

Editors' preface: Lotmaniana and semiotic publications from Tartu

Semiotics, both as a field of research and education, is developing stepwise, and it may well be helpful to share some aspects of the progress in its institutionalization learning from the experience of various universities and other research institutions in the world. With this in mind, we would like to share information on the history of our publishing efforts in the field of semiotics. A general account of the state of the art of the discipline “The institution of semiotics in Estonia” was published in *Sign Systems Studies* 39(2/4), 2011, and in this issue our focus is on semiotic publications.

The history of academic journals goes back to the 17th century, as *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society* first saw publication in London in 1665, and printing of scholarly books certainly precedes that date. The University of Tartu Press traces its history back to 1632, when the University itself was founded in Tartu. While bits and pieces of semiotic knowledge appeared in print already back then, regular semiotic publications are somewhat younger, dating back to 1964, and we expect that this mode of distributing academic knowledge will not disappear in the age of post-modernity (*sensu* John Deely).

The current issue, which completes the 50th volume of what, to our knowledge, is the oldest semiotics journal in the world currently being published, is thus an anniversary issue and takes a look back at our publications' history. Additionally, the year 2022 marks 100 years from the birth of Juri Lotman, so we have a double cause for celebration.

We begin this issue with the publication of a translation of Juri Lotman's article “Literary criticism must be scientific”, originally dating from 1967, which hitherto has not been available in English. Here it appears together with an introductory essay, thanks to the efforts of the translator Pietro Restaneo. Lotman's own work is followed by Daniele Monticelli's up-to-date review of Anglophone publications of and about Juri Lotman's work.

The following section is dedicated to a survey of the three semiotics journals and two book series currently published in Tartu. The account of the book series Tartu Semiotics Library (founded in 1998) briefly touches upon other

current (or recent) semiotics book series in the world as well. The overview of *Dissertationes Semioticae Tartuensis* (founded in 2000) provides a complete list of doctoral dissertations in semiotics defended in Tartu and published in a special series.

The journals published by the Department of Semiotics in Tartu include the Estonian-language yearbook *Acta Semiotica Estica* (founded in 2001), the student-edited online magazine *Hortus Semioticus* (published since 2007), and last, but not least, the venerable journal *Sign Systems Studies* (founded in 1964). The issue also includes a list of all articles published in the 50 volumes of *Sign Systems Studies* up to now.

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We would also like to make a notification of a couple of changes that have taken place since the previous issue of our journal. One of these concerns language. In addition to the English-language abstract, each article will have two abstracts, one in Estonian and the other in any freely chosen language of the world to celebrate the range of our multilingual authorship. Another change concerns the editors. Ott Puumeister replaces Kalevi Kull as the editor-in-chief in the journal's editorial team. What has not changed, however, is that we are still happy to publish original research on semiotics from all around the world.

Ott Puumeister
Kalevi Kull