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“The Czech and Slovak History Newsletter exists to express interests in the history of Czechoslovakia, its predecessor and successor states, and all its people within and without its historic boundaries.”

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Message from President

Dear Fellow Czechoslovak Studies Association Members,

This is just a short note to inform you all of a few developments that have occurred since the last newsletter. First of all, on behalf of the new board, we would like to thank all of you for your support. We hope that the next few years are productive ones that will see our organization flourish. Already, some projects have borne fruit. Perhaps the most important of these concerns the Czech Studies Workshop, which was started in 2000 by Jindřich Toman, and was hosted by him at the University of Michigan until last year, when funding ran out. Then, David Cooper was able to put together multiple donors to enable the workshop to take place at the University of Illinois. Most recently, Benjamin Frommer hosted the workshop at Northwestern University. I am very pleased to be able to report that the Harriman Institute at my home institution, Columbia University, has agreed to host the workshop every second year, starting in the spring of 2009. Hopefully another institution, or set of institutions, will be able to host in the even numbered years.

Second, we are pleased to announce that Pieter Judson’s Guardians of the Nation: Activists on the Language Frontiers of Imperial Austria (Harvard University Press, 2006) was the winner of the Association’s first Book Prize. Congratulations go out to Pieter and our thanks go out to the committee members for their hard work. I should also note that donations are coming in to the prize fund, and that we welcome all contributions. Along the same lines, we are also very happy to announce that the Pech Prize fund has achieved sustainability. Members are encouraged to continue to contribute here, as well as to the book fund, such that we might eventually be able to raise the award that comes with the honor.

Finally, in cooperation with other, similar associations from around the region, we will be holding a joint reception at the AAASS in Philadelphia. Already over a dozen of our members have signed up to participate. If you are interested in joining us, you can contact me (at bfa4@columbia.edu or (212) 854-6287), and I will talk to you about the details. In closing, I hope that all of you are well, and looking forward to a relaxing and enjoyable summer.

Best wishes,
Brad Abrams

NEWS ITEMS

CHRISTOPHER SETON-WATSON, 1918-2007

To American bohemists, Christopher Seton-Watson is best remembered as the co-
author with his brother Hugh of the richly detailed and engrossing book The Making of a New Europe: R. W. Seton-Watson and the Last Years of Austria-Hungary (U. Washington Press, 1981). Even Norman Stone, a skeptical reviewer of Seton-Watson’s efforts to swing the Allies toward the dismemberment of Austria-Hungary after he discovered the ruthless Magyar regime in Slovakia, praised the book in his review “Small States are beautiful” (TLS, Oct. 2, 1981). The Seton-Watson brothers mined their father’s private papers to trace his path through the complexities of Allied diplomacy and British public opinion to produce their fascinating work. Then they donated his papers to SSEES in London.

Christopher Seton-Watson died at age 89 on September 18, 2007. There is, however, another side to his career that was less known to me: his wartime service at Dunkirk, Greece, North Africa, and Italy while in the British Army as an artillery officer. His conduct under heavy fire earned him two Military Crosses. Earlier, his outstanding scholarship in classics at Winchester was followed by recognition as a senior scholar at New College, Oxford. After the war, he was elected a Fellow at Oriel College. For 40 years, he taught politics and modern history there and served as a Dean. An obituary in the London Times cited his service on the university’s history and social science faculties by “infusing a strong injection of common sense into some of his colleagues’ more fanciful plans” (Oct. 5, 2007).

Two books enhanced his stature for scholarship. One was Dunkirk, Alamein. Bologna. Letters and Diaries of an Artilleryman, 1939-1945 (1993); the second was Italy from Liberalism to Fascism, 1870-1925 (1967), a widely heralded study. Christopher and I had occasionally corresponded, so it was a great pleasure to see him at the presentation of the book R. W. Seton-Watson and His Relations with the Czechs and Slovaks. Documents 1905-1951 (2 vols., 1995-1996), edited by Jan Rychlík and Thomas D. Marzik with Miroslav Bielik, at a convocation of the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague. After that he, Marzik, and Rychlík embarked on a celebratory tour of Slovakia to present the book to institutions of learning there. They visited sites where R. W. had been to before World War I that confirmed his suspicions of Magyar oppression of the Slovaks, and after the war to sustain his knowledge and impressions of the people.

Along with his position as a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, Christopher was chairman of the World University Service in the United Kingdom (1964-1969) and of the Czechoslovak Scholarship Fund (1968-1971). “There were giants in the earth in those days.” (Genesis VI.)

