

# ZPRÁVY SVU

SPOLEČNOSTI PRO VĚDY A UMĚNÍ  
CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIETY OF  
ARTS AND SCIENCES, INC. ISSN

Volume XXXXI.

March-April 1999

No. 2

## **1999 SVU Minnesota Conference**

**Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, MN  
University of Minneapolis,  
Macalaster College and the University of Saint Thomas  
April 24-26, 1999**

### **Czech and Slovak America: Quo Vadis?**

*Annual Meeting and Conference  
of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU)  
on the Occasion of the Visit of President Vaclav Havel to the US*

Preparations are in full swing for this historic and pivotal event of the year. First a bit of information about logistics. The SVU Conference will be held as the first event of a larger integrated set of activities, on Saturday and Sunday at the University of Minnesota at the Minneapolis Campus. It will convene at the 2nd Floor Auditorium 2-470, Phillips-Wangesteen Building, University of Minnesota Medical School, 516 Delaware St. SE, near Days Inn where most attendees will be housed. The conference proceedings will lead directly into ceremonial activities at Macalaster College where President Havel will have a major address, followed by the President's visit with the Czech and Slovak American community.

Preliminary registrations are arriving and the block of reserved rooms is rapidly getting filled, so it is essential that those not yet registered make their reservations and complete the registration form immediately. Hotel accommodations should be made directly and will be available on first-come first-serve basis. Regarding accommodations (\$59.00 per room), contact Kirsten Helmers, Days Inn (612) 623-3999, before March 23, 1999.

The program is taking shape beyond expectations. It is hard to imagine another occasion which will be attended by so many distinguished personalities of the past, present and future, from both conti-

nents. To paraphrase Winston Churchill loosely, "never have so few organized so fast so much in such a short time under such greatest pressures and uncertainties".

Each of the three main goals will be reflected in the relevant panels. The first objective, to discuss issues dealing with historical and contemporary settlements of people from the Czech and Slovak Republics, has already confirmed a number of outstanding speakers, and others are pending. The regions covered include California (Marie P. Dolansky), Maryland (Eva Slezak), Michigan, Nebraska (Joe Vosoba), New York, Ohio (Lawrence Cerny), Oklahoma (Elaine Benda), Texas (Roger Kolar, Sharon Sargent), and others.

The panel dealing with the second theme, the preservation of cultural identity and heritage, will also have a number of distinguished speakers, such as Rudolph Vecoli (Immigrant Archives in Minnesota), Tracey Baker (Minnesota Historical Society), Joel Wurl (Immigrant Archives), Zdenek Hruban (University of Chicago Archives), David Muhlena (Iowa Archives), Vladimir Najdrovsky (Oklahoma Experience), and Jan Hird Pokorny (New York Experience). Other invited panel members are Father Esterka, Duncan Gardiner, Jan Vicar, and others.

The third objective, dealing with issues of future relationships between Czechs and Slovaks living in North America and in the Czech and Slovak Republics, will be very well represented by four panels. The first will be the "Presidential Symposium," entitled "Czech and Slovak Organizations in America Past and Present," will feature presidents of the most important Czech organizations in the America, including SVU, CSA, CNCA, Sokol, SPJST, AFCR, etc. Confirmed participants are Mila Rechcigl, Mojmir Povolny, Rev. Michael Rokos, Fred Kala, Milton Cerny, John Richard, Howard Leshikar, and John H. Pokorny. Several other confirmations are pending.

*President:*  
Miloslav Rechcigl, Jr.  
1703 Mark Lane  
Rockville, MD 20852  
tel. 301-881-7222  
fax 301-881-7222  
e-mail: rechcigl@aol.com

*Secretary General:*  
Eva Vaněk  
11214 Field Circle  
Spottsylvania, VA 22553  
tel. 540-972-2217  
fax 540-472-2256  
e-mail: geovanekmvx@webtv.net

*Treasurer:*  
Frank L. Mucha  
90 Briarcliff Rd.  
Tenafly, NJ 07670  
tel. 201-569-9659  
fax 212-740-5329  
fm11@columbia.edu



Zprávy SVU (SVU News), Editor Andrew Elias. 10713 Howerton Avenue, Fairfax, VA 22030. tel. (703) 273-8565. Date of issue: March-April 1999. Volume 41, No. 2. Issued bimonthly. Published by Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences, Inc.  
Office of Publication: Mrs. Zdenka Vozarik, 906 Potterton Circle S.W., Vienna, VA 22180-6413, tel. (703) 938-3064.  
Typography by Typrints Co., 26 Gruber Drive, Glen Cove, NY 11542.  
Periodical Postage Paid at Vienna, VA and additional mailing offices.  
Postmaster: Send address changes to ZPRÁVY SVU, Mrs. Z. Vozarik, 906 Potterton Circle S.W., Vienna, VA 22180-6413.

---

Lubomir Novotny from the Czech-North American Chamber of Commerce is organizing a prestigious "Business Forum" to which he is inviting top executives in industry and commerce, including Tomas Bata, Robert Koran (of the Bank Austria Creditanstalt), Frank Stronach (Chairman of Magna International), Petr Gandalovic (Czech Consul General NY), Karel Velan (President, Velan Engineering Companies) and Petr Chadraba (President of the Czech American Chamber of Commerce), etc.

Confirmed speakers for the third panel in this sequence, tentatively entitled "Relations with the Czech and Slovak Republics," are Dr. Otto Ulc (Disharmonious Relationships: Some Causes and Eventual Remedies), Jan Luknic (Honorary Consul of Slovakia for Minnesota) and Petr Zuna, Rector of the Technical University in Prague. We are awaiting confirmations from two members of the Czech Parliament, MUDr. Milan Spacek, Chair, Senate Committee on Czechs Abroad, and JUDr. Ing. Jiri Karas, Chair, same committee of the Parliament. Also invited are Martin Palous (Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs), Martin Butora, new Slovak Ambassador to the US, Jaromir Slapota, President of the Czechoslovak Foreign Institute, Pavel Pechacek, Director of Radio Free Europe, Prague, and the renown writer Josef Skvorecky.

The fourth panel will be devoted to communication between the two continents from journalistic, technical and communication perspectives. Confirmed speakers are Tomas Klvana (Prof. of Speech Communication, University of Maine), Eva Strizovska, editor-in-chief of *Cesky Dialog*, Jerry Machalek, publisher of Czech and Slovak Connection, Vera Kova-kovic, PhD candidate, specializing in inter-cultural communication, Vera Rollerova, editor-in-chief of *Novy Domov*, and Peter Bisek, publisher of *Americke Listy*. Also invited is Martin Stransky, publisher of *Nova Pritomnost*, Father Vojtech Vit, O.S.B., editor-in-chief of *Hlas Naroda*, and Ales Brezina, publisher of *Satellite*. We are seeking other speakers who can address the use of technology in communication, and of social psychology of image making.

The last panel being organized in this series will deal with "Human Rights in the Czech and Slovak Republics" and will relate most specifically to the major concern of President Havel which he will express in his major presentation on Monday, April 26, at Macalester College in St. Paul. Among the panelists are Stephen Feinstein, Director of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at the University of Minnesota, William Duna, Prof. of Music, University of St. Thomas, Ann Sutherland, Prof. of Anthropology, Macalester College, and Ann Marie Schultz, graduate student, HHHumphrey Institute of Public Affairs. Other panels, such as Student Panel, are contemplated.

