

# BULLETIN

English Supplement to "Zpravy SVU"

Vol. III, No. 2

May, 1982

## SVU Activities

### Preparations for the Eleventh World Congress, Pittsburgh, October 28-31, 1982 University of Pittsburgh

The Program Chairman of the Congress, Zdenka Pospisil, reports that she has received a good response from the members she contacted. A number of abstracts of the papers have arrived. Anybody wishing his/her abstract to be published should send it to her by the end of June, as the abstracts go into print in July. Details about the Congress will be announced later.

This seems to be an opportune moment to introduce Zdenka Pospisil. She came to the United States from her native Czechoslovakia in 1949 and became a citizen in 1954. She majored in art at the University of Oregon (B.A. 1951 and M.S. in Art Education 1952). She wrote on **Kwoma Sculptures** for her M.A. in History of Art at Yale and earned a Ph.D. there in 1972 with a dissertation entitled **Tyrolese Wrought-Iron Crosses**, a study of the stylistic aspects of a provincial art form. She is currently reworking her dissertation for publication.

Dr. Pospisil has been a recipient of several honors and grants. She has made several study tours to Europe and Africa and done research on the Hopi Indian Reservation, in Austria and Northern Italy. She has presented papers at various international congresses on African primitive art and Central European and Mediterranean architecture and has taught these specializations at the Southern Connecticut State College since 1963. She also taught Czech at Yale for a year (1965-66). She is a member of



**President**

Leopold J. Pospisil  
(Yale University)  
554 Orange Street  
New Haven, CT 06511

**Vice-Presidents**

Karel B. Absolon  
(University of Illinois;  
National Institutes of Health)  
11225 Huntover Drive  
Rockville, MD 20852

Milan P. Getting, Jr.  
(Allis-Chalmers Corporation)  
38 South Euclid Avenue  
Bellevue, PA 15202

Henry Kucera  
(Brown University)  
196 Bowen Street  
Providence, RI 02906

Jiri Nehnevajsa  
(University of Pittsburgh)  
712 North Cleveland Street  
Arlington, VA 22201

Cestmir Jesina  
(International Energy Affairs)  
3648 N. Vermont St.  
Arlington, VA 22207

**Secretary General**

Blanka Glos  
(Saint Mary's University)  
3200 Holly Berry Court  
Falls Church, VA 22042

**Treasurer**

Frank J. Marlow  
(Royal Leasing Corporation)  
4217 Noble Avenue  
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

**SVU Books**

75-70 199th Street  
Flushing, NY 11366

**Editor Promeny**

Josef Stasa  
(Harvard University)  
900 Holyoke Center  
Cambridge, Mass. 02138

**Editor Zpravy**

Hana Demetz  
283 Greene St.  
New Haven, CT 06510

**Editors SVU Bulletin**

Zdenka E. Fischmann  
Box 134  
Corona, CA 91720

Michael Heim  
Dept. of Slavic Languages  
University of California  
Los Angeles, CA 90024



As a non-Jewish prisoner at Buchenwald, Pospisil was eligible to receive candy or other food each month from his family. His son said Pospisil was caught trying to hand food through a barbed wire fence to Jewish friends.

The septum of Pospisil's nose was perforated, a ring inserted like the ring in the nose of a bull, and -- so the son has been told -- the Jewish doctor who was receiving the food was forced to drag Pospisil, who wore a placard stating in German, "I am a friend of Jews" while non-Jewish prisoners spat upon him.

The son said Pospisil was hospitalized at Buchenwald after being tortured another time, and later survived a confrontation with a general who betrayed him to the Gestapo as an organizer of the underground. With the help of a friendly Gestapo agent and forged papers, he obtained transfer to Olomouc and eventually was released to a type of house arrest.

In Olomouc, Pospisil teamed with Leopold Branc, a Gestapo agent working with the underground, to help save the lives of Jews and others, including Pospisil's son. "I was accused and arrested twice by the Gestapo and he saved my life, too," the son said.