Stanley B. Winters

JIŘÍ BERAN (1927-2007)

Only historians of Czech science and scientific institutions will be aware that PhDr. Jiří Beran, CSc. died in Prague on May 31, 2007, or even be interested in knowing it. He deserves a tribute because of his numerous publications over a fifty-year career tracing the evolution of the Czech Academy of Sciences in its various incarnations and its major figures. He especially focused on the transition under communist rule from the existing organizations of science to the party’s establishment of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in 1952. The latest and probably the last of his publications appeared in a volume titled Instituce, osobnosti, ideje a struktura vědy v českých
Jiří Beran was born in Týniště nad Orlicí on April 7, 1929. He was awarded the PhDr. from the Philosophical Faculty of Charles University in 1965 with a specialty in archival studies. He advanced in employment as an archivist at the Central Archives of the ČSAV with the rank of scientific worker (vědecký pracovník) in 1965, and was pensioned in 1991. He also served on the executive committee of the outstanding journal *Dějiny věd a techniky* until 1990. Thereafter, he wrote as an independent scholar for a variety of scientific journals.

We first met in 1982 when Zdenka Winters and I were beginning our research into the career of Prof. Bohumil Němec, a world class plant physiologist, a member of the National Democratic Party headed by Karel Kramář, and like him a critic of the foreign policy of Edvard Beneš. The meeting took place in the office of Dr. Luboš Nový, head of the Central Archives ČSAV. He was a functionary in the communist administrative hierarchy of historians, and the author and editor of many studies of Czech science and technology. We explained our interest in the formation of the ČSAV and in Němec’s long career as a scientist and polymath. He received us cordially but suggested that Němec was of little interest and not worth pursuing. Still, he allowed us to examine Němec’s inventory of publications and correspondence. We requested photocopies of relevant items and made arrangements to pay for them. (But that took much longer than we anticipated.)

As we were leaving Nový’s office, Dr. Jiří Beran entered and Nový introduced him. Upon hearing of our interest in the Czech academies of science, he excused himself and asked us to wait for his return. He soon reappeared, holding a batch (more than a dozen) of offprints of his essays on the academies and offered to send others if needed. This sort of generosity was typical of that of other Czech historians (and also of Dr. Ján Tibenský in Bratislava) upon our annual visits to the ČSSR during the communist era and after 1999 during the democratic regime.

I last saw Jiří Beran in the late spring of 2005. While I was relaxing on a park bench across from the Vltava and north of Národní třída, Beran entered the park, walking slowly with a cane toward his flat in Konviktská ulice. He greeted me warmly, and we agreed to stay in touch, but he obviously suffered pain. His last letter to me is dated February 9, 2006, and mine to him was March 11, 2006. After that, silence.

SBW

**ZDEŇEK MASTNÍK (1920–2008)**

Zdeněk Mastník, Journalist, BBC reporter, editor, and station chief, and famed international book dealer died in Prague on April 10, 2008. A funeral service was held in the Church of Saint Fabian and Sebastian on April 18, 2008. With his wife Helena, he founded Interpress Books, which became the chief supplier of Czech, Slovak, and Soviet bloc books,
in the United States, after the death of Israel Perlstein in 1975. The Mastníks were familiar personages at the Annual Meetings of the AAASS for many years until her death over ten years ago. Their flat in London was a hospitable stayover for friends and colleagues from Europe and North America. After the fall of the communist regime in the ČSSR, Mastník established a residency in Prague and traveled back and forth there and often to Germany, arranging book deals and meeting friends and business associates. He was a genial host at Monika, an elegant restaurant in central Prague. The Czech Government awarded him the Order of the White Lion. Too modest to write memoirs, Mastník gradually gave interviews over Prague radio and in the press in order to correct misconceptions about events and public figures in Czech politics and journalism before they became embedded as truth in the public sphere. His memory was prodigious. His many friends will long mourn his passing and honor his memory.

ASSORTED NEWS ITEMS

Minutes of the Czechoslovak Studies Association

The Marriott Hotel

New Orleans, LA

Saturday, November 17, 2007

Lacking a quorum, the meeting began following a five minute waiting period with President Bradley Abrams calling it to order at 2:05. He introduced the new members of the executive board and noted the historic significance of the date eighteen years prior to today’s meeting. Twenty-five people signed the attendance sheet. The minutes of the last meeting in Washington, D.C. in 2006 were approved without any changes.

Secretary-Treasurer Gregory Ference gave his report with a handout noting the financial state of the CSA. (See elsewhere in the Newsletter for a copy.) Ference noted the Operating and Pech Prize Fund accounts are healthy. The newly instituted Book Prize, started with a $500 contribution from the Operating Fund, will remain part of the Operating Fund until it has at least $1,000.00. Otherwise, monthly banking fees will quickly reduce the monies in a separate fund. There are 138 members including ten new or rejoining members. Two members have died (Victor Mamatey and Thomas Marzik) since last year. Ten members owe dues for 2006 with another ten owing for two years who will be dropped from the rolls in 2008 unless they pay them.
Sixty-four members voted in the last officers’ election and bylaw changes, which passed overwhelmingly.

