



Fishman Celebration
c/o Prof. Nancy H. Hornberger
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Datum 11.05.06

Dear Professor Fishman:

On behalf of the International Sociolinguistic Society in Sofia, Bulgaria, I would like to congratulate you on your 80th anniversary. Sociolinguistic ideas and your approach for empirical study of the language came to Eastern Europe in the 70s and 80s with some of your books. It was still during the "cold war" and we were isolated from the intellectual life of the rest of the world, so this literature was our window to modern linguistics. However, we were so thirsty for such knowledge that those concepts which we were not able to read because of our limited access were completed by our imaginations. Later, after the political changes and the opening of the barriers, we saw that in many cases our intuition had been right, based on your fundamental principles.

During academic 1995/96 as a Fulbright, I came in the USA and, fortunately, met you personally at Stanford. I can not forget that day: I was among your students listening to your lecture, and then you organized an open discussion about language and ethnicity in Bulgaria. I still revere this as a great honor to Bulgarian sociolinguistics and the Bulgarian language. Now, 10 years later, I am using this opportunity to thank you for all you have done for us.

Then, the project "Sociolinguistics in Bulgaria" was the focus of my question to you, and I am most grateful for your answers; I am also very grateful for your recommendations, which you gave concerning my individual (sometimes strange) plans.

"Sociolinguistics in Bulgaria" (*IJSL* 135) was published in 1999, but the Bulgarian sociolinguistic circle sustains our hope that you will visit some of our international conferences, sharing with us your insights and wisdom.

We are wishing you very good health; on behalf of my colleagues, I would like to express my gratitude for your lesson: *pro aliis te vivere oportet si pro te vivere vis*.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Angel G. Angelov'.

Angel G. Angelov
Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"
Visiting Associate Professor at Humboldt University in Berlin