Pospisil refused to join the Communist Party in 1944, and after some brushes with Communists, Pospisil became a leading figure against the party after the war, the son said.

When the Communists seized power in 1948, Pospisil was arrested again, but he escaped to West Germany, where he worked with American military intelligence before coming to Eugene (1951). Pospisil's wife and his son Leo also escaped at separate times, but another son, Lubomir, was trapped in Czechoslovakia, where he died in 1965.

In Oregon Pospisil taught German language classes and worked on a Master's degree in political science, which he received in 1956.

★ ★ ★

**"Tajemství Macochy"** (The Secret of Macocha Cave), the world's first speleological documentary film with sound, was completed in 1934 in Czechoslovakia and premiered in Brno. It concerns the studies of Prof. Karel Absolon and his associates in the Moravian Karst. He and his research team were caught in action by the cameraman O. Zika. The first part concentrates on their research between 1909 and 1913; the second part documents explorations between 1920 and 1933. The narration is in Czech, with German subtitles. Emil Coufalik of London, James Hedges of Pennsylvania, and the late Otto Ondrousek have recently published a report (**NSS Bulletin** 44:3-5, January 1982) on the film, which was shown on the occasion of the celebration of the centenary of the birth of Karel Absolon, speleologist (1877-1960) and in memory of the film director Josef Lachman (d. 1948), who was Absolon's friend and the creative force behind the film. Hedges and Coufalik have also coauthored an article on the "Karel Absolon Centenary" (**NSS Bulletin** 39:3-8).

The film offers views of the Macocha Cave and other caves and subterranean rivers and shows human and animal bones, stone age artifacts, and other anthropological finds. Demonstrations of exploration methods and equipment also figure in the film, a fine record of Absolon's approach to speleology and the secrets of caves.

ZEF

★ ★ ★



No. 1-2, January-April, 1979, pp. 222-242). No wonder Dr. Roucek expounded thoughts on the academic environment in **The Hidden Professoriate** (ed. Arthur S. Wilke, 1979) under the title "Authoritarianism and Permissiveness in American Higher Education: A Memoir" using the pseudonym Joseph S. Pilgrim. He sets up two models, the Utopian and the Cosmopolitan university, and finds serious faults with each, raising many questions about the quality of teaching in the United States.

His bibliography is extensive. Dr. Roucek has authored, coauthored, contributed to, and edited more than a hundred books and has had countless articles published in a variety of learned periodicals, often in translation. His work on many international journals and encyclopedias in the fields of sociology, education, social sciences and so on has helped to earn him the office of International President of Delta Tau Kappa, the International Social Science Honor Society, which he has held for years.

To give the reader a feeling for the scope of Dr. Roucek's activities and interests, we mention a few of the publications carrying his name in various capacities: **Contemporary Roumania and her Problems** (1932); **Balkan Politics** (1948); **Contemporary Sociology** (ed., 1958); **The Unusual Child** (ed., 1962); with Kenneth Lottich, **Behind the Iron Curtain** which received the ACEN (Assembly of Captive European Nations) Book Award for July 1965; **Czechs and Slovaks in America** (1967); **Social Control for the 1980's: A Handbook for Order in a Democratic Society** (ed., 1978).

We wish the best to Dr. Roucek, SVU member and assiduous cultural worker, on his eightieth birthday.

ZEF

★★

## **MODERN HISTORY**

### **Hlas Ameriky - Saigon (Voice of America - Saigon)**

by Vladimir Fleischer (Toronto: 68 Publishers, 1980; 380 p., \$10.00)

This book by a Foreign Service Officer and former Voice of America staff member represents a substantial contribution to the fast growing literature about the Vietnam trauma. It begins with a perceptive foreword by Douglas Pike, since February 1981 Director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at the University of California, and Fleischer's former colleague in Saigon, and continues with a short account of how the author was suddenly transferred from the U.S. Embassy in India to Vietnam. Then comes the core of the book, edited transcripts of some 300 broadcasts made by the author for the VOA to Czechoslovakia covering the years 1967-74. They form a fascinating diary of attempts at partially offsetting the Communist propaganda message beamed to people behind the Iron Curtain.