President Abrams read the report of the Newsletter Editor James Peterson. Peterson expressed thanks to Daniel Miller, Owen Johnson, Hugh Agnew, and Stanley Winters for their contributions. He urged the membership to send news and information to him for the Newsletter via e-mail.

David Cooper reported on the successful 2007 Czech Studies Workshop and thanked the CSA for its contribution. The workshop, held at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, had 18 different sponsors including the CSA with the bulk of the expenses going for travel. The 2008 program will be held at Northwestern University under the guidance of Benjamin Frommer. President Abrams noted he secured funding from the Harriman Institute at Columbia University to allow the workshop to be held every other year (odd numbered years) at Columbia starting in 2009. He hoped the program will enable to bring young Czech scholars to participate. Abrams would also like to see the workshop sponsored in even number years by institutions in the mid-West and West Coast respectively for greater exposure.

Hugh Agnew talked about the Institutional History project. He has been working with Catherine Albrecht, but there has been little progress. Zdeněk David has a history of the organization on the website, but it is in Czech. Agnew hopes to translate it into English. James Peterson, Newsletter editor, has given the group all the back issues for the task. Perhaps it will also employ oral history since older members are dying. Agnew hopes to report more next year.

Cynthia Paces, on behalf of the chair of the Book Prize Committee Catherine Albrecht, discussed the deliberations of the group. She noted that wonderful and innovative works were being published for this first round of the award. The committee was impressed with the wide range of the volumes, with the award going to Pieter M. Judson for Guardians of the Nation: Activists on Language Frontiers of Imperial Austria (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2006). Paces read the committee citation and presented Judson with it, a certificate, and the monetary prize. Judson expressed his thanks.

President Abrams talked about committee assignments. Claire Nolte has agreed to chair the Book Prize Fundraising Committee. She will work with Abrams who discussed possible ways to raise monies, including having a notable Czech speak, with the proceeds going to the fund. He also asked for volunteers for the committee. Chad Bryant, David Cooper, and Carol Skalnik Leff have agreed to serve on the Pech Prize Committee for the coming year. Panel coordination requires a two year commitment to work in conjunction with the American Historical Association and the AAASS. Hugh Agnew agreed to serve while Rebekh Klien-Pejšová will act as liaison with the Hungarian Studies Association, John Connelly the Polish Studies Association, and Abrams the Slovak Studies Association and the Society for Slovene Studies. Abrams tentatively appointed a new Book Prize Committee of Peter Bugge, Nancy Orzoff, and Owen Johnson. Lastly, Abrams stated that Eagle Glassheim has agreed to continue as webmaster.
Paces noted that Kevin Krause is tech savvy and can link scholarly resources and not just society information. He can also link to other organizations and use key word searches. This would be a virtual way to keep in touch with other regional organizations and societies.

A discussion ensued about possibly co-hosting a reception with the Society for Slovene Studies at the 2008 AAASS meeting in Philadelphia. Cynthia Paces and Mills Kelly will work with Veronica Aplenc of the Society for Slovene Studies. Others suggested that the reception might be expanded to include other organizations.

Dan Miller read Stanley Winters’ comments about the death of Thomas Marzik. (Full text elsewhere in Newsletter). Other members remarked about Marzik and his contributions.

Under New Business, Mills Kelly talked about the upcoming possible name change of the AAASS to the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES). Each affiliated society, like the CSA, may state something about the proposal before a vote to be taken in 2008. Abrams asked for input on the CSA listserv.

A discussion stated that the 2008 AAASS program will focus on women and gender. The meeting wants interdisciplinary, multinational, and co-sponsored panels. It was also noted that roundtables and panels with people in mid-career are also welcomed, but with the number of panels increasing there are some poor panel times like 6-8 PM on Thursday.

With business concluded, the meeting adjourned at 3:20.

Respectfully submitted,ted,
Gregory C. Ferencence

CZECHOSLOVAK STUDIES ASSOCIATION

Respectfully submitted,ted,
Gregory C. Ferencence

CZECHOSLOVAK STUDIES ASSOCIATION

Financial Statement
For the Period 7 November 2006 to 6 November 2007

BALANCES
6 November 2007

Cash Balances in:
Operating Fund $9,340.13
Pech Fund (includes a CD at 3.75% interest) $4,552.91

OPERATING FUND

Opening cash balance $8,515.22
Receipts for the period $1,875.20
$10,390.42
Disbursements for the period -$1,050.29
Closing cash balance $9,340.13

RECEIPTS FOR THE PERIOD

Dues & contributions $1,853.00
(includes Pech Fund receipts)
Interest $22.20
TOTAL $1,875.20
EXPENDITURES AND TRANSFERS FOR THE PERIOD

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STANLEY Z. PECH PRIZE FUND

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<tr>
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<td>(Includes $1.00 money order fee)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
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THOMAS D. MARZIK (1941-2007)

Tom Marzik, Professor of History at St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia and a founding member of the Czechoslovak History Conference (CHC), died at peace in Philadelphia on October 23, 2007, after a valiant fight against cancer and other ailments that had afflicted him for several years. He was 65 years old. His body was interred alongside those of his mother and father at the family plot in Stratford, Connecticut.

