

ZPRÁVY

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Petr Hausner
President
Tel.: (301) 564-1527
svu.hausner@gmail.com

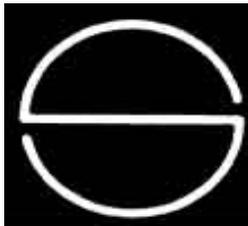
Peter Ujházy
Executive Vice President
peteru4@gmail.com

Thomas Holbik
Treasurer
tholbik@yahoo.com

www.svu2000.org



1 Congress participants visiting the Plasy monastery –
this and following five pictures were taken by Petr Hausner



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Editor – David Z.Chroust, TAMU Libraries
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Editor's Page:

A Report on the SVU World Congress—Plzeň 2014: Collaboration across Disciplines and Continents



2 [Petra Kodetová, Zdeněk David, Asako Umezū socializing](#)

I was there, and I returned filled with a week of learning and new connections to other people. The SVU world congress and the week in Plzeň this summer will stay on my mind as a counterpoint to my usual life and as a week of lived imagination, always there for me to use. What was it like for you? Would you like to write about it for *Zprávy SVU*? I would love to read and publish your writing.

I know it's hard to write ... about a day or a week at a conference for ourselves and for all our colleagues in SVU. A conference brings together many people, and the learning it produces is in many disciplines, academic panels, cultural events and in conversations in hallways, restaurants, city streets and reception halls. How can you write about all that? Or how can you choose from all that for your own reflection or



3 Karel Nováček presents results of the Czech Archeological Mission to Iraqi Kurdistan

memoir about the world congress? Well, think about it and try it. Try you best. You can count on one result: the way you write about the conference will be different from what other people write and how they write it. And you may inspire and teach others with your own writing.

I would love to see *Zprávy SVU* become more of a personal and collective journal of our intellectual and social experience. It's worth leaving a record of what we did and how we lived as a learned society, a record made up of personal writing, all kinds of personal writing. If we do that, it will always stay in print, and we can return to it to learn how to make our conferences and our SVU lives better. It can also inspire our successors far in the future, just like the written record of various people and their associations far in the past inspire us today.

For me the world congress was a thrill. It's two months in the past, so my memory of the academic program may be in its *longue durée* now. And what I remember is two themes—the *třetí odboj*, or third liberation struggle, in Czechoslovakia and the cuneiform world of the ancient Middle East. Each theme produced two panels, and that's four panels in a world congress of fourteen panels, two roundtables and some other events. Neither theme was close to what I know and write about. But that was good: I could go out, far past the things I learn about. I could visit, for a week in Plzeň, entirely new communities of scholars. And I felt good about a conference like this.



4 Ivo Budil, the organizer of the world congress, opens the congress

I didn't go to either panel on the *třetí odboj*: other events go on and overtake us at conferences. But I still think about the *třetí odboj* panels. I'm looking at them now in our last issue of *Zprávy SVU* and wonder again at how full they were: seven speakers and papers in the first panel, and eight in the second. That's fifteen views on "resistance" in the Communist era, fifteen avenues of research. All fifteen speakers came from the Czech government, Czech research centers and one Slovak research center. None came from the emigre community. For



5 Dalibor Mikuláš, who organized successful congresses in Slovakia

me, it makes the SVU conference program a measure: it shows me the scale of interest and work in the Czech Republic on the *třetí odboj*.

Did you go to these panels? Could you write about it for us? The speakers studied and told us about so many kinds of resistance. They revealed a broader culture of resistance than we likely imagine. Our panelists even looked at armed resistance (Petr Mallota). Close to that were efforts to open the border for people and speech, to contest the regime's ambition

for complete control at the border(s). This resistance against walls may be the image people like best as an explanation and as a memory of 1948-1989, and at least four speakers told us more about it (Lukáš Kopecký, Václava Jandečková, Prokop Tomek, Prokop Tomek). And how are we to remember and value the *třetí odboj* today, in our own time? One speaker (Eduard Stehlik) took up this question in a look at recent decorations for veterans of the anti-Communist resistance in Czechoslovakia decades ago.