The menu of topics covers an enormous spectrum of life and death in Vietnam: agriculture, agrarian reform, university, elections, deserters on both sides of the fence, press conferences, reactions to the 1968 Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, TET offensive, Kissinger's shuttle diplomacy, terror against civilians, mass graves, body counts, military reporting...

Fleischer sums up the lesson of this information battle by noting that the Vietnamese war differed from other wars in only one respect: for the first time TV cameras brought all the horrors into our homes in color. The sustained display of horrors could not offset the information about the many solid achievements made in South Vietnam. In the end public opinion had to turn against its own government, against the policies of four American presidents.



The author is very aware of her Czechoslovak roots. Not only did her parents and their close friends speak Czech -- especially in emotionally intense moments -- and find release in singing Czechoslovak folksongs; they found a Czech babysitter-nurse for Helen -- Milena Herben, wife of the journalist Ivan Herben, a founding member of SVU. The Herbens, political non-Jewish exiles, were an important link with the old country while they lived.

Her father's feelings toward the Czechoslovak First Republic were also important. He was a well-known swimmer and water polo player before the Second World War. He represented Czechoslovakia fifty-four times, participating in the Olympic Games in Amsterdam (1928) and Berlin (1936) and in two European swimming championships. He was an officer in the Czechoslovak Army at the time of Munich and shortly was stationed in Terezin before it was transformed into the "model ghetto" and he became a resident on his way to Auschwitz. According to his wishes, the Czechoslovak anthem was played at his funeral.

ZEF

★ ★ ★

Benjamin B. Ferencz, **Less Than Slaves: Jewish Forced Labor and the Quest for Compensation** (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1979, 249 p., \$15.00)

This book brings to light a hitherto little explored facet of the Holocaust, namely the problem of compensation or restitution (*Wiedergutmachung*) for the labor of the Jewish concentration camp inmates. Joseph Borkin in **The Crime and Punishment of I.G. Farben** (New York: Free Press, 1978) dealt extensively with the use of slave labor at one German company. This volume widens the scope to hundreds, concentrating on such giants as I.G. Farben, Krupp, BMW, Messerschmidt, Telefunken, Siemens, etc., all of which were in dire need of manpower during World War II.

Originally a Hungarian from Romania, Ferencz served as American prosecutor at the Nuremberg trials and then director of the world wide restitution action on behalf of Jewish survivors. His presentation of the painful procedures, the procrastination of officialdom, the remorselessness of the German companies and their lack of humaneness even after the war makes one wonder about the decency of the human race.

Even in Goebbels' words the treatment of the Jews was "quite barbaric." Most went directly to the gas chambers. Auschwitz commandant Hoess made a competitive sport of it, boasting he could accommodate two thousand people at a time, while Treblinka was limited to two hundred. In the summer of 1944 alone 400,000 Hungarian Jews went "up the chimney."

Yet of the hundreds of thousands of slave laborers, only 14,878 had received a total compensation of 51.0 million DM by the end of 1973 (when the German Mark stood at 36.98¢), i.e., a total of roughly seventeen million dollars. About half this amount came from I.G. Farben, ten million DM from Krupp, and seven million DM from Siemens. The procrastination and haggling that plagued the negotiations more befitted Billingsgate fishmongers than sophisticated technocrats. The head of Dynamite Nobel, millionaire Friedrich Flick, left millions to his heirs, yet gave not a penny in payment for Jewish labor, claiming that his company was "short of cash."