Tom’s parents supported his quest for higher education and career as a historian. He earned his A.B. from the College of The Holy Cross (magna cum laude) in 1963, the M.A. at Columbia University (1966), and the Ph.D. also from Columbia (1976) with István Deák as advisor. He also attended classes there taught by Peter Brock.

He joined St. Joseph’s department of history in 1970 and achieved the rank of full professor in 1997. He taught Western Civilization, the history of Russia, and honors seminars on European history. He was active on many of the university’s committees and attracted a loyal following of students who respected his rigorous standards of accuracy and exposition in writing and oral expression. His university arranged a Special Mass in honor of his service.

Marzik’s service to the historical profession in the United States, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia was generous. He was a member of the CHC’s executive committee from 1982 and vice president from 1988 to 1990, a period of great transition in Central Europe. He was vice president of the Slovak Studies Association (1978-1980 and 1981-1983), and was its treasurer (1985-1987). He helped substantially as Book Review Editor for Slovak Subjects at East Central Europe (1981-1991), and was an editorial member of Slovakia (1980-1983) and its Associate Editor (1984-1986). He was an Editorial Correspondent for the Masaryk Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences.
(2000-2003) and a member of the Advisory Board of Central Europe (London) from 2003 until his death.


Altogether, Marzik co-edited two books and published fourteen articles, plus book reviews in the American Historical Review, East Central Europe, Slavic Review, and Slovakia. One of his proudest works (with Jan Rychlík and Miroslav Bielík) was R.W. Seton-Watson and His Relations with the Czechs and Slovaks: documents, 1906-1951, 2 vols. (Prague and Martin: Ústav T. G. Masaryka and Matica slovenská, 1995-1996), in which he had the major role in assuring the accuracy of usages and translations into English from Czech and Slovak.


Marzik’s efforts as a promoter of awareness of Slovak history and culture were acknowledged twice. In 1996 he received the Pamätná medaila Matice slovenskej for the book on Seton-Watson. Two years later, for his studies on the history of the Slovaks and Slovakia, he was awarded the Zlatá medaila Prezidenta Slovenskej republiky.

His research proposals brought grants and recognitions as a Foreign Language Fellow (1964-1967), Fulbright-Hays and Inter-University Travel Grants (1967-68), and the Saint Joseph’s University Faculty Research Merit Award (1984 and 1996). He was on sabbatical leave when his terminal illness developed to thwart a book on TGM and the English.

Tom Marzik was a stalwart friend of colleagues whose high standards of scholarship and reliability matched or surpassed his own. He was a perfectionist when it came to research and writing, and this sometimes delayed their completion. He would develop self-doubts about his ability to meet deadlines, followed by waves of confidence that brought success. Sometimes, after accumulating unique materials on a topic, he pursued another topic rather than finishing the first. He selflessly located material that colleagues abroad needed for their own research projects and sent it to them. His services to historians in the Czech Republic and Slovakia brought American scholarship to their attention as few other U.S. historians have so selflessly done. We first met in 1964 at a conference at Columbia University and remained friends thereafter.

Tom is survived by his devoted wife Hana Dejdarová Marzik and a brother, Robert Marzik, in Connecticut. We honor his memory and sorely miss him.
Czechoslovak Studies Association’s
PECH PRIZE ARTICLE COMPETITION

The Czechoslovak Studies Association (CSA) is pleased to announce its Stanley Z. Pech Prize Competition for 2008, which will award a $200 prize to the best article or essay dealing with the history of Czechoslovakia and its successor and predecessor states/provinces published in 2006 or 2007. The committee welcomes submissions from all academic disciplines, as long as the entry essay has a substantial historical component. To be eligible, the author must be a member of the CSA.