Of course, most people situated themselves between the regime and the resistance, and accommodation was more common than conflict. So, I wonder as much about everyday life, all the more so because I grew up in America on my parents' stories about growing up in Czechoslovakia in the 1950s and 1960s. Stories much brighter than our established narratives of that time and place. I even envied my parents because of all the relatives and homes they had around them, all lost to me as I grew up in Cleveland. Even the memory of their everyday lives coming to me in dinner-table stories meant a lot. Too bad I don't find much to listen to about this kind of everyday Communism on *Český rozhlas*, which covers the dramas and darkness of 1948-1989 so well.

I did attend the cuneiform panels. Well, one of them: I had to miss the first one because of my own panel and paper. The two cuneiform panels carried eleven presentations from twelve orientalists. It was a pleasure to see and listen to them, to see the study of Middle Eastern antiquities so alive in the Czech Republic. The panels and speakers acted on me: I felt drawn in. To explain it, I recalled a weekend at a friend's cottage on the Sázava River, in the cottage country south of Prague. There I discovered Vojtěch Zamarovský's *Na počátku byl Sumer* (In the beginning there was Sumer) from the 1960s on a book shelf and started reading it. Then I couldn't stop, and I read all night through all three hundred some pages. That only happened once or twice before in my life, if at all. The Sumerians were the first people to write. They made wedge-shaped markings in clay tablets five thousand years ago in southern Mesopotamia, now

part of Iraq. They made the time we live in.

I spent some of my time in Plzeň on the *náměstí Republiky* (Republic square), just one block east of Sedláčková Street, where all our panels met in one building of our host university, the University of West Bohemia. I went to the square during



6 Congress participants visiting castle Manětín

our breaks and in the evenings. When I was growing up in America, my grandparents, other relatives and all kinds of people turned into handwritten letters, and I collected the postage stamps that kept them on their long journeys. Many stamps belonged to a series that portrayed Czechoslovak cities in old landmarks and town squares. The stamps intensified the otherness and attraction of these cities as I was growing up in Cleveland. So, the town square drew me in with quite a lot of power, just like it did in Žilina, Tábor, České Budějovice and Olomouc at past SVU conferences.

One day I discovered the *Západočeské muzeum* (West Bohemian museum) on the east side of Plzeň's town square, and on Thursday after our panels I wandered into a *vernissage* there for an artist who went to France after 1968 and now lives and works in the Aquitaine and in Plzeň. The *vernissage* was in a small courtyard full of shade and peace at the end of a corridor from the square. It felt like I discovered another part of the SVU conference. The museum workers told me about their workplace and local history. The artist told me more about France. Radan Kapucián turned up with a Russian friend from Ekaterinburg, where Radan teaches Czech to university students. We spoke in Russian about the two years since the SVU conference in Žilina. It led me into another conversation, with a gentleman whose parents came from the Czech colony in Novorossiisk, on the Russian Black Sea coast, in 1945. It turned out to be Jožka Osoba, a former sailor in Czechoslovakia's maritime fleet who now keeps an art gallery behind Plzeň's old city hall on Veleslavínova Street, which many of us visited on Friday before our SVU general assembly meeting. So, the *vernissage* on the other side of the town square from our panels suddenly expanded the SVU conference for me: I chanced on another company of people like us, people from the ends of Europe—in Aquitaine, the Ural Mountains and the Black Sea—back in the center of Europe, in Plzeň.

Important Announcement

Please reserve time for the upcoming **Regional Conference of SVU** to be held on the premises of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA on the weekend of July 17 (Friday July 17 through Sunday, July 19th). The local organizer is Bruce Vlk (bav2n@virginia.edu), program committee chair is Hugh Agnew (SVUConference2015@gmail.com). The main theme of this year's conference will regard the contribution of woman on both sides of the Atlantic. Please participate, enrich us all and enrich yourself.

Washington's Chapter Elected a New President



Otakara Safertal graduated from Československá Obchodní Akademie in Prague. She left Czechoslovakia in 1968 and immigrated to Canada. She worked for various organizations as a bookkeeper and administrator. She was an active member of Toronto's Nové Divadlo, an exile amateur theater group.

Otakara moved to Bethesda in 1997 and became a member of SVU. She served as treasurer for the SVU Washington Chapter and for two SVU congresses (Plzeň and Olomouc). She is a grandmother of six and an active tennis player.