# Biographical Questionnaire

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name First Name Middle Name

Miss \_\_\_\_\_

Present Position (e.g. Assoc. Prof. of Chemistry) \_\_\_\_\_

Business/or Institutional Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Born: Country \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_  
Year \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Education (Degree, Discipline, Institution, Year) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Chief Fields of Interest, Specialization or Research \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Biographical Sources in which Listed (e.g. Who's Who in the East, Contemporary Authors, American Men & Women of Science etc.) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Under which discipline (disciplines) do you wish to be listed in the Index (e.g. economics, history, chemistry etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

List your major publications (not exceeding 5) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Honors (honorary degrees, major grants) \_\_\_\_\_

An inclusion of your Curriculum vitae would be appreciated. My Curriculum vitae is enclosed: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to order \_\_\_\_\_ copy/ies of the new SVU Directory at \$7.00 a copy. A check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

**Note:** Use diacritical marks ("hacky", "carky" etc.) wherever applicable. Original academic titles rather than their English equivalents should be used (e.g. JUDr, RNDr, CSc, prom. filolog etc.). Cheques should be made to Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences. The quoted prices are in American Dollars. Completed questionnaires should be mailed to Mrs. Eva Rechcigl, 1703 Mark, Lane, Rockville, Md. 20852, USA.

# HOLOCAUST

## Brundibar in Los Angeles

We reported in Vol. I, No. 2, May 1980, p. 14 on the studies of music in the concentration camp Terezin (Theresienstadt) done by SVU member Joza Karas. The children's opera **Brundibar (The Bumble-Bee)** -- libretto by Adolf Hoffmeister, music by Hans Krasa -- was one of the most popular and inspiring productions to emerge from the tragic circumstances of the camps.

Recently on the Day of Remembrance, April 19, 1982, in conjunction with a Holocaust Memorial Service, the Temple Beth Hillel of North Hollywood presented **Brundibar** in an English version prepared by Joza Karas and his late wife Milada. Judith Berman, a young musician and member of the Temple, was the director of the **Brundibar** project and its music director and conductor. Along with many talented coworkers, she put together an impressive performance by the Temple Beth Hillel Religious School children. The youngsters sang and acted with enthusiasm, thus honoring the memory of the unfortunate Terezin children of whom only one hundred survived.

One of the original singers, Dasha Lewin, was present and was interviewed on local TV. Excerpts of the Temple performance accompanied the interview. Mrs. Lewin, past president of the Los Angeles SVU Chapter, recalled how encouraged she and the other performers felt when they sang about the children's victory over the evil **Brundibar**.

The evening closed with a Czechoslovak-German film, **Brundibar**, in which the opera was sung in Czech and survivors connected with the work were interviewed in German, against the background of Terezin. Among them was Adolf Hoffmeister, Jaromir Bor, Rudolf Franek. The film came from the Yad Vashem Memorial in Jerusalem.

ZEF



**Children of the Holocaust** is an important book that has appeared in several new printings since 1979. "Conversations with Sons and Daughters of Survivors" was selected and edited by Helen Epstein, Professor of Journalism at New York University. The book is dedicated to "the memory of my father and for my mother," both survivors of Terezin, Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen. Kurt Epstein and Franci Solar, nee Rabinek, met after the war in Prague, where Helen was born. After February 1948 the family left for the United States and settled in New York.

The author's own family history is interspersed among the stories of those she interviewed. In fact she interviewed her own parents in 1974, when she became a consultant to the William E. Wiener Oral History Library. Three years later she started to interview the children of survivors for this book. Personally, writing the book meant that she had to open "the iron box inside me" and explore all the hidden, confusing and frightening feelings connected with the fact that her parents survived the Holocaust; professionally, it meant thorough research from which Ms. Epstein draws clinically valid conclusions about the specific atmosphere and unusual interpersonal relationships within the families of survivors. She has contributed not only to the history of the Jewish people but also to the formation of self-help "second generation" groups that are working on resolving the emotional traumata transmitted from parent-survivors to their children and even grandchildren.