To join the CSA, visit our website and fill out a membership application.
http://faculty.arts.ubc.ca/eglassheim/CHC/Welcome.htm

To apply for the Pech Prize, send three copies of your own work or that of a colleague no later than September 15, 2008, to the chair of the Pech Prize Committee:

David L. Cooper
Department of Slavic Languages and Literature
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
707 S. Mathews Ave.
Foreign Languages Building 3070
Urbana, IL 61801

The prizewinner will be announced at the 2008 AAASS Convention in Philadelphia.
Visit the following webpage for a list of past prize winners:
http://faculty.arts.ubc.ca/eglassheim/CHC/prize.htm

Expressing the New Europe

The International Institute for the Study of Culture and Education is currently accepting applications for its undergraduate summer program, Expressing the New Europe. This three-week, three-credit course combines classroom study with on-site experiential learning in the transforming European urban context, and is open to students from any discipline. Through its interactive curriculum, Expressing the New Europe studies how large processes of geopolitical change (the aftermath of WWII, ethnic and national upheavals, the fall of Communism, democratization, and European integration) play out in the local setting of a European city and its inhabitants. The program is based in Wroclaw, a large academic and historical center located in the Southwest of Poland and the capital of the region of Lower Silesia. The city of Wroclaw offers a unique urban and cultural experience to international students who will have the opportunity to study European culture, history and politics through practical learning methods. For further information and application forms, please contact Krista Hegburg at kmh55@columbia.edu.

***

Paper proposals are currently being accepted for a workshop on the anthropology of Roma being organized by Yasar Abu Ghosh (Charles University) and László Fosztó (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology) at the upcoming conference of the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA).
Paper proposals for the workshop, entitled “Beyond Identity: New directions in the anthropology of Roma/Gypsy groups,” should look beyond the ethnospace as a paramount context for the anthropology of Roma/Gypsy groups and investigate the empirical evidence of strategies for circumventing identity politics on the part of various actors habitually considered Roma/Gypsy. The EASA meetings will be held August 26-30, 2008, in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Please contact Yasar Abu Ghosh at abughosh@fhs.cuni.cz for more information.

Krista Hegburg
Rutgers University

Codex Gigas

The National Library of Sweden produced a website on the Codex Gigas (the world’s largest book), which was made in Bohemia in the 13th century (and is currently on display at the Klementinum in Prague). This website includes a history of the Codex and images of every page. Its address is: http://www.kb.se/codex-gigas/eng/. The Codex is owned by the National Library of Sweden because it was taken from the Castle in Prague during the Thirty Years War by Swedish troops.

CHC members who wish to be part of the Conference’s email list should send a message to Mills Kelly at George Mason University (tkelly7@gmu.edu). All CHC members may join the list.

Mills Kelly
George Mason University

MY RESEARCH EXPERIENCES IN SLOVAKIA

While national identity has been a stale fixation of observers examining Slovak society since the country’s independence, Slovak popular culture has rarely, if ever, been discussed. In answer to this deficit, I recently completed a doctoral thesis on Slovak national identity and media-based popular culture (popular music, televised sport and reality TV) at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. Over three and a half years, I collected and analysed material from a wide range of sources including media archives and an ethnographic survey undertaken in the late spring and early summer of 2005. As part of my research, I spent three months in Slovakia interviewing survey respondents (mostly young people aged 18-25) in the cities of Banská Bystrica and Bratislava about their attitudes toward popular music and Slovak popular music in particular. Mostly, respondents attended universities and high schools or were in the early stages of their careers. Eliciting participation was no easy task: I had to abandon the initial method of posting notices around public places in favour of approaching people directly as they went about their daily business. This took some degree of courage from my part as I tried to hone my marketing and Slovak language skills to a point of appearing credible to potential survey participants. However, I found my background (a New Zealander based in Australia writing about Slovakia) to be a considerable point of interest to people and this tended to make most survey elicitations quite successful. Interviews took place in a variety of locations such as university dormitories, pubs, town squares and terraced cafes.
One of the most significant highlights of my time spent on the survey was observing student life in Banská Bystrica and Bratislava. In particular I was drawn to the way in which students from outside Banská Bystrica adopted their ‘host’ city as their own. For instance, the genuine sense of belonging felt by Slovak Hungarian students towards Banská Bystrica, their university and faculty was particularly touching and gave me an insight into the ‘double identity’ carried by this group of citizens, who successfully negotiated two quite different languages. Their ability to adapt to this challenge and their general attitudes towards Slovakia – their home – dispelled for me any credibility to nationalist statements that they were somehow ‘different’ or ‘did not belong’ to Slovak society. In Bratislava I spent much time in Mlynská dolina, Slovakia’s largest student dormitory community. Here I observed and experienced the student lifestyle of those who had come to Bratislava from various regions to study. While not necessarily identifying with Bratislava as their ‘home’, there was little doubt that the students of Mlynská dolina forged memories, a significant sense of community, and friendships which gave them a positive association with Slovakia’s often maligned capital city. As an outsider, I felt privileged to observe and experience a lifestyle and community which is familiar to many Slovaks.

