Editor’s Note

As Russia’s brutal war of aggression continues into its second year, I can say with confidence that many of us in the Slavic studies field, particularly those of us who have dedicated our lives to the study of the Soviet and post-Soviet space, feel a sense of deep resignation that this terrible conflict has no end in sight. As I have stated here before, those of us who are not directly involved in this bloody struggle can only hope that peace will prevail sooner than many of us honestly expect. While it is my sincere hope that 2023 will be the final year of this despicable affair, as a historian I am not sanguine about such a possibility.

On a much happier note, this issue of *SPSR* represents the second installment of a *Festschrift* in honor of Dr. Donald J. Raleigh, Professor Emeritus of History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. As with our first *Festschrift* issue earlier this year (*SPSR* 50.1), this iteration of the journal demonstrates the deep appreciation of an additional five of Professor Raleigh’s students for his mentorship and support for their scholarship. The articles contained in this issue are diverse both topically and methodologically. In addition, a number of Professor Raleigh’s students and I had the opportunity to personally express our thanks to him at a recent Slavic studies conference here in the United States at a panel where *SPSR*’s multivolume *Festschrift* was the focus.

Once again, it is my hope that you will find this *Festschrift* to be both enlightening and worthy of the scholar it honors. The journal will return to its usual format of stand-alone articles and quantity of book reviews in *SPSR*’s third and final issue for 2023.

*Christopher J. Ward*
Editor-in-Chief