---

As indicated, the SVU Conference is held in conjunction with the larger series of events associated with the visit of the President who will receive two honorary doctorates from Macalester College and the St. Thomas University. This event, which will be held in the morning on Monday, April 26, will feature his major speech (in English) on the topic of civil society.

The most significant event for the Czech and Slovak community will be held on the same day in the afternoon in the O'Shaunassy Auditorium of the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. This will be an occasion for the Czech and Slovak community to give the President their welcome, to show him how the Czech and Slovak traditions are maintained, and to strengthen their resolve to maintain their ties to the countries of their origin.

Other events are also planned. SVU members who wish to attend the Monday morning and afternoon programs must register for the SVU Conference. They will then be notified about receiving their tickets. Admission to Monday events will be free but, due to security considerations, special admission tickets will be issued specifically in the names of the bearers, and these tickets will not be transferable. The coordinating committee will soon send more specific instructions on how to obtain these tickets along with a tentative program for the SVU Conference and other events.

## SVU Directory

We apologize to our members for the delay in publishing the SVU Directory. The main reason for is the delinquency of our members to return their updated questionnaires. We simply cannot afford to publish an incomplete product containing outdated information. In several instances we have full professors listed as students. We are offering our membership one more opportunity to update their biographical entries. Send your information without delay to Eva Rechcigl, 1703 Mark Lane, Rockville, MD 20852.

Redaktor *Zpráv* ďakuje — i keď oneskorene — členom SVU, ktorí poslali redakcii novoročné pozdravy. Zvlášť ďakuje starému kamarátovi, akademickému maliarovi Zďenkovi Macků z Prahy, ktorého trojjazyčný, jemu charakteristický pozdrav je sám o sebe jednou z nesčíselných variácií jeho originálnej poeticko-umeleckej tvorby. Zďenek, pozor na Jitku!

DR. ANDREJ ELIÁŠ

---

**WE URGE YOU TO SEND YOUR REGISTRATION**  
**IMMEDIATELY TO ASSURE YOUR INCLUSION**  
**IN THE MAJOR EVENTS**

**PREREGISTRATION FORM\***

**SVU Conference, in Minnesota, April 24-26, 1999**

Send application with your check (\$20 for member, \$25 for non-member; spouses are free), payable to SVU, to Dr. Josef Mestenhauser, Dept. of Educational Policy and Administration, University of Minnesota, 330 Wulling Hall, Minneapolis, MN 55455, telephone (612) 624-8350, fax (612) 624-3377, e-mail: <j-mest@tc.umn.edu>.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

SVU Member:     YES         NO

Registration Fee:     \$20 SVU Member         \$25 Non-Member

Banquet \$25/person. No. of Persons: \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Proposed Talk: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Regular registration will be \$30.

---

**SVOLÁNÍ VALNÉ HROMADY SVU**

Předseda SVU Dr. Miloslav Rechcigl  
a generální tajemnice Eva Vaňková  
svolávají tímto

**Valnou hromadu SVU**

na sobotu 24. dubna 1999 o čtvrté hodině odpoledne  
na druhém poschodí v hale (Auditorium)  
Moose Health Sciences Tower  
University of Minnesota  
515 Delaware St., SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455

Podle stanov Společnosti (článek 10), svolává se valná hromada každý rok na určitou dobu a místo. Jestliže není v určenou dobu přítomno alespoň 100 voličích členů, je valná hromada odložena o jednu hodinu.

---

## SVU GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Dr. Miloslav Rechcigl, SVU President  
and Eva Vanek, Secretary General of SVU  
convoke

### **A Meeting of the General Assembly of SVU**

to be held on Saturday, April 24, 1999 at 4:00 p.m.  
2nd Floor Auditorium  
Moose Health Sciences Tower  
University of Minnesota  
515 Delaware St., SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455

According to the SVU Bylaws (Article 10), regular meetings of the General Assembly shall be called annually. In the event a sufficient number of members entitled to vote is not present (at least 100) at the time for which the meeting has been called, the general membership meeting will be held one hour later.

---

## **From the Executive Board**

The Executive Board had its regular meeting on January 30, 1999 at Rechcigl's home in Rockville, MD. In addition to Board members, most of whom were present, editors of SVU periodicals, and all persons involved in the printing and distribution were also invited. There were more than enough members present to form the quorum.

Because of pressing personal problems, J. P. Skalny had to submit his resignation. The Executive Board reluctantly accepted his resignation, expressing thanks for all the work he has done on behalf of the Society. In his place, the Board appointed, as the new Executive VP, Anton Novacky, Professor of Plant Pathology at the University of Missouri. Professor Novacky has had a long association with the Society, having held the position of Vice President in the past.

Most of the meeting was devoted to the upcoming **SVU Conference in Minnesota** and the planned SVU World Congress in the year 2000. The MN Conference will be held in Minneapolis, April 24-26, 1999, on the occasion of President Vaclav Havel's visit. As reported elsewhere, the overall theme will be "Czech and Slovak America: Quo Vadis?" Prof. Josef Mestenhauer of the University of Minnesota is the Conference coordinator.

Because of the enormous interest in various activities related to President Havel's visit, as well as other concurrent events in Minneapolis, hotel accommodations are getting scarce. For the SVU Conference participants the Society reserved a block of rooms at Day's Inn at reasonable prices. However, the number is limited. Pre-registrations are to be sent to

---

Prof. Mestenhauser as soon as possible to assure that the participants be included in major events.

The conference which will take place on Saturday, April 24 and Sunday, April 25 will lead to ceremonial activities at the Macalaster College where President Havel will make a major address, followed by activities in which Czech and Slovak local communities will participate.

Rechcigl informed the Executive Board about the tentative program of the Conference which he has been working on with Prof. Mestenhauser. One large section will be devoted to Czech and Slovak Heritage in America, consisting of papers on history and cultural contributions of Czech and Slovak immigrant groups in various parts of the country, including IL, MD, MN, NY, OK, TX, OK, Canada, and elsewhere. Additional participants are being sought, especially from California. Another panel relates to the Relations with the Czech and Slovak Republics. Assurances have been received from the CR about the participation of the representatives of the Czech parliament and the senate. It is hoped that high-ranking government representatives will also participate. Efforts are made to involve the new Slovak Ambassador in the US.

Another panel on Czech and Slovak Organizations in America will include respective presidents of these organizations. Business Forum on Trade with the Czech and Slovak Republics will be comprised of leading businessmen and experts in the US and Canada, and the representatives from the Czech and Slovak Republics. There will be a special panel on human rights for which additional participants are sought. Other panels that are being planned are: Journalist Panel, Student Panel, Panel on Czech-Slovak Relations, etc.

Preparations are also on the way for the **SVU World Congress** in the year 2000. As was previously announced, it will take place August 9-14, 2000 in Washington, D.C. The Washington, D.C. Chapter accepted the responsibility for local arrangements. VP Vera Borkovec will serve as coordinator. The newly appointed Executive VP Anton Novacky was entrusted with the Program coordination. The overall theme of the Congress will be "Civil Society and Democracy into the 21st Century." Milton Cerny will organize the respective program concerning various aspects of the central theme. Dr. Zdenek David of the Wilson Foundation for Scholars was asked to organize panels dealing with reformation, Moravian Brethren and church history, in cooperation with the Wesley Seminary in Washington, DC. Vera Borkovec assumed responsibility for theater and related fields. Dagmar Hasalova White will organize music sessions and will assist in planning various cultural and social events during the Congress. Additional people will be appointed as the work progresses.