Check Out Our New Twitter Account
at <https://twitter.com/SVU2000>

Newly Elected SVU Officers for The 2014-16 Administrative Period

Executive Board

President	Petr Hausner
Executive Vice President	Peter Ujhazy
Vice Presidents	Hugh L. Agnew Ladislav Goč J. Fielding Hejtmancik Louis Reith Jiří Stavovčik
	Peter Steiner
	Bruce Vlk
	Dagmar White
Secretary General	Charles J. Kulp – abdicated
Treasurer	Thomas Holbik

SVU Council's New Role

As the result of the recent Referendum of SVU Members, the SVU Bylaws have been revised to provide checks and balances to the governance of the Society. Consequently, the SVU General Assembly is now again the supreme organ of the Society, the Council serves as the policy-making body, while the SVU Executive Board remains the executive body, the way the founding fathers of the Society envisioned it and planned it.

The revised functions and the jurisdiction of the SVU Council are given below. As a policy organ, the SVU Council can play an important role in the Society's affairs. Although we visualize its function primarily as a positive one, nevertheless, the SVU Council can exercise its control power whenever it feels that the SVU Bylaws have been violated. It must also approve new officers, if the previous officers can-



7 Mila Rechcigl, the new Council Speaker - photo Peter Ujhazy

not exercise their functions. The Council also makes decisions regarding expenditures borne by the Society's Treasury in excess of \$5,000.

Because of the Council's large size, it is practically impossible to transact its business in regular meetings. Consequently the Council will conduct its business primarily via e-mail. As per the SVU Bylaws, decisions will be made by the vote of the majority of the voting Council members. To facilitate its work, the Council members elected the former SVU President Mila Rechcigl as their Speaker, who shall be responsible for coordination of the Council's activities and as the principal conduit with the SVU President and the Executive Board.

Functions and Jurisdiction of SVU Council as Approved by 2014 Referendum

Article 14. THE COUNCIL

1. The Council shall consist of:
 - a. past Presidents of the Society;
 - b. chairmen of the local chapters;
 - c. members elected according to Article 23;
 - d. co-opted members.

2. The total number of members of the Council, elected according to Article 23, shall not exceed 30. For places vacated or unoccupied the Council is authorized to co-opt members without exceeding the total number of 30 members.

3. The elected members will serve for a period of two years, while the chairmen of local chapters shall be members of the Council as long as they exercise their functions. The co-opted members remain members of the Council until the end of the two-year period during which they had been co-opted.

4. The local chapters will notify the Speaker of the Council without delay regarding the results of their elections, particularly the name and address of the chapter chairman.

Article 15. JURISDICTION OF THE COUNCIL

The Council

1. is the policy-making organ of the Society
2. recommends the amounts of membership dues;

3. makes decisions regarding expenditures to be borne by the Society's treasury in excess of \$5,000 (the total expenditure for a given item cannot be divided into smaller portions to bypass the requirement);

4. makes recommendations to the General Assembly as to who is to be awarded honorary and founding membership. For this purpose it may appoint a special committee which shall screen and select the candidates.

5. elects Fellows of the Society, according to the provisions of Article 26. For this purpose it may appoint a Fellows Nominations Committee which shall make the nominations to the Council based on the recommendations of the peers. Nominations from the floor will not be accepted.

6. decides, according to Article 9, about the expulsion of a member;

7. if any officer elected in accordance with Article 23 dies or is unable to exercise his/her function or resigns, the Council approves another candidate, suggested by the Executive Board, to exercise the respective function for the unexpired balance of such officer's term of office;

8. the Council may also remove any officer from his/her function for mismanagement and/or for violation of the SVU Bylaws.

Article 16. MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

To facilitate its work, the elected Speaker shall be responsible for coordination of the Council's activities and for convening and chairing its meetings.

The Council shall make decisions by the vote of its members in meeting or in writing, including e-mail. Its members may be represented by proxies; no one may represent by proxy more than one member. All members of the Council shall be notified of any meeting by not less than 14 days prior to the meeting. Members of the Council who are unable to attend a meeting of the Council personally, shall submit their motions and/or recommendations in writing by mailing or delivering the same to the Speaker not less than three days prior to the date of the meeting.

The Council shall be qualified for the transaction of business if not less than 10 members of the Council are present or represented. The Council may also adopt resolutions without a meeting in writing. In order to be valid such resolution must be signed by the majority of the participating (voting) members of the Council.