The survey revealed to me that while internationally-marketed popular music – which is usually Anglophonic – dominated the listening habits of survey respondents, Slovak-language popular music was nonetheless a significant part of music consumption which was open to considerable praise and derision. In general, respondents told me that Slovak popular music had a higher lyrical quality than the standard fare of international popular music and that there were some domestic performers who specifically tackled aspects of Slovak life in their work. Respondents overwhelmingly located such engagements in Slovak hip hop and punk music, which became the subjects of my subsequent research.

In addition to gathering information on Slovak popular music, I spent much energy in focusing on the importance of televised sport on contemporary Slovak national identity. In particular, I was interested in researching the impact of the victory of the Slovak men’s ice hockey team at the 2002 International Ice Hockey Federation World Championships on the Slovak audience. I decided to ‘cold-call’ the Slovak Ice Hockey Federation at their headquarters in Bratislava and ended up speaking to Žubomír Souček, then the federation’s media relations manager. I found Souček and the federation more than willing to help me in my research by providing me with archived media materials as well as by arranging an informal meeting with former coach Jan Filc – the architect of the 2002 team’s success. As a result of this access and discussions with many others I gained profound insights into the meaning of the 2002 event on the Slovak national consciousness and popular memory. I concluded that while ephemeral, the team’s victory brought about a positively-charged and inclusive “sportive nationalism” which linked the nation as a construct to pleasure. It represented the most significant popular expression of Slovak national identity in the history of the independent state.

My research experiences in Slovakia were invariably positive. The willingness of
those I encountered to participate in the survey and the interest they expressed in the project as a whole was encouraging. In addition, the help given to me by the Slovak Embassy in Australia as well as many teachers and others in Slovakia was invaluable. Not being a native Slovak, I understood that examining the country ‘from the outside’ need not be a disadvantage, but given the right attitude and approach on the part of the researcher can actually lead to valuable results and precious memories.

Peter Barrer
peterbarrer@gmail.com

A LARGE AUDIENCE AT 12TH MÜNCHNER BOHEMISTEN-TREFFEN

It seems like yesterday that Dr. Robert Luft organized the first annual gathering of budding historians and social scientists in Munich to present topics they were researching in pursuit of advanced degrees in their professions. Every year the number of speakers, largely from Germany but also elsewhere in Europe and occasionally Asia and North America, has increased. The 37 presenters at the one of March 7, 2008, were augmented by over 100 sponsors of the presenters and other interested scholars in the audience. The presenters included men and women already established in their professions. Among their topics were (1) National Socialist cultural policy in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia and Czech intellectuals, such as journalists, film producers, actors, and musicians, (2) The conception of a non-political politics, (3) The Czech and German national theater worlds in Prague between the wars, (4) Rudolf Ritter Lodgmen: A Volkstumspolitiker between Vienna, Prague, and Munich, (5) The historiography of art in a time of social upheaval in Bohemia and Moravia, 1930-1950, (6) West Bohemian porcelain manufacturing in the second half of the 19th century, (7) The political involvement of the Bohemian nobility in the 1860s, (8) Social Democracy and conflict over the national language in Bohemia and Belgium (1894-1938), (9) Language in a totalitarian system – A comparison of the DDR and the ČSSR, (10) The social and literary involvement of Jewish women in Prague at the beginning of the 20th century, 11) Prague 1939-1945: The parallel worlds of everyday life in a Central European metropolis under National Socialist rule. For more information: Collegium Carolinum, Hochstrasse 8, 81669 München. www.cc@collegium-carolinum.de.

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BOOKS BRIEFLY NOTED

A Festschrift for the Ages

Per Secula ad Tempore Nostra.

Festschrifths meant little to me until I encountered ones dedicated to Karel Kramář and T. G. Masaryk published in the first third of the twentieth century. Later I contributed to
those in honor of Robert A. Kann, Jan Havránek, and Otakar Odložilík. I realized that these books contained valuable essays and paid respect to distinguished historians. Therefore, when I was invited to participate in a Festschrift for Prof. Jaroslav Pánek on his 60th jubilee, I gladly accepted. The result was a two-volume tribute of 974 pages from 126 scholars, in large format, and weighing more than five pounds (2.3 kilos). It is not only the size of the volume but also the attractive layout of its pages and the high quality of its essays that show the regard in which Pánek’s colleagues hold him and his achievements.

Volume One has essays that range from the Middle Ages to Early Modern Times, and Volume Two from the seventeenth to the twentieth centuries. There is a section devoted to historiography, and an index of the essayists and their addresses. Each essay has a résumé in German, English, or Czech. A color photo of Prof. Pánek is at the beginning of Volume One. Pages 33-53 list 475 publications by him in the years 1999-2006. The chief editors Pavel Kůrka and Kateřina Valentová, and ten coeditors are listed in Volume Two. The organizers of the undertaking, Jiří Mikulec and Miloslav Polívka can take pride in the fruits of their labor.