# K O S M A S

## Journal of Czechoslovak and Central European Studies

---

Vol. 1, No. 1 (June-July 1982), pp. 160

### CONTENTS

EDITORIAL AVANT PROPOS.....	John F. N. Bradley
KOSMAS.....	Paul L. Horecky
POLISH-CZECHOSLOVAK CONFEDERATION:	
A POLISH VIEW.....	M. K. Dziewanowski
THE POLISH NATIONAL IDEA	
IN THE 19TH CENTURY.....	Piotr S. Wandycz
THE DIET OF AUGSBURG OF 1530 REVISITED: THE DIMENSIONS	
OF THE TURKISH PROBLEM.....	Stephen Fischer-Galati
ELECTORAL CONFRONTATION	
UNDER SOCIALISM.....	Vladimir Klokocka
KAROL WOJTYLA'S INTERPRETATION	
OF VATICANUM II.....	Radko K. Jansky
WAR IN THE STORIES OF RICHARD WEINER... ..	William E. Harkins
THE CRANES (BY BERTHOLD BRECHT).....	Ivan Brychta
EXTRACT FROM A MARRIED WOMEN.....	Hana Demetzova
TWO SPEECHES ON HUMAN RIGHTS.....	Michael Novak
EXTRACT FROM MEMOIRS.....	Ladislav Feierabend
REVIEW ARTICLE.....	Rene Wellek
REVIEW ESSAY.....	Stacey B. Day
<b>REVIEWS</b>	

★ ★ ★

#### Scholarly contributions to:

John F. N. Bradley  
16 Harcourt Terrace  
London SW10 9JR  
ENGLAND

#### Subscriptions to:

Frank J. Marlow  
4217 Noble Avenue  
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403  
U.S.A.

Price: US \$10.00 for SVU members and students  
US \$15.00 for non-members

Checks or money orders should be made payable to **SVU** or **K.JCCES**

From outside the USA only money orders in US\$ are acceptable.

---

### ORDER FORM

Please enter my (our) order for the 1982 issues (two) of **KOSMAS.JCCES**.

Name/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Check/Money order for US\$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed.



employment, and about 9% of the labor force are persons who have exceeded the official retirement age. When explaining the slow economic progress, authorities constantly blame lack of manpower. Yet moonlighting contributes to the low productivity of many enterprises because workers take it easy on their regular jobs to save energy for their *melouchy*.

Bribery, major and minor, is rampant and constitutes another means of boosting incomes. Plumbers, electricians and other skilled workmen --employed, like everyone else, either by the municipality or directly by the State -- are supposed to be equally available to anyone who needs them. In reality, it is difficult to have any kind of maintenance or repair work done unless one is willing to pay substantially more than the official rate for a job. Skilled workmen expect to receive a private bonus -- in advance --before they even consider performing their functions. It is a common practice to provide a *smir* (lubricant or "consideration") for officials if one wants to get on the waiting list for apartments, for appraisers of a deceased's estate if one needs to have an item undervalued, for examination tutors if one hopes for a successful outcome to one's child's studies. And liquor or a carton of cigarettes reduces the waiting time for socialized medical and dental services in state-run hospitals and outpatient clinics...

The visitor to Czechoslovakia will inevitably be exposed to the temptation of black market trading in foreign currency at two to three times the official rate. To be sure, private trafficking in money is highly illegal. Yet in practice the government tolerates it. To lay their hands on at least some of the Western currency, the authorities have created a special mechanism: the large chain of duty-free stores known as Tuzex. Special Tuzex coupons --the sole currency recognized in these stores -- can be obtained only in exchange for foreign currency. Any Czech or Slovak who takes foreign currency into a bank within ten days of acquiring it and exchanges it for Tuzex coupons is covered by an amnesty, with no questions asked. If for any reason a house is searched and foreign currency discovered, there is a harsh penalty for the offense.

