits into its analysis. To this end, we see the Newsletter as an ideal vehicle for these purposes.

Stylistically, we are renaming the publication to reflect this broader goal; along with functions of information exchange (the purpose of a newsletter) we also hope the publication will serve as a review of East and Central European issues and more constantly as the source for discussion and debate about such issues. Thus, along with regular newsletter features, each issue of the Review will lead with an original article followed by commentary about both the article and its central theme. We hope that articles, commentary, and other contributions will also be contributed by non-anthropologists and nonEast Europeanists so that the Review will better inter-disciplinary communication, broaden our conception of East Europe, and inform anthropology in the process.

Delays in this first issue are related to experimentation with computerized technology and, simply, time constraints that both editors have experienced. We apologize for this delay. We hope to include black and white photographs and other graphics in future issues which will increase production costs and expand the technical expertise needed to produce the finished product. We are interested in including literary contributions, reminiscences, personal journal materials, political and other jokes, as well as usual newsletter items. In the same vein, we encourage the fullest participation of archaeologists, linguists, physical, and applied anthropologists in what we consider a joint effort to increase communication among those people interested in the anthropology of East Europe. We hope that our colleagues from other regions of the globe, particularly those in East Europe, will find opportunities to submit material to the Review. To increase a broader base of participation, we are establishing an editorial board for each sub-discipline whose members, at this time, include: Linda Bennett - Applied Anthropology and Jan Kubik - Cultural Anthropology. We also are interested in representatives for Archeology, Physical Anthropology and Linguistic Anthropology as well as a book review editor. Please let the editors know if your interested to volunteer in these areas.

The contents of this issue, we hope, reflect the changing nature of East European life and the transformation of East Europeanist analyses. Thus, our lead article by Robert Rotenberg on anti-semitism in Vienna and the commentary we invited from Hermina De Soto (and an accompanying conference summary by Jack Lucas) focus on issues of race, ethnicity and nationality. These contributions raise the idea of a Europe transformed by new sets of international pressures that have permitted the resurfacing or reinvention of ethnic conflict and the efforts to thwart racially based ideologies and behavior. Clearly, history is as much part of our present as it is of our past.

Along with the Rotenberg article, we have included testimony offered by Martha Lampland on the state of Hungarian society at an IREX-sponsored Congressional symposium. This contribution reflects the contradictions being experienced by Hungarians in the context of a power struggle for control over the state, the political apparatus, the economy and ultimately Hungarian civil society. In ten years, will we be able to discuss this period of Hungarian history as one of democratization or repression? How will "the people" respond to the political and economic opportunities with which they are being presented at this time?

Little notice is given to anthropologists working among East European ethnic-Americans. The report on papers delivered at the 1988 American Anthropological Association meetings is encouraging. We hope that greater effort is expended in coming to understand the history and development of East European ethnic communities in North America, but also elsewhere in the world. It is more apparent at this time in history that links are being created between states through large population shifts, bringing about social and cultural interdependence not necessarily following the plans, goals, or objectives of states. Ethnic communities play an important role in generating cultural and social vibrancy in their American settlements, but also in the settlements of their ancestors.

We are grateful to our contributors for their faith in us and for their patience. We wish to thank Carolyn Munch for her word processing skills and assistance in this project.