Part of the meeting was devoted to the **SVU periodicals**. The Executive Board was generally pleased with the improvements that have been

---

made in *Zpravy SVU* and expressed their thanks and gratitude to Editor Andrew Elias, as well as to Petr Bisek who does the printing, and Zdenka and Maryna Vozarik who are responsible for distribution. With the newly established deadlines, it was felt that there shouldn't be any delays in publishing various news items in a timely fashion. During the discussion it was reemphasized that the postal regulations do not allow any advertising. Because of limited space, the Editor has to be selective and cannot publish everything members send him. Furthermore, he should not publish items relating to non-paying members. There is no space for book reviews or for publishing poems. Emphasis needs to be put on news items that are of interest to members. Short paragraphs about the work of members are encouraged, particularly with reference to their new books, works of art, appointment to new positions or prestigious advisory boards, and receipt of honors. Anything else is of lesser priority.

Discussion about *Kosmas* was necessarily limited due to the absence of the editors, and the fact that their reports were not received in time. Nevertheless, there was some discussion of the last issue of *Kosmas* which has just been published. There was a general feeling that the number of pages should be standardized, and kept at the level of earlier issues, i.e., around 160 pages. The greater number of pages unnecessarily increases the cost of publishing, with the concomitant increase in postage and extra cost of larger envelopes. Beyond that, the larger size also unnecessarily delays the publication schedule which is of great concern to the subscribers.

---

## **New Faces on SVU Executive Board**

**ANTON NOVACKY**, new SVU Executive Vice President, was born to the family of Slovak botanist Jan Martin Novacky. After high school he entered Komensky University in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia and graduated in 1956. He received his Ph.D. degree from the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Prague in 1965 and was appointed to the Institute of Experimental Phytopathology and Entomology, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Ivanka pri Dunaji.

Dr. Novacky's publications on aberrant enzyme activities in infected plants prompted an invitation in 1966 from the University of Kentucky to work with Drs. Wheeler and Hampton in their studies of plants under attack by fungi and viruses. Dr. Novacky returned to Czechoslovakia in 1967, but with the invasion of his homeland by the Soviet Union in August 1968, he and his family returned to the US. He rejoined the Plant Pathology Department at the University of Kentucky and in July 1969 Dr. Novacky joined the Department of Plant Pathology at the University



---

of Missouri as a postdoctoral fellow where he was appointed assistant professor in 1970, associate professor in 1974 and professor in 1982.

During his 29 years at the University of Missouri he concentrated his research on plant bacteriological problems. His research on the hypersensitive defense reaction revealed that this phenomenon could be expressed by one plant cell in response to a single bacterium. Seeking increasingly more sensitive procedures to monitor membrane perturbation he developed and introduced electrophysiological methods to measure transmembrane electropotentials in tissues and single cells of higher plants. With these techniques he investigated the effect of fungal host-selective toxins on host cell membranes and cellular alterations elicited by bacteria during the development of the hypersensitive reaction. Additional research and teaching activities have been focused on primary and secondary active transport in plants. Together with his students and research associates he has published numerous journal articles and chapters in books.

His research has earned him many invitations to international symposia and workshops. In 1983 he received the Alexander von Humboldt Senior US Scientist award from the Federal Republic of Germany. In 1986 he became a Fellow of American Phytopathological Society. In 1994 he was invited by the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science to spend three months at prominent Japanese Universities. In 1994 he published with his colleague Dr. R. N. Goodman, a monograph on the Hypersensitive Reaction of Plants, a Resistance Phenomenon. Dr. Novacky has kept close contact with his colleagues in Bratislava and following the Velvet Revolution in 1989 he was able to return to his Alma Mater, Komensky University on several occasions. He has encouraged several young scientists to join him in Columbia, Missouri. In 1993-94, as Fulbright Fellow he taught courses at Komensky university in plant physiology and physiology of plant disease resistance. On January 1, 1999, he became a Professor Emeritus.

Dr. Novacky has been associated with SVU for a long time and served as Vice President. He was also Program Chairman of one of the SVU World Congresses.

**MILTON CERNY** was born in Cicero Illinois of Czech parents who came from the Benesov area of Bohemia. He is a partner in the Washington, D.C. law firm of Caplin & Drysdale, where he specializes in tax exempt organizations and international philanthropy. Mr. Cerny co-chairs the American Bar Association Exempt Organizations Tax Committee on International Philanthropy. Through the U.S. Department of Treasury, and the Central and Eastern European Law Initiative of the American Bar Association, he assists governments of Central and Eastern

---

Europe in law reform. He worked with the Czech Finance Ministry in drafting the new law on nongovernmental organizations which was passed by the Parliament in September 1995.

He has authored over 100 articles regarding tax exempt organizations, and has spoken at many tax forums. Before joining Caplin & Drysdale in 1988, Mr. Cerny for nearly 30 years served in the United States Government and for many of those years directed the tax exempt organization section of the Internal Revenue Service. He received his education at American University (B.S. 1956) and the Washington College of Law (JD 1959). He serves on a number of Boards and organizations that promote Czech and United States relations. In that regard he is the President of the American Friends of the Czech Republic and the Vice President of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences. He also serves as a director of the American Friends of the Vaclav Havel Foundation. He also has worked on tax issues relating to the restitution of Czech properties.

**JOSEF MACHAC**, M.D. was born in Prerov, Czechoslovakia. His family lived in Olomouc, where Josef and his sister Millee grew up through elementary school. His father is an electrical engineer, and his mother was a physician. The family defected in 1964 during a trip through Austria, and after a brief, anxiety-laden stay in Vienna, immigrated to the United States. Schooling was resumed in Queens, New York City, where Josef completed Junior High School. The family then moved to the town of Bohemia, on Long Island, New York. They cleared a forest and built themselves a house (with the help of scores of Czech and Slovak expatriates).

Josef finished high school with high honors and went to study at Brown University, in Rhode Island, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biophysics, magna cum laude. Josef also studied Russian language and literature, in which context he met the notable linguists and SVU members Professors Kucera, Winner, and Dostal. He also helped found the Brown Fencing Club, which has since become a successful Varsity team. Josef stayed at Brown University to study medicine, and received his M.D. degree in 1978. He came to the Mount Sinai Hospital, in New York, for internship and residency in internal medicine. He continued at Mount Sinai for a residency in nuclear medicine, and then a fellowship in cardiology. In 1988, he became director of nuclear cardiology, and in 1992, director of nuclear medicine at Mount Sinai. Presently an associate professor, his work combines diagnostic imaging, research, teaching, administration, and clinical medicine, in the Department of Radiology and the Cardiovascular Institute. He has authored or co-authored numerous scientific papers and abstracts and several book

---

chapters and monographs. He has studied French, Russian, German, and most recently, Spanish, all of which he uses frequently. The Mount Sinai School of Medicine had on staff a number of Czech and Slovak expatriate professionals, and since 1990, is a frequent and welcome stopover for visiting Czech and Slovak physicians and medical students.