The range of stock advertised in the Tuzex catalogue is remarkable, even though sloppy administration ensures that some of the advertised items are out of stock. There are first-class Bohemian leather goods and glassware, Spanish wallpaper, Swiss watches, Scottish tweeds, West German sausages, French cars, Italian washing machines, Scandinavian chainsaws... enough to equip a house from top to bottom. In Prague there is even a Tuzex shop specializing in blue jeans with a queue of people waiting at any time of day.

Tuzex was initially intended for people who received hard currency from relatives living abroad, including the over 150,000 who left after the Prague Spring of 1968, and the many Czechs and Slovaks who work abroad temporarily. Technicians helping to build a sugar refinery in Syria or a plant in India receive part of their wages in Tuzex coupons. In due course they return as relatively rich men. That is one reason why assignments abroad are much sought after. Another set of potential clients is the ever growing number of two-wage families, who have no legitimate way to spend their "discretionary income" in a society that underemphasizes consumerism. They tend to rely on visitors from abroad to help convert their surplus cash into Tuzex coupons.

In short, an ever growing cross-section of the population has gained access to Tuzex, a grotesque form of privilege, which is increasingly resented by those who cannot afford it or lack the nerve to accost foreigners.



Besides teaching at several other universities in the capacity of visiting professor, Professor Kucera has been a recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Ford Foundation Fellowship, a Howard Foundation Fellowship, a Senior Fellowship of the National Endowment of the Humanities and a scholarship of the American Council of Learned Societies. He has authored or coauthored nine books and textbooks, and contributed more than 200 articles, essays, and reviews in English and Czech to various publications. He has been a member of SVU for many years and has acted as Vice-President for the period of 1981 and 1982.

ZEF

★ ★ ★

### **Blanka Glos -- Secretary General**

Blanka Glos was born in Helsinki and graduated from the French High School in Prague. She emigrated to Canada in 1950, where she studied at Sir George William University and the Slavic Institute, Universite de Montreal, obtaining a M.A. in Slavic Studies and working at the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

In 1958 she began working at the United Nations in New York. Her next position was as librarian at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas (1966-79). She earned her M.L.S. in 1979 at George Peabody College in Nashville, Tennessee, specializing in literature and modern languages. She now lives in Washington, D.C., with her husband Jiri Glos, a lawyer. Both she and her husband are very active in SVU, having between them accepted the vital functions of Secretary General and Legal Consultant and Arbitrator.

ZEF

★ ★ ★

### **Frank J. Marlow -- Treasurer**

Frank J. Marlow, a proud son of Svetla nad Sazavou, was born on April 15, 1911. He has led an interesting and very full life. He studied law at Charles University in Prague, graduating in 1938. He escaped from the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia in October 1939 and was interned in Bratislava for illegal entry into the then autonomous Slovakia only to escape again through Hungary, Yugoslavia and Romania to Turkey. Trying to reach Palestine, he was captured by the British on a Turkish ship and interned for six months in Haifa. In 1941 he entered the Free Czechoslovak Army and saw action at Tobruk. In 1942 he was sent as an officer to England and served at Dunkirk (1944-45). He married Irene Levy in 1944 and in May 1945 they returned to Czechoslovakia. In October of the same year they left for Canada, in 1947 they immigrated to the United States, and since 1952 they have resided in California. They have one daughter, Zuzana, who is an attorney.

Mr. Marlow specializes in sales and production of copying and addressing machines. Since 1970 he has been president of Royal Leasing Corporation and a board member of Royal American Product Corporation. Now semi-retired, he has more time for his many cultural hobbies and social activities. He has been on the board of the Los Angeles SVU Chapter since 1970, holding the offices of Vice-President, Treasurer, and President. He has represented the local chapter on the National Board since 1976 and was elected as Treasurer of the Society for 1981 and 1982. He is also a prominent personality in other local Czechoslovak organizations.