Mila Rechcigl

Dear SVU Board Members 2014-2016

First, let us thank you for your determination to serve on the Executive Board of the Czechoslovak Society for Arts and Sciences. Please accept our congratulations and welcome. We look forward to becoming a closely knit group of well-meaning and efficient officials and also good friends. The tasks in front of us are major. First, we have to finish the transition of our organization to a new and user-friendly electronic database, update the membership information and get finances on a positive trajectory. We also share with many other organizations the challenge of an aging membership base, which can be solved only by putting forward programs appealing to a wide range of age groups. We want to find ways how to support all positive activities thriving in SVU chapters. We are collectively responsible for the publication of *Zprávy* and *Kosmas*, maintaining internet-based communication channels and the planning of national and international gatherings. We all want to preserve and grow a friendly and productive organization which became a cherished part of our life.

Please find attached a list of executive board members, including the editor of *Kosmas*, the editor of *Zprávy*, the Webpage manager, the Facebook manager and the Council Speaker.

With best regards and wishing all of us a good start into 2 years filled with positive contributions to the life of our Society.

Petr Hausner – President

Peter Ujhazy – Executive Vice President

<u>Person</u>	<u>Function</u>	<u>E-mail as of 8/16/14</u>
Petr F. Hausner	President	SVU.hausner@gmail.com
Peter Ujhazy	Executive Vice-president	peteru4@gmail.com
Thomas Holbik	Treasurer	tholbik@yahoo.com
Hugh Agnew	Kosmas editor	Agnew@gwu.edu
Ladislav Goc	Databases	lgoc@icewarp.com
J. Fielding Hejtmancik	Youth committee	hejtmancik@nei.nih.gov
Jiri Stavovcik	Facebook	iurro@iurro.com
Peter Steiner	Kosmas Distribution Editor	psteiner@sas.upenn.edu
Louis Reith	At large	reith.louis@gmail.com
Bruce Vlk	Membership, Twitter	VlKB@darden.virginia.edu
Dagmar White	At large	lwhite6663@verizon.net

David Chroust	Editor of Zpravy	d-chroust@library.tamu.edu
Jiri Eichler	Webmaster	eichler@svu2000.org
Mila Rechcigl	Council Speaker	svu.one@gmail.com

Minutes of the SVU Board Meeting at the Residence of Petr Hausner, Potomac, Maryland, September 20, 2014

Present: Petr Hausner, Peter Ujhazy, Dagmar White, Peter Steiner, Hugh Agnew, Thomas Holbik, Bruce Vlk, Louis Reith (via Skype) and guest Magda Clyne.

1. Minutes from the SVU General Assembly from the World Congress in Plzen, Czech Republic were approved. The Treasurer's Report was not given at the General Assembly, since the position of treasurer has been vacant for 2 years. The auditor, Jiří Eichler was present and the audit is ongoing.
2. President Petr Hausner opened the meeting to state that this is a new period for SVU. The mission must be focused on two categories: first - improving the business side of the organization and second - creating activities that are attractive to a wide spectrum of people in order to grow the membership base. President Hausner is also keen on creating a positive and welcoming atmosphere. Since all our work is voluntary, we should concentrate on the positives.
3. Hausner recapped the World Congress in Plzeň. He send to the Dean of Západočeská Univerzita a Thank-You letter for all the wonderful efforts of Ivo Budil, Petra Kodetová and the team of students in making the 2014 World Congress happen. Hausner said that the host institution absorbed some costs, and that the Plzeň's mayor, Martin Baxa, was also very supportive of the conference. There were many active participants from the USA, Germany, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland and the hosting Czech Republic. The speakers gave entertaining talks of profound scholarship and erudition as usual at SVU conferences and congresses. The cultural program and tours contributed to the relaxing atmosphere of this world congress.
4. Thomas Holbik became Treasurer for SVU; he trained as an economist and is a banking risk manager, he has experience that will be beneficial to SVU. *
5. Hausner discussed an attached agenda item on board members' individual assignments and responsibilities. All correspondence currently comes to a P.O. box in Maryland. EVP Peter Ujhazy stated that we need to have closer contacts with the chapters. For example, New York, Munich, Edmonton, Bratislava and

Switzerland chapters are very active. Clyne suggested to Hausner to have regular conference calls with chapters to hear about and promote their activity.