Josef's wife, Annette, was born in Sighet, Romania, trained in sociology, worked in marketing research, and today is a member of the Board of Education of the local school district. They and their two daughters, Tamara (14) and Nicole (10) live in Haworth, New Jersey. They are active members of the Unitarian-Universalist Church in Paramus, New Jersey. Josef is an avid life-long beekeeper, thanks to the late Rev. Frank Svoboda, and enjoys beer- and honey wine-making, and reading history.

Josef has been a member of SVU since 1978, has been active in the New York chapter, has attended all SVU world congresses since 1988, and helped organize the medical sections for the last three. Josef served as vice-president of SVU in 1994-1996 and was elected again in 1998.

---

## In Memoriam

**JAN HERMAN JIRASEK** (15 August 1926-December 24, 1998)

Dr. Jan Jirasek, a prominent SVU member and founder of the SVU chapter in Sydney, Australia died at his home on Bondi Beach this past Christmas Eve. We are extending our condolences to his family and re-printing for our readers excerpts from the eulogy given by Dr. Oliver Fiala on January 4, 1999.

Quoting the publisher of Jan Jirasek's personal chronicle entitled *From Bohemia to the End of the World*: "Jan was for the whole period of his exile in Australia an active Czech patriot. He supported Charter 77 and was in direct contact with its leadership. In his mind he never left Czechoslovakia, and he was one of the first . . . to fly back so that he could participate in the new events for which he had done so much."

The establishment of a Chapter of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences in Sydney in 1972 provided an important forum for fostering a range of both local and international initiatives relating to Czech and Slovak life and culture, Jan Jirasek, together with the unstinting assistance of Blanka, not only committed himself to the establishment and on-going viability of the Society, but constantly challenged its members to become involved in bigger picture issues. Over the 20 year period of the life of Sydney SVU, Jan served as Secretary, President and Coordinator. His contribution in each of these roles was outstanding.

He worked with all the Czech and Slovak organizations, with the Czech Radio broadcasts and as a correspondent for local and overseas

---

Czechoslovak newspapers and publishing organizations, informing about the situation in their homeland and the activities of the SVU in Sydney.

Of particular significance was Jan's influence, through his contacts in the theatre, in the production by the Nimrod Theatre in 1981 of three of Havel's one-act plays under the title "Protest." The associated and timely support of Amnesty International resulted both in promoting extensive awareness among Australians generally of Havel as a playwright, and also as a dissident, who at the time of the Nimrod theatre production was imprisoned for his on-going human rights activities.

Jan Jirasek was indeed a man of action. The greatest tributes we can pay to him are not only in our words of gratitude and praise, but by our renewed commitment to live and work for the ideals and principles he greatly valued. In particular, by our demonstration of a oneness of spirit and through our care, concern and compassion in meeting the needs of others. In this way we will ensure that Jan's spirit of dedication lives on and that his work to strive for a greater good will continue to have an impact far into the future.

*O. FIALA*

---

## Activities of SVU Members

**MILA REHCIGL**, SVU President, was a guest speaker at the Annual Meeting of the Czech and Slovak Association of Maryland, January 24, 1999. He spoke on the subject of "Vignettes from History of Czechs and Slovaks in Old Maryland. From Ancient Families of Bohemia Manor to St. John Nepomucene Neumann." His presentation, which was received with genuine interest, was followed with a spirited discussion how to preserve the memories and old treasures of Maryland pioneers.



**EVA STANOVSKA JONAS**, Librarian of the Museum of Comparative Zoology since 1978, announced that she will retire in 1999 from Harvard University where she worked for thirty years.

Born in Prague and educated there at the English Grammar School, she was denied a higher education as her family was persecuted by the Communists and her father sentenced to imprisonment in one of the "stage trials of the fifties." Dismissed from her job at the CTK, she later became Librarian of the Institute of Entomology of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. In 1963, she was finally accepted to Charles University's Biological Faculty while working and raising a family. In 1968 she completed her studies and submitted her thesis. She left the country after the Soviet invasion never receiving a degree.

She came to Harvard in 1969, worked as laboratory assistant, was admitted to Graduate School in the Department of Biology, became a Bunting Fellow, worked as research and teaching assistant, and received

---

an A.M. degree in 1972 in Developmental and Cellular Biology. In 1973 she was appointed Reference Librarian in the new Cabot Science Library. In 1978 she was appointed Librarian of the Museum of Comparative Zoology. Since then Eva has overseen the modernization of the Library with extraordinary vision, dedication and resourcefulness. Under her leadership the physical space was transformed to enhance security and provide contemporary library user services. Today this library is clearly recognized as one of the world's premier natural history libraries.

In 1989-90 she served as Acting Master of one of the Harvard residential Houses, a position held by a librarian only once 40 years earlier.

In 1992 Charles University awarded her a doctorate, withheld in 1968. She was a founding member and served as Co-chair of the Committee to Establish a Chair in Czech and Slovak Studies at Harvard. The Committee successfully solicited support and commitment from friends of Czech and Slovak culture including president Vaclav Havel, for whom she co-hosted a dinner, during the Commencement 1995, when he came to Harvard as main speaker and was awarded an Honorary degree.



Dne 11. prosince 1998 vysílal Český rozhlas (Vltava) v Praze půlhodinový program zhudebněných básní **PROF. MICHALA FLACHA** z jeho knihy *Ohlédnutí z velké dálky*. Skladatel byl Daniel Dobiáš, který spolu s recitátorkou-chansonierkou Táňou Fišerovou, recitačně zpívali vybrané básně.

Pro 13. listopad 1998 prof. Flach připravil a zorganizoval pro kulturní oddělení Slovenského vyslanectví *Večer slovenské poezie* ve Washingtonském Sumner Muzeu. Poezie byla čtena osmi recitátory, kteří básně četli slovensky a anglicky. Většina překladů do angličtiny byla dílem prof. Flacha.



**PROF. DR. ANTONÍN MĚŠŤAN** redigoval časopis *Germanoslavica*, do něhož také často přispíval. Dále vystupoval pravidelně v rozhlasové stanici Svobodná Evropa, občas rovněž v Českém rozhlase, České televizi a Deutsche Welle. Pro *Lidové noviny* psal téměř pravidelně sloupky pro Jazykové zákampí, dále uveřejňoval příspěvky v časopisech *Prostor*, *Mezinárodní politika*, *Mezinárodní vztahy*, *Slavia*, *Slovenský přehled*, *Slovanské historické studie*, *Opera slavica*, *Práce z dějin slavistiky*, *Čeština doma a ve světě*. Dále příspěvky ve sbornících a časopisech v ČR, Polsku, Rakousku a Německu. Zúčastnil se 12 mezinárodních konferencí v různých zemích a přednesl na nich referáty. V červnu 1998 byl vyznamenán Medailí Pro arte německé Kunstlergilde. Byl zvolen místopředsedou Čs. ústavu zahraničního v Praze a jmenován členem grémia externích poradců ministra zahraničních věcí ČR. Je členem prezidia exilového PEN klubu a členem českého PEN klubu a Obce spisovatelů, dále

exilového PEN klubu a členem českého PEN klubu a Obce spisovatelů, dále Collegia Carolina v Mnichově, Německo-polského ústavu v Darmstadtu, Evropské akademie věd a umění, Slovanského ústavu AV ČR v Praze, Společnosti F. Werfla ve Vídni, Společnosti J. Dobrovského v Drážďanech, Českého komitétu slavistů, Evropského domu v Praze, Literárně vědné společnosti, Svazu vysokoškolských profesorů slavistiky v Německu, místopředsdou Společnosti B. Němcové v Praze.

