



DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4312/keria.22.2.5-6>

Editorial

In May 2018, the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts hosted the first conference in the series *A Glimpse into Greek Linguistics*. Its purpose was to shed light on aspects of synchronic and diachronic research on Greek and to promote the study of this language in Slovenia. The initiative was born out of cooperation with Christina Manouilidou, who has worked at the Department of Comparative and General Linguistics in recent years after coming to Ljubljana from the University of Patras. A year and a half later, on January 15th, 2020, with the generous support of the Cankar Center, the largest Slovenian cultural and congress venue, Christina and I organized the second conference in *A Glimpse into Greek Linguistics*. This time, the conference was included in the program of festival “On Mt. Olympus”—a nine-month series of cultural and research events dedicated to Ancient Greek ideas and technological achievements—and was one of the main events of the festival. Both conferences brought together a mix of young and established researchers working on Greek.

A result of our efforts for the in-depth study of Greek in Slovenia is also the present international issue of the journal *Keria: Studia Latina et Graeca*, which contains contributions by six participants from the second conference in *A Glimpse into Greek Linguistics*. The editors of the journal are honored and pleased to publish articles written by three truly established scholars: Geoffrey Horrocks, Mark Janse, and Brian Joseph. In the article “What’s in the Middle? Two Voices or Three in Ancient Greek?” Geoffrey Horrocks reexamines the function of the Ancient Greek middle, drawing attention to shortcomings of the traditional view on this grammatical voice and proposing a new explanatory concept. Mark Janse discusses the topic of sex and gender in Greek—a particularly compelling (and controversial) issue. Furthermore, Brian Joseph explores the position of Greek within the Balkan languages in the article “What Is Not So (E)strange about Greek as a Balkan Language.” He is also the coauthor of the article “Teaching Modern Greek to Classicists: Taking Advantage of Continuity,” in which a group of linguists that started learning and

exploring Modern Greek through its ancient predecessor explain their views on how Modern Greek could be taught to classicists.

Some aspects of the volume may raise additional attention among Slovenian readers. First and foremost, Matej Hriberšek from the Department of Classics at the University of Ljubljana discusses a nineteenth-century attempt to write Slovenian in a version of the Greek alphabet (*grščica*), which remained virtually forgotten for more than a century. Because the work of Dominik Penn is barely known even among Slovenian scholars, his English article is followed by a longer summary in Slovenian. It is also satisfying to read about the contribution of the Slovenian linguists Jernej Kopitar and Franz Miklosich to Balkan linguistics; they are mentioned in Brian Joseph's article on Balkan features in Greek. Furthermore, Slovenian classicists may find it interesting to hear about the amount of common Ancient and Modern Greek vocabulary that they may have learned while using the Ancient Greek textbook by the late Slovenian classicist Erika Mihevc Gabrovec. This is one of the issues discussed in the aforementioned article about teaching Modern Greek to classicists. Last but not least, the picture on the cover draws attention to a rare witness of the presence of Greek in Slovenian territory. It shows the Blue Vessel, a well-preserved ancient bowl with the inscription ΠΙΕ ΖΗΣΑΙΣ ΑΕΙ ΠΟΛΛΟΙΣ ΧΡΟΝΟΙΣ, 'Drink, live forever, for a long time', which dates back to the fourth century AD and was found during recent excavations near *Gospodsvetska cesta* (Maria Saal Street) in Ljubljana.

I believe that the variety of issues discussed in this volume also bears witness to the appeal of Greek linguistics. On behalf of the editors of the journal *Keria: Studia Latina et Graeca*, I express sincere thanks to the Cankar Center and to Ljubljana University Press, Faculty of Arts, which made its publication possible. Thanks also go to all the contributors and participants in the conference series *A Glimpse into Greek Linguistics* for their support of our efforts.

Jerneja Kavčič
December 20, 2020