6. Report on Kosmas by Editor Hugh Agnew. It is still behind schedule, the Fall 2013 issue is at the printers. Thomas Fudge from Australia will soon join the editorial board. Fudge would like to edit a special issue on Jan Hus to be ready for the upcoming anniversary. Bruce Vlk said we should put out call for submissions on our social media, newsletter and website. Hausner and Agnew discussed putting the best Seattle conference papers into a special issue of Kosmas. The board was in agreement of this idea. Agnew will reach out to Zdenek David regarding this proposal.

7. President Hausner commended Agnew for doing fabulous job in bringing Kosmas back. Peter Steiner was introduced to the board; he will take over as business/subscription editor for the journal. Steiner suggested more automation and a reexamination of printing costs. EVP Ujhazy said that subscriptions do not cover printing costs. Hausner said that institutional subscribers can pose some difficulties. Steiner is to consult with former subscription editor Frank Safertal. Agnew suggested not raising subscription rates until the journal is caught up to schedule. Hausner suggested that sample issues be sent out with a letter about the benefits of subscribing. Agnew reports that EBSCO now has Kosmas full-text articles since the time when David Chroust was editor. Steiner made a suggestion for an electronic version. He and Treasurer Holbik will explore this option; although print will not go away yet. Vlk and White stated that many older members want the hard copy journal in addition to the authors themselves. Peter Steiner, a Slavic language professor, suggested reaching out to the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages for SVU and Kosmas recruitment.

8. President Hausner asked Bruce Vlk to take on membership management for SVU. SVU currently has the Member Clicks database. Former membership manager Eugene Martin will give Vlk access. Only a small percentage of members use their Member Clicks account. SVU currently pays approximately \$200 a month for this service. Vlk will examine its cost effectiveness. Most members paid by check and some by PayPal. A new gateway accessible from the SVU website allows to pay by credit card. Vlk to engage members more with letters after renewal.

9. More discussion of benefits of SVU. White stated that, in essence, SVU offers two conferences, a journal, a newsletter, but what else? Vlk suggested that chapters in major cities could start holding social hours for professionals at restaurants/bars to attract younger people for networking purposes. Hausner said for the organization to become younger there needs to be a critical mass of younger members. SVU should produce content that is attractive to young professionals.

10. President Hausner said that there is a need for someone to manage SVU's book sales. In the past it was done by the authors themselves. Hausner will also investigate donating older books to Bohemian National Hall's library in New York. All books should come to Hausner's house in an effort to centralize them.

11. Vlk discussed SVU's social media. Jiri Stavocik in Alexandria will manage SVU's Facebook account, Ujhazy manages the LinkedIn account, Agnew manages Kosmas's Facebook account, and Vlk will create a Twitter account soon.

12. Magda Clyne, member of the Washington DC chapter was introduced. President Hausner asked if she would be interested in becoming SVU's Secretary General.

13. A motion was made to discontinue use of Quickbooks and move to simple financial spreadsheets. A unanimous vote was in favor of discontinuing Quickbooks.

14. Discussion of upcoming regional conference in 2015. White said it was important not to get a late start like Seattle. She said there needs to be a local arrangements person to lead the effort there. She is working with the University of Kansas in Lawrence. Vlk said he will talk with the University of Virginia's VP for Research, Tom Skalak, who is of Czech descent. Another option provided by White was Washington DC/Maryland, using the large 4-H facility that was used in the past. She suggested the theme should be about the dissolution and merging of countries. Reith suggested the Jan Hus anniversary. Agnew came up with a theme unifying these thoughts: "Integration and Disintegration." The conference would cover the split of the church due to Jan Hus, the Hapsburg Empire dissolution, T.G. Masaryk's 1915 actions and recent activity in Ukraine, Scotland and other countries. Mila Rechcigl is known to be in favor concentrating on the contribution of women.

15. Hausner urged the board to find an appropriate date in August 2015. He wants future conferences to be inviting, not off-putting. He encourages working papers to give presenters feedback and practice. Vlk added the host site must be attractive in terms of tourism, similar to New York and Seattle.

16. Hausner discussed a possible next World Congress in Košice, Slovakia; Dalibor Mikulaš is interested in organizing. Ujhazy would like to explore Bratislava.

Minutes taken by Bruce Vlk

All financial accounts of SVU are now under control of the current executive board. Substantial help in achieving this goal was provided by Karel Raška, Gene Martin and Vlado Kysucký.