Je členem vědeckých rad na Západočeské univerzitě v Plzni a na Vysoké škole pedagogické v Hradci Králové. Po emeritování je examínátorem na německé univerzitě ve Freiburgu.

### U p o z o r n e n í e

Uzávierka nasledujúceho čísla *Zpráv* (máj-jún) je 7. apríla 1999.

## From New SVU Rolls

**RAPHAEL F. MILLER**, Associate Professor and Director of Theatre, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA. He is a native of Canton, OH and holds degrees: B.S. in Education (1971) from Kent State University, and M.S. in Dance (1977) and Ph.D. in Theatre (1984) from University of Oregon. He was also trained as a mime with David Alberts and toured with the Toronto Mime Ensemble. He directed and choreographed numerous plays, including *Lies and Legend* (1990), *Little Shop of Horrors* (1988), *Grease* (1987), *Godspell* (1986), *Joseph and the Amazing Technical Dreamcoat* (1985), *Annie Get Your Gun* (1982), *The survival of St. Joan* (1975), *Fiddler on the Roof* (1974), etc, in addition to directing and choreographing numerous performances in educational theatre. His credits also include concert dance choreography, as well as acting, reciting and other public performances. Recipient of numerous honors and awards.

**GEORGE FRANK VOTRUBA**, Professor of Mathematical Sciences, University of Montana, Missoula, MT. He is a native of Chicago and holds B.S. (1956) and M.S. (1957) degrees in Mathematics from the University of Illinois, and Ph.D. from University of Michigan. His expertise is in functional analysis.

**HERMAN DAVID LEVY**, Legal Editor, Falls Church, VA and recent retiree from US Government. He was born in Washington, DC and obtained his education from Columbia College (B.A. 1957), and Yale Law School (LL.B. 1960). He is a specialist on public contract law. He is

---

Associate Editor of Public Law Journal and was Vice Chair of Coordinating Committee of the American Bar Association Section of Public Contract Law.

**MARY FRANCES (KAREL) BRESSER**, Elementary School Counselor, Fairfax County Public School, VA. She is a Chicago native and holds degrees from University of Illinois (B.A. in English 1969) and Troy State University (M.S. in Counseling and Guidance 1977). She is pursuing additional studies at Johns Hopkins and George Mason Universities.

**JOHN GEORGE HOŘÁK**, Commodore, Miami Sailing Club, FL. He is a native of Coconut Grove, FL and has degrees from Bellas Artes, Buenos Aires (Fine Arts 1958), Universidad de Buenos Aires (Architecture 1958), and Florida International University (Visual Arts 1998). He is an accomplished artist whose works have been exhibited in various shows in the US and abroad.

**JOHN P. KOMAREK**, Veterinarian, Owner of business, Lonsdale, MN. A native of New Prague, MN. Holds B.S. (1956) and D.V.M (1958) degrees from the University of Minnesota. Has interest in the field of ecology and public health. For a number of years he served on the MN Waterfowl Association. Recipient of conservation awards.

**SYLVIA CADA AUTON**, Directory of Training in Fairfax County Schools. A native of Chicago. Received her B.S. (1962) and M.A.T. (1964) degrees from the University of Chicago, and Ph.D. (1978) from the University of Maryland.

**JAKUB TOLAR**, Resident Physician at the Department of Pediatrics, University of Minnesota Medical School. He is a native of Prague, Czechoslovakia and obtained his medical degree cum laude from Charles University in 1990. In the subsequent two years he held the position at the University of Assistant Professor in the Department of Anatomy. During 1992-1996 he studied molecular, cellular and development biology and genetics at the University of Minnesota which awarded him his PhD. in 1996.

**VLADIMIR NAJDROVSKY**, Self-employed Artist, Oklahoma City, OK. A native of Prague, Czechoslovakia. A graduate of Střední škola keramická in Karlovy Vary (1951) and Vysoká škola umělecko-průmyslová in Prague (1955). Specializes in commercial and fine art. One man shows across the US. Winner of first place in a recent show at La Puente, CA.

**ROGER J. KOLAR**, Partner, Cotera, Kolar & Negrete Architects, Austin, TX. He was born in San Diego, CA and holds B.A. (1966) from Southern Methodist University, and B.Arc. (1972) and M.Arc. (1989) from University of Texas at Austin. He interests are architecture and

---

history of architecture. He is a past chairman of Czech Educational Foundation of Texas. For his master's thesis he chose Czech secession architecture, 1897-1918.

**BRIGITA MARTHA KROMPHOLZ**, Prof. of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine (Ret.), University of Maryland, School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD. A native of Nalkovna, Slovakia and a graduate of Charles University in Prague (MUDr. 1957). After coming to the US, received M.P.H. degree from Johns Hopkins University, School of Public Health (1957). A specialist in epidemiology, gerontology and public health.

**MICHAEL ERIK KROMPHOLZ**, Engineer (Ret.), Towson, MD. A native of Vienna, Austria and graduate of České vysoké učení technické in Prague (Ing. 1957). A specialist in project engineering and facilities engineering.

**PEGGY STOLBA TUTEN**, Librarian Manager, National Imagery and Mapping Agency, Bethesda, MD. A native of Mahanomen, MN. Received her B.A. in Education (1975) from the University of Maryland and M.Ln (1976) from Emory University. Specializes in library management.

**JOSEPH JOHN HOŘÁK**, Private Practitioner, East Grand Rapids, MI. He is a native of St. John, MI and holds the following degrees: B.A. (1983) from University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, M.I.S. (1985) from St. John's Provincial Seminary and M.S.W. (1986) from Wayne State University. Currently, he is pursuing his graduate studies towards Ph.D at Western Michigan University. In his practice he provides individual, marital, family and group therapy.

**EVA POLITZER SHRONTZ**, Regional Nutrition Director, Coran Healthcare, Mendota Heights, MN. She is a native of Štúrovo, Slovakia. She is a registered nurse and holds B.S. in Nutrition (1978) from Georgia State University and M.M.Sc. in Nutrition from Emory University (1986). She specializes in home care, nutrition in critically hospitalized patients, intravenous and tube feeding. Prior to her current position, she was Associate Director of Nutrition Support Service at the University of Minnesota. She has held numerous offices in several organizations, including American Dietetic Association and American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition. She is a frequent speaker and has an outstanding publication record, in addition to serving in various editorial capacities.



---

# Z ČINNOSTI SKUPÍN

## The Central Texas Chapter of SVU:

The new Central Texas chapter of SVU (organized in November 1997) met twice in 1998. The first meeting was held in a restaurant near Georgetown, Texas, on April 18. A special guest at the meeting was Joseph N. Rostinsky, professor of European Civilization Studies at the University of Tokai in Tokyo, who has published various articles on Czech, German, and Russian semiotics, and who recently helped to establish the department of Japanese at Masaryk University in Brno. Also attending was Roger Kolar, an Austin architect with a history of activity in Czech-American organizations, especially the Czech Educational Foundation of Texas, of which he is a former Chairman of the Board of Directors.