Among the four Americans who wrote essays are three Czechoslovak Studies Association members: Zdeněk V. David, Radomír V. Luža, and this writer. The fourth is Paula S. Fichtner. Another CSA member involved is the honorand: Prof. Jaroslav Pánek.

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This is not a work of history, but it provides evidence that can be used by future historians. Its theme is the position of professional women in Czech society almost twenty years after the overthrow of communism ended a system of hypocrisy that trumpeted women’s liberation, while perpetuating their sexual and professional subjugation to the privileged members of the party apparatus. Ten young, mature professional women are asked probing questions by the editor about the value of their upbringings and schooling, their attitudes toward marriage and motherhood, and the influence of their university educations. Their responses include their hopes for professional advancement, their work toward higher degrees, and what they have already achieved as scientists and scholars.

The project was launched in 2005 under the auspices of the Czech National Centre for Women in Science, named “Female Talents.” Its aim was to present female scientists at the beginning of their careers, their first achievements, how they selected their fields of research, what they gained from study abroad, and their future plans. Each of the ten women interviewed answered the editor’s probing questions with disarming frankness. Their research fields include African studies, botany, public finance, Czech and modern European history, oceano-graphy, historical geography, and cartography. Photo portraits of the ten show calm, self-assured, dignified persons in their twenties and early thirties, some married with children, satisfied with career progress thus far, and seeking completion of studies or advancement in their fields. As examples, they bode well for the advantage to Czech society as
more well prepared and highly motivated young women find opportunities for personal and social satisfaction in, one hopes, a welcoming job market in their homeland and abroad.

E.F. Firsov, T. G. Masaryk and the Russian Intellectual Environment According to Archives in Czechia and Russia. Part I. Thomas G. Masaryk and Ernest Radlov in Their Scholarly and Personal Correspondence. Part 2. T. G. Masaryk: Russia and Europe. Moscow: Polygraph Publishers, 2005. Pp. 151, Illus. PB. (Russian). This monograph is one in a series of studies by CSA member Evgenii Fedorovich Firsov on Russian-Czech cultural and scientific relations in the 19th and 20th centuries. To prepare it, he has researched materials in the Ústav TGM AV ČR in Prague, the Pushkin Library in St. Petersburg, and sources in French, German, and English. The correspondence between Masaryk (1850-1937) and Ernest L. Radlov (1854-1928), a Russian philosopher, extended from the 1880s to 1926. Firsov also uses correspondence from TGM to other Russians including E. P. Pavlov in his quest for information that could help his preparation of a study on Russian philosophy and culture that he eventually published in 1913. The 40-odd letters reproduced here show Radlov’s responses to Masaryk’s inquiries about Russian thought and social conditions that served to supplement impressions gained from his visits to Russia and readings in Russian sources. In his last letter of March 7, 1926, Radlov commiserates with TGM on the deaths of his son Herbert in the war and of his wife Charlotte (d. 1923), and describes his own happy family life (pp. 114-115). This and other studies by Firsov, a docent at Moscow State University, adds to his reputation as an expert on Czech-Russian intellectual relations.

June Granatir Alexander

Publication:


John Peter Barrer

Promotions:

His PhD degree was conferred in March 2008, at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia.

His doctoral thesis was entitled “Reimagining Slovak National Identity: Mediabased Popular Culture 1993-2005,” and it was supervised by Slobodanka Vladiv-Glover and Peter Lenti, School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics, Monash University.

Publication:

Peter Bugge

Publication:


Papers Presented:


John Connelly

Publications:


Mark Cornwall

Publications:


Papers presented:

“Nationalist Youth in the Czech-German Borderland after the First World War,” University of Dundee, November 2007.

Zdenek V. David

Publication:


Paper presented:


Andrew M. Drozd

Publications:


Gregory C. Ference

Publications:


Evgeni F. Firsov

General news:

He delivered in the spring semester of 2008, a new scientific special lecture course on “Culture of the Central Europe: Vienna, Prague, Ljubljana in Urbanistic Monuments of Culture.”

Publication:


Papers presented:

“Views of the Historian Vilinsky towards Slovaks, A. Hlinka and Catholicism in ČSR.”

“The Attitude of Foreign Slavic Associations in Russia to Revolutions of 1917 on Archival Materials” (On the basis of the report made at scientific conference in Moscow University, November 2007).

Eagle Glassheim

Promotion:

Promoted to Associate Professor of History in July 2007.

