

Echoes from 2006 SVU World Congress

Comments by Zdenka Pospisil, New Haven CT:

Dear Milo and Eva,

Finally I am back home. Leo is now in the Alps and I am struggling with the heat and chores. That's just for explanation why so late an answer to your letter to all participants. I wish to congratulate both of you to a job well done. I already said that in Ceske Budejovice, but want to repeat it again because it went most of the time without a hitch and it was great fun to be there and to participate. I have not been to other events in Czech Republic, so I cant compare with previous events there, but I have been to many events in US and, as you well know, I participated and organized sessions several times. So I know how much work and effort, pleading and organizing it takes to get people to do what they are supposed to do. I am full of admiration and respect for all the work and time you must have put into this event. I also must praise all the university organizers, the provost, the dean and all the students who with smile and patience gave directions and answered questions. And we must not forget all the honorable guests who participated in the first day events, the concerts and recitals, I dont know where you got the energy to make it all happen. Even the housing was good and food always there on time. I am so glad I came. My paper went well and in the session I chaired, one paper was outstanding, unfortunately three other speakers did not come but that seems always part of such events. You are stepping down from the presidency with a real bang! I and Leo, who was very pleased to have his medal, wish you all the best and thank you for all the years you have devoted to keep SVU running, we know well that without you it would not be here today. We only hope that now you can enjoy participation without all the work. Stay well both of you and come and see us sometime.

With best wishes Zdenka Pospisil

Nový Domov: 23. Světový kongres SVU - Jihočeská univerzita, České Budějovice

O SVU se v krajanské veřejnosti neví zdaleka tolik, kolik si tato - nepochybně jedna z našich nejvýznamnějších zahraničních organizací - zaslouží. O jejím významu svědčí, že její letosní Kongres (25. června - 2. července 2006) se konal pod záštitou prezidentu Václava Klause (který také pronesl hlavní úvodní projev) a Ivana Gasparovice, za přítomnosti rady velvyslanců, včetně amerického a kanadského a českých a slovenských velvyslanců v USA a v Kanadě, rektoru, dekanu, akademiku a kulturních pracovníků. Vedle nějakých 350 přednášek byly na programu koncerty a zájezdy do Českého Krumlova a Hluboké.

SVU (Ceskoslovenská společnost pro vědy a umění - Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences) vznikla v roce 1958 z popudu Studijní skupiny washingtonské odbočky Československé národní rady americké. U její kolébky (a tady se spoléhám na svoji chátrající paměť) stáli Václav Hlavatý, René Wellek, Rafael Kubelík, Rudolf Firkusný, Jaroslav Nemeč, John G. Lexa, Jarmila Novotná... V čele SVU stály osobnosti jako Václav Hlavatý, René Wellek, František Schwarzenberg a dlouholetý (a současný) předseda Mila Rehečigl.

Letosní Kongres je - z kanadského hlediska zajímavý snad hlavně tím, že se ho zúčastnila

nezvykle velká skupina přednášejících z Kanady. Uvedu je podle data jejich přednášek: Karin J. MacHardy (University of Waterloo - přednášela na téma: "Political Communication before the Bohemian' Rebellion of 1620"); Peter Perina (Dalhousie University, N.S.- přednášel na téma: "The Baroque Theatre of Castle Cesky Krumlov The Past and Present"); Patricia L. Seyfried (University of Toronto : "Development of an Environmentally-safe Disinfectant for Hospital Use"); Josef Cermák (Toronto: "A Walk through Centuries with Hana and Premysl Pelnár); Dagmar Rydlo (Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto: "Czech Opera sung in Czech Abroad"); Josef Cermák (Toronto: "Czech and Slovak Association of Canada - Its Role in the Preservation of National Heritage"); Luba Frastacky (Thomas Fisher Library, University of Toronto: " Selected, Smugled and Saved: The Czech and Slovak Collections at The Fisher Library, University of Toronto"); J.B. Moravec (Toronto: " What Were We Fighting For?"); Jank Klinka (Forensic Service of British Columbia, Victoria, B.C.: "Destinies of the Two World War II Czechoslovak, British-trained Paratroopers: Alois Vyhnak and Robert Matula"); Josef Paldus (University of Waterloo: "Theory vis-a-vis Experiment Computing Molecular Properties from First Principles"); Jiri Cizek (University of Waterloo: " Quantum Mechanics and Today's Life"); Eva Kushner (University of Toronto: "Bozena Nemcova: An Early Feminist"); Ellen Langer (University of Toronto: " Northrop Fry's 'Critical Path' in Retrospect"); Edita Bosak (Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's: " An Uneasy Relationship: Bratislava and Slovakia's Roma"); Vladimir Rydlo (Czech and Slovak Association of Canada, Toronto: " Reaching for Justice: A Museum of Shame"); Bruce Mutch, Canada: "Canada's Aging Population: Problems and Programs"); Jan Waldauf (Czechoslovak Sokol Abroad, Toronto: "Sokol Abroad" and "Sokol in Canada"); Stefan Horny (Montral: " When Canada in Auschwitz was - The Story of Rudolf Vrba"); Vit Bubenik (Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's: "On the expression of Spatio-Temporal Locations in Slovak Romani").

Pravdepodobne nejúspešnejší kongres v histórii SVU. Mila Rechcigl je jím spokojen. Ale není spokojen se skutečností, že Toronto, které má tolik schopných lidí, nemá odbočku SVU, zvláště když ji mělo v minulosti a dokonce zorganizovalo dva kongresy. Udelali bychom mu velkou radost, kdybychom v Torontu odbočku obnovili. Krásná příležitost pro mladší generaci...

Josef Cermák