A native Moravian, Prof. Rostinsky has a special interest in the Moravian identity of the majority of Czech immigrants who came to Texas in the mid-to-late nineteenth century and early twentieth century. He is also interested in the way that Moravia and Moravians have been depicted in Czech fiction and cinema of the period 1948-1989. Members of the chapter engaged Josef in a long and lovely discussion which covered both topics.

A second meeting was held at the home of Clint Machann in College Station on the evening October 17. Zora Bravenec, who is an instructor of English as a Second Language at Texas A&M University, brought several of her students (international graduate

students at the university) as guests. After a short business meeting, there was a general discussion on the topic „The Birth of Czechoslovakia.“ Clint, who participated in the seminar by that name which was held on October 8 at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., reported on what he had learned there, and other members, in particular Zora Bravenec, added their own insights into the historical origins of Czechoslovakia.

Two projects in 1999 are of special interest to members of the Central Texas chapter. First, Clint Machann has edited a book manuscript entitled *Czech-Americans in Transition* that is based on the SVU conference in July 1997 that was held in Belton, Texas, in conjunction with the centennial celebration of the SPJST (Slovenská Podporující Jednota Státu Texas). The book will be published by Eakin Press in the spring or early summer.

Second, the Czech Fellowship endowed by the CEFT (Czech Educational Foundation of Texas) at Texas A&M University, will be activated in the fall, when a graduate student nominated by the Department of English and American Studies at Masaryk University in Brno will begin study at Texas A&M and teach community-based classes in Czech.

Officers for 1999 remain as follows: Clint Machann (President), David Z. Chroust (Vice-President), James W. Mendl (Secretary), Lorence Bravenec (Treasurer), and Zora Bravenec (nábor členů). CLINT MACHANN

## SVU skupina Chicago:

Chicagská skupina SVU ukončila opět velmi zajímavý a činný rok s výběrem různorodých, hodnotných přednášek a programů pro své členy a přátele, za vedení těchto funkcionářů: předsedkyně Jana Tuzar, místopředseda Anthony Jandáček, pokladní Josef Pavelčík (nyní nahrazený paní Vladimírou Williams), jednatelka Věra Roknič. Členové výboru: Dr. Zdeněk Hruban, Dr. Vladimír Holeček, Dr. Mojmír Viktorín, paní Eva Folke a paní Marcela Švehlík.

Během roku 1998 byly následující programy:

Únor: *Recent Legal Developments in the Czech Republic.* Presented by attorney Michael P. Seng, Professor of Law — The J. Marshall Law School.

Březen 20: *Healthy Eating.* Lecture by certified dietitian Mrs. Ruth Holecek, M.S.R.D.L.D. with hand-outs and question-and-answer period.

Březen 22: *Radoslav Kvapil*, světoznámý klavírní umělec se představil svým koncertem z české klavírní tvorby Bedřicha Smetany, Antonína Dvořáka, Zdeňka Fibicha a K. B. Jiráka.

Duben: *Kaleidoskop exilové poesie* byl název kulturního pořadu známých i méně známých ukázek tvorby exilových básníků, žijících i zesnulých. Pořad připravily a básně recitovaly členky výboru SVU Věra Rokničová a Vladimíra Williams, flétnový doprovod DOT, jako host.

Květen: This meeting was dedicated to the 650th anniversary of founding of the Charles University (in 1348). Historical events were highlighted and Karel IV, the Czech King and Roman Emperor was remembered for his

founding of Prague University with faculties of Philosophy (Arts), Theology, Medicine and Law.

Září: *Johannes Kepler* — jeho život a vědecké práce byl námět přednášky profesora Dr. Josefa Podzimka, University of Rolla, MO.

Říjen: *Egypt and the River Nile.* Color video and personal impressions of this visit to Egypt presented and narrated by Ing. Václav Kureš.

Listopad: *Chicago Lawyers — Czech Law Connection* presented by attorney Joseph F. Vosicky, Jr. past president of the Bohemian Lawyers Association of Chicago.

Prosinec: While no meeting was held, several members attended Christmas parties sponsored by several local organizations.

The meetings are hold every 3rd Friday of the month at 7:30 pm at the United Moravian Societies Clubhouse, 2140 S. Wesley Ave., Berwyn, IL 60402. The programs are presented in English and/or Czech with average attendance of 25 guests.

VERA ROKNIC, Secretary

## SVU skupina Albany, NY:

20. října 1998 se členové albanské sekce SVU sešli v domě paní předsedkyně za účelem zhodnocení událostí a poselství sjezdu SVU v Bratislavě v červenci 1998. Členové, kteří se letního bratislavského kongresu nezúčastnili, měli možnost shlédnout video záznam z průběhu sjezdu, jakož i soubor fotografií, kopie přednášek a referátů a vyslechnout ústní podání těch, kteří v Bratislavě místní skupinu reprezentovali.

Všichni jsme se shodli na tom, že to

---

byl sjezd pozoruhodný a významný svou dimenzí lidské vstřícnosti a akutního vědomí potřeby dobra, lásky, mravnosti a lidskosti jako kamenů dláždících cestu ke smyslu lidského života, kamenů neoddelitelných od všeho smysluplného lidského citění. Výzva k etičnosti a svědomí se neobjevila tedy jen v referátech teologických a filosofických, kde ji lze očekávat, ale jako všudypřítomná melodie zazněla v příspěvcích ze všech oborů. Bylo navozeno ono hluboce pocíťované souznění mezi lidmi, k němuž dojde jen tehdy, když se sejdem na bázi touhy, ale i odhodlání činit dobré a být

ohleduplní nejen jeden k druhému, ale i k tomu, co teprve přijde a co už nebude naší žitou realitou. A jak už tomu bývá ve chvílích absence sobectví, přichází k lidem radost a naděje.

To byla v kostce nálada bratislavského sjezdu a takto jsme se ji snažili popisem a živým záznamem předat členům místní skupiny.

Setkání se zúčastnily i naše dvě nové členky amerického původu, které měly možnost se osobně seznámit s členy albanské SVU a vyměnit si některé zkušenosti a dojmy z dosavadního členství. *LIBUŠE BURJETKA*

---

## JUBILEA

### Dr. Karel Polesný — devadesátník

Začátkem prosince jsme za účasti členů i nečlenů SVU oslavili významné jubileum dlouholetého člena a jednoho z původních předsedů albanské skupiny SVU, **dr. Karla Polesného**. V malebné krajíně rozlehlých návrší, oble se vlnících kopců a seversky střídmych lesů, v altamontském domově jubilanta, který 2. 12. 1998 oslavil své devadesátiny, sešli se Češi, Slováci a Moraváci ze všech koutů severovýchodního cípu USA, aby tomuto nevšednímu člověku popřáli ze srdce hodně zdraví a duševní svěžesti a aby mu vyjádřili svůj vděk za dlouhá léta pěstování lidské vzájemnosti a přátelství.