Publications:


Irena Gantar Godina

Publications:


Krista Hegburg

Promotions:

Currently teaches in the Anthropology Department at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

General News:

She recently co-edited a special issue of the Anthropology of East Europe Review, entitled “Roma & Gadje,” with Yasar Abu Ghosh and Shannon Woodcock. She is currently co-organizing an interdisciplinary research project, called Everyday Life and the Concentration Camp, with Elissa Mailänder-Koslov; interested parties may contact her at kmh55@columbia.edu.

Wilma Igers

General News:


Publications:


Papers Presented:


Mills Kelly

Promotion:

Promoted to Associate Professor (with tenure) in June of 2007.

Papers Presented:


Radomir Luza

Recognitions:


Medal of František Palacký by Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, October 2007.

Awarded the medal “60 Years of the Victory of the Great Patriotic War 1941-1945” on April 27, 2008, for his activities during World War II, in the name of the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir V. Putin.

Publications:


Jiří Malíř

Publications:


“K političke kultuře na sklonku starého Rakouska: mechanismus vzniku politické strany v éře masových stran” [Political Culture in the Final Stages of the Old Austria: Mechanism of Creating a Political Party at the Time of Mass


Papers Presented:


Kevin McDermott

Publications:


Marie L. Neudorfova

Publications:


Papers Presented:


Jaroslav Pánek

Promotions:

Served as President of the Czech National Committee of Historians and Vice-President of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, responsible for the social sciences and humanities.


Publications:


Papers Presented:


“Kosmosografia jako řádlo do poznania wyobrażeń o świecie we wczesnym okresie nowożytności,” Paper given at the Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw (Poland), December 6, 2007.

“Polska i Polacy w oczach Czechów na progu nowego wieku,” Paper given at the University of Opole, Opole (Poland), January 9, 2008.


Joseph F. Patrouch

Promotion:

Elected member of Executive Committee, Society for Austrian and Habsburg History (SAHH).

Publications:


Paper presentations:

“‘Ihr Obrigkeit unnd Lehenfrau.’ Estate Management Practices of a Dowager Queen of France: Elizabeth of Habsburg in Austria in the 1580’s,” American Historical Association, Washington, DC, January, 2008. Panel co-
sponsored by Society for the Study of Early Modern Women.

Lisa Peschel

Publications:


Paper Presented:

“‘Sometimes We Had Fun’: Czech Theater during the Holocaust and the Limits of U.S. Scholarly Discourse” (plenary session). ASTR (American Society for Theater Research), November 2007, Phoenix, AZ.

Jim Peterson

Publication:


Paper presentations:


Alena Šimůnková

Publication:


Piotr Wandycz

Publications:


Stanley B. Winters

General News:

“Czech Crossroads in European History: 1918-1938-1948-1968,” a conference with 27 paper presenters mainly Czechs but some Germans and one Austrian, two Slovaks, one
Hungarian, one Pole, and two Frenchmen, was held in Prague 14-15 April 2008. The conference was sponsored by the Masaryk Institute and the Archives of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic.

Publication:


New Books from Collegium Carolinum

Die “sudetendeutsche Geschichtsschreibung” 1918-1960

Zur Vorgeschichte und Gründung der Historischen Kommission der Sudetenländer

Vorträge der Tagung der Historischen Kommission für die böhmischen Länder (vormals: der Sudetenländer) in Brünn vom 1. bis 2. Oktober 2004 aus Anlass ihres fünfzigjährigen Bestehens. Im Auftrag der Historischen Kommission für die böhmischen Länder herausgegeben von Stefan Albrecht, Jiří Maliř and Ralph Melville

Oldenbourg Wissenschaftsverlag München 2008; XV und 301 Seiten (Veröffentlichungen des Collegium Carolinum 114).

Geschlechterbeziehungen in Ostimteleuropa nach dem Zweiten Weltkrieg.


New Members

Timothy Cheek is an Associate Professor of Perfoming Arts at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theater & Dance. His research interests include music of Vítězslava Kaprálová and Prodaná nevěsta [The Bartered Bride], by Smetana. His professional discipline is music: vocal repertoire (both songs and opera), with specializations in Czech vocal music and Czech chamber music.

Pieter M. Judson is a Professor of History at Swarthmore College. His current research interests include “Indifference to Nation” and “History of Habsburg Central Europe 1780-1948.” He specializes in the History of the Habsburg Monarchy, Bohemia, and Moravia.

Mary Koslovsky is currently a Graduate Student in History at the University of Toledo. Her research interests include Modern European History and Eastern European History. She specializes in gender history and Russian History. Her M.A. thesis is entitled “We Flew for the Motherland: Soviet Air Combat Women of World War II.”
Michael L. Miller’s current research interests include Religion and Politics among the Jews of Bohemia and Moravia, 17th – 20th centuries. His professional discipline is History, with a specialization in the History of the Jews of the Habsburg Empire.

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