Kolikrát každý z gratulantů za posledních 25 let přijížděl stoupající silničkou, protínající rozmáchlou krajinu, která svou samozřejmou velkorysostí podivně přesně předkreslovala obyvatele domu. Ano, právě tam se manželé Polesní před lety rozhlíželi po pasekách a lesních zákoutích a rozhodli se, že jejich nový domov zapustí kořeny právě tam. Po léta se pod střechu jejich pohostinného a osvětleného domova sjížděla široká česká obec. Karel a Alena Polesní zaplnili své dny nejen svou lékařskou profesí a veškerým úsilím, které vyžaduje život emigrantů v nové zemi, nýbrž i každodenním, soustavným a neúnavným pěstováním a udržováním české kultury, tradic, starých mýtů, pověstí o nich a lásce k nim. A tak čeští přistěhovalci a jejich děti mohli vnímat Karla Polesného jako laskavého lékaře, jako milovníka a skromného interpreta české hudby, jako pamětníka založení samostatného Československa a milovníka historie, člověka zcestovalého a vnímavého, vášnivého houbaře, ochránce přírody, který na altamontských pasekách vysázel několik tisíc smrků a borovic,

---

nebo třeba jako krásného, autentického Mikuláše pro radost českých i amerických dětí, a v neposlední řadě jako člověka milujícího život v celé jeho rozmanitosti, tíže a kráse Božího daru.

Jménem celé albanské skupiny SVU chci tímto dr. Karlu Polesnému popřát ještě jednou pevné zdraví, veselou mysl a náplň dobra, míru a lásky, které tak štědře rozdával svým bližním.

*LIBUŠE BURJETKA, předsedkyně MS SVU*



*Dr. Karel Polesný doma v Altamontu, NY, v den oslavy 90. narozenin.*

---

## **Z nových knih**

### **GENESE ČESKOSLOVENSKA**

Nakladatelství Panevropa, Praha, publikovalo knihu prof. dr. Josefa Kalvody, **Genese Československa** (1998, 607 stran, poznámky, bibliografie, rejstřík, 16 stran fotografických příloh). Je to překlad knihy *The Genesis of Czechoslovakia* (East European Monographs, Columbia University Press, 1986) s menšími změnami a dodatky.

### **EMIGRANTI**

Dopisy politických uprchlíků z prvních let po „vítězném únoru 1948“. Autor Bořivoj Čelovský, vyšlo v nakladatelství Tilia v Šenově, 1998, 398 stran.

Půl století nám chyběla kniha o uprchlících z let 1948. Konečně ji máme. Základem knihy je tři sta dopisů politických uprchlíků z let 1948-1952. Většina jich jsou vybrány z korespondence poslance národně socialistické strany Oty Hory a řady lidí, kteří se na něj obraceli s prosbou o pomoc zlepšit tvrdý a nudný

život v táborech a o pomoc v emigračním řízení. Dopisy působí bezprostředně. Nutí nás, abychom se do situace pisatelů vžili.

První kapitola líčí útěk poslance Hory. Otřesný je popis, jak byl při výsleších mučen Eda Hauptman. V druhé kapitole popisuje Horova žena svůj útěk s tříletým Otíčkem ve skupině sedmnácti studentů a důstojníků. Organizátorem útěku byl profesor A. Toufar. Terénem je vedli Pepa Kraus a Luděk Kořínek. Kraus a Kořínek se vrátili do Čech, aby převedli ministry Šrámka a Halu. Byli však zatčeni. V knize je celá obžaloba státní prokuratury proti dvaceti obžalovaným. Pepa byl odsouzen na 18 let. Na konci knihy najdete Krausův popis svého odvážného útěku z jáchymovských uranových dolů.

Další kapitola líčí denní život uprchlíků v táborech, jejich strádání, nejistotu a problémy s emigrací. Dále je tu líčen život prominentů ve „zlaté kleci“ Alaska house ve Frankfurtu a život uprchlíků mimo tábory. Pátá kapitola se zabývá politickou činností uprchlíků v táborech.

Druhý díl je věnován studentům v exilu a Masarykově koleji v Arsenalkaserne v Ludwigsburgu. Je zde popsán život exulantů v Londýně, akce tisíc víz do Kanady, začátky Rady svobodného Československa a Radia Free Europe. Dojemné jsou vzpomínky na mladého studenta Mílu Choce, který byl popraven.

Velmi nápomocné jsou poznámky pod čarou udávající životní data a činnost zmíněných osob. Index uvádí téměř tisíc jmen. Kniha obsahuje přes třicet fotografií a mapy umístění táborů v Německu a Itálii.

Mnozí z Vás byli svědky událostí, o nichž se autor zmiňuje. Jistě znáte další podrobnosti nebo máte jiné vzpomínky a doklady. Kéž Vás tato kniha inspiruje, abyste své paměti napsali.

Knihu je možno objednat u Nakladatelství Tilia, Lípová č. 856, 739 34 Šenov u Ostravy, Česká republika nebo u Literacy Pragensis, 303 Queenston Street, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada. Cenu knihy s poštovním odhadují na US\$ 16.

ZDENĚK HRUBAN



VGM Publishers published two updated studies by Dr. Michael Sumichrast, „**Opportunities in Building Construction Trades**“ (originally published in 1985) and „**Opportunities in Financial Careers**“ (originally published in 1997.)

In addition, Sumichrast's autobiography published in Slovak language in 1996, titled „Z útlaku k slobode a prosperity v Amerike“ (see its review in *Zpravy* #5, 1996, pp. 18-21) is currently in print in English under the title „**Rebirth of Freedom**“.



Po dlouhou řadu desetiletí v Praze vycházející časopis *Praktický lékař* otiskl ve svém desátém čísle z října 1998 práci washingtonského psychiatra George O. Křížka, M.D., nazvanou **Latina — rádkyně a ochránkyně lékařů**. Dr. Křížek se zde zamýšlí a téměř pláče nad katastrofálním, celosvětovým úpadkem znalosti i výuky latině a neblahým důsledkem této skutečnosti na výuku lékařů všude na zeměkouli.

Z důvodů, které se Dr. Křížek snaží psychiatricky analyzovat, nastal pokles výuky latiny i v USA, a to asi o 30 let dříve než k tomu došlo v Československu. V USA začala být na školách latina zanedbávána asi od konce I. světové války, kdežto v Československu, kde byla znalost latiny vysoká díky dobré klasické tradici rakouského školství, nastal pogrom na latinu s příchodem komunistické diktatury po roce 1948, kdy byla výuka latiny asi během dalších 5 let zlikvidována, a to hlavně v rámci boje proti inteligenci. (Dnes již málokdo ví, že pod patronací ministra školství Zdeňka Nejedlého byl v r. 1949 jen v Praze počet gymnásií náhle zmenšen na dvě třetiny původního počtu!! — profesori latiny šli učit zpěv a kreslení na měšťanky).

Dnes je tendence náležitou výuku latiny v České republice obnovit, ale není z čeho začít. Chybějí učitelé, chybějí knihy. Není člověka mladšího šedesáti let, který by uměl latinsky. Studenti medicíny se teprve po vstupu na university začínají učit základům latiny, a to je pozdě.

Je povzbudivé, že ze všech koutů staré vlasti Dr. Křížek dostává pozitivní komentáře ke svému článku, vzniklému na opačném břehu Atlantiku.



## SPOLEČNOST PRO VĚDY A UMĚNÍ STUDENTSKÉ CENY PRO ROK 1999 CENA DR. JOSEFA HAŠKA

Společnost pro vědy a umění (SVU) oznamuje svou studentskou soutěž pro rok 1999. Jména výherců budou oznámena ve *Zprávách SVU* a čestné diplomy budou předány.

Hlavním účelem soutěže je podnitit a podpořit vědecký zájem zahraničních univerzitních studentů o české a slovenské záležitosti. Odměněny budou nejlepší seminární práce (jedna „undergraduate“ a jedna „graduate“), týkající se nějakého aspektu českých a (nebo) slovenských dějin, politiky či kultury. Výherci obdrží cenu dr. Josefa Haška ve výši \$200, čestný diplom, jednorozční studentské členství v SVU a jednorozční předplatné *Zpráv SVU*.

Podmínky soutěže jsou následující:

- 1) Seminární práce musí být podána univerzitním profesorem, pro jehož kurs či seminář byla napsána a má být provázána jeho dobrozdáním.
- 2) Práce musí být napsána v akademickém roce 1998-1999. Diplomová práce, kapitoly thezí nebo dizertací nejsou přípustné.
- 3) Soutěžní práce musí komise obdržet nejpozději 1. června 1999.
- 4) Práce musí být zaslána v triplicátu na adresu předsedkyně komise: Prof. Věra Bořkovec, 12013 Kemp Mill Road, Silver Spring, MD 20902. Musí být napsána na stroji, ob řádku a může být psána česky, slovensky, anglicky, francouzsky nebo německy.
- 5) Členy komise, která hodnotí kvalitu obdržených prací, jsou: Prof. Josef Anderle (University of North Carolina), Prof. Věra Bořkovec (American University) a Prof. Ivo Feierabend (San Diego State University).
- 6) Rukopisy se nevracejí.

### **Slovo — a new periodical**

At the request of the Theological Faculty of Komenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia a new publication was conceived. Even before it was born faculties in the Czech Republic, Poland and Russia jumped on the band wagon. The premiere issue came out in the fall of 1998. Although dedicated to theological articles it also is open to Slavic culture, history, language and literature.

The initial articles include: „Is Life Permanently Self-Sustaining? The Principle of the Logos in Creation“ by Igor Kišš, Dean of the Bratislava seminary; „Človek potrebujúci pomoc“ (in Slovak with the English summary: „A Person in Need of Help“) by Karol Gabriš, dean emeritus; „An Exegesis of Exodus 12:1-12“ by Juraj Bándy, professor of Old Testament; „Church Architecture in the Great Moravian Period“ by Thomas Drobena.

While supplies last, your sample copy of *Slovo* („The Word“) is available for the \$5.00 cost of shipping and handling. Include payment along with your request to: Slovo, P.O. Box 1003, Torrington, CT 06790.

### **Veľkolepá výstava súčasného slovenského výtvarníctva**

Vo štvrtok, 17. decembra 1998, Medzinárodný menový fond (MMF) vo Washingtone za účasti asi 300 návštevníkov po prvý raz sprístupnili svoju novú umeleckú galériu touto výstavou. Táto česť jej pripadla ako víťazovi súťaže medzi umeleckými kolekciami viacerých tunajších veľvyslanectiev. V predošlej, menšej výstavnej galérii, MMF už pred dvoma rokmi, od 3. októbra 1995, poriadal výstavu súčasnej slovenskej grafiky. Zoznam terajšej výstavy obsahuje 42 väčších malieb 30 výtvarníkov. Najvýznamnejším z nich je nebohý Vincent Hložník (nar. 1919), pozoruhodný svojimi humanistickými dielami odsudzujúcimi násilie. 27 výtvarníkov je zastúpených 50 dielami „na papieri“. Okrem V. Hložníka najpozoruhodnejším z nich je Albín Brunovský (nar. 1935) svojou dômyselnou technikou fantasticko-realistického miniatúrneho leptu.

Zvlášť treba vyzdvihnúť dielo Kolomana Sokola (nar. 1902), zakladateľa modernej slovenskej grafiky, ktorý dosiahol medzinárodnú úroveň a ocenenie. Od r. 1937 do r. 1941 bol profesorom grafických techník v Mexico City, kde vychoval veľa nasledovateľov. Po pobyte v New Yorku od r. 1942 do r. 1946 a po dvoch rokoch na rodnom Slovensku sa r. 1948 vrátil do USA. Po viacerých rokoch v Pensylvánii žije teraz ako 96 ročný v Arizóne. Stredobodom jeho expresionistickej grafiky je trpiace ľudstvo.

Tu vystavené práce nepokračujú ani vo vlasteneckej portrétistike spred I. svetovej vojny, ani vo folklórnej krajinomalbe a figurálnej malbe obdobia po I. svetovej vojne, a samozrejme ani v socialistickom realizme komunistického obdobia. Naplno sa vyžívajú v tvorivej voľnosti a bez obmedzenia hovejú svojej bujnej predstavivosti. Rozkladajú skutočnosť do najmenších podrobností a križia ich s výtvormi svojej bujnej fantázie.

Výtvarné umenie siaha na Slovensku prinajmenej do predrománskeho

---

obdobia, keď sa tam vyskytli nástenné mal'by v kultových stavbách. Jakub Bogdan (nar. asi r. 1660 v Prešove) sa dostal až do Anglicka, kde sa po r. 1694 stal dvorným portrétistom kral'ovskej rodiny a šľachty obdobia kral'ovania Williama III. a Márie II. (1699-1702). Zomrel tam r. 1724. Portrétista Ján Kupecký (nar. 1687 v Pezinku) sa zas dostal do Nemecka a r. 1740 zomrel v Norimberku.

Náhodná nemecká návštevníčka ohodnotila výstavu ako „wunderbar“ (znamenitú). Potrvá do 29. januára 1999.

JÁN ŠIMKO

---

*from Apocryphal Tales*

“You are a strange people,” said Pontius Pilate, “and you talk a great deal. You have all sorts of pharisees, prophets, saviors and other sectarians. Each of you makes his own truth and forbids all other truths. As if a carpenter who makes a new chair were to forbid people sitting on any other chair that someone else had made before him. As if the making of a new chair canceled out all the old chairs. It's entirely possible that the new chair is better, more beautiful, and more comfortable than the others, but why in heaven's name shouldn't a tired man be able to sit on whatever wretched, worm-eaten, or rock-hard chair he likes? He's tired and worn, he badly needs a rest, and here you drag him forcibly out of the seat into which he's dropped and make him move over to yours. I don't understand you, Joseph.”

“Truth,” objected Joseph of Arimathea, “is not like a chair or a moment of repose; rather, it is like a command which says: Go here and there, do this and that; destroy the enemy, conquer the city, punish treachery and so on. Whoever disobeys such a command is a traitor and an enemy. So it is with truth.”

“Ah, Joseph,” said Pilate, “you know very well that I am a soldier and have lived the greater part of my life among soldiers. I have always obeyed orders, but not because of their truth. The truth was that I was tired or thirsty, that I was homesick for my mother or longed for glory, that this soldier was thinking about his wife and the other about his fields or team of oxen. The truth was that if there had been no command, none of these soldiers would have gone on to kill other people as tired and unhappy as themselves. Then what is truth? I believe that we hold at least a little of the truth if we think of the soldiers and not of the command.”



KAREL ČAPEK

---

**SVU NEWS (ISSN 0036-2050)**  
906 Potterton Circle  
Vienna, VA 22180

**Return Postage guaranteed.**  
Periodical postage paid at Vienna, V.A.  
and at additional mailing offices.