Biography New SVU Vice-President



8 Peter Steiner

Peter Steiner was born in Prague in 1946 and studied Slavic philology and aesthetics at Charles University. After his emigration to the US in 1968, he continued his education at Yale where he received his Ph.D. in 1976. He taught at the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) and Harvard University, finally settling at the University of Pennsylvania where he is Professor of Slavic Studies. Dozens of his scholarly articles have appeared in various academic periodicals and publications. He edited and translated a two-volume

selection of Jan Mukařovský's essays, *The Word and Verbal Art* (Yale U.P., 1977) and *Structure, Sign and Function* (Yale U.P., 1978), and a reader of Prague Structuralism, *The Prague School: Selected Writings, 1929-1946* (Texas U.P., 1982). He also wrote two books: *Russian Formalism: A Metapoetics* (Cornell U.P., 1984) was translated into five languages, and *Deserts of Bohemia: Czech Fiction and Its Social Context* (Cornell U.P., 2000), whose Czech version was published by Lidové noviny in 2002. Peter's research focuses on literary theory and modern Czech and Russian literatures.

Peter Steiner became in 2014 Vice President of SVU. He has taken over responsibilities of the Kosmas distribution editor.

Activities of Our Members

Petr,

We held a very successful banquet in December for the Czech Language Foundation. I will try to write up a report later. Hana Waisserova gave the major program, a wonderful recorded Skype interview with Eda Kriseova, the member of Havel's first cabinet in 1989-1991, and author of one of the first biographies of Vaclav Havel. Eda has been appointed as a professor at the New School for Social Reseach in NYCity, and I spent some long hours before my

Oct. 4-18 Mediterranean cruise to review her initial presentation due in a few weeks. According to Hana, the people at the New School were impressed with my revision of her remarks into colloquial English. Hana tried to get Krieseova to come to Lincoln in person, but she begged off because of wanting to get back to her sick husband in Prague.

We also had about 5 Czech and Slovak queens in kroje, and Mila Saskova-Pierce announced that she will probably retire after this year. The Czech-sponsored exchange professorship will stay in place, but I don't know how the UNL will replace Mila. She also teaches the Russian language courses which I wanted to take after the Czech.

Now I have to work on my class essay in Czech on Bohumil Hrabal and his prose style. Recall that he and Jiri Menzel collaborated on several brilliant films, from 1967's "Closely Watched Trains" to the 1971 (1989) "Larks on a String," my favorite, before "I Served the King of England," which people think is Hrabal's greatest novel.

Louis Reith - Ludvík

Publications

Eva Strížovská, editor of *Czech Dialogue* magazine has written books about Americans of Czech origin whose ancestors moved from their Czech homeland to the USA. She visited the places where they mostly settled and met their descendants. These interesting meetings resulted in three bilingual books (Czech and English)—*Howdy From Texas* (two volumes) and *The Great Plains and Other Great Experiences*. These books have very good reviews. The first volume is sold out, but the other two can still be ordered. Price, postage included for one issue 15 USD.

strizovska@seznam.cz

Author Eva says:

„I have been traveling in Texas, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas several years ago. I have met many wonderful people of Czech descent while zigzagging Texas from North to South and in many other states. All those meetings left many wonderful impressions and the whole trip was a great experience for me as a journalist.

Since then I have published many articles about my trips and also two books about Texas. Recently I published my third book called “The Great Plains and Other Great Experiences”. All the books are bilingual- English and Czech. Therefore they can also be used by those who want to teach Czech or English.

Check out the book “The Great Plains”. The book has 160 pages, black-and-white and colored pictures. Price is \$15.- postage included.

It contains stories about Cedar Rapids, Spill Ville, Iowa, West, Temple, about the Sokol Slet in Fort Worth, Sokol Dallas, Corpus Christi, East Bernard, about festivals, Czech music, about people in Kansas, Nebraska and much more.

Please, order: strizovska@seznam.cz

Eyewitness Accounts of History

Dr. Oswald “Valdik” Holzer: From Czechoslovakia to China in World War II

March 30, 2014

Dear David,

I was pleasantly surprised to see the first installment of “Dr. Oswald “Valdik” Holzer: From Czechoslovakia to China in World War II” in the SVU newsletter. As the first letter of April 1940 printed in SVU was my father, Dr. Oswald Holzer, writing to Czech writer and scriptwriter Miloslav Fabera, I thought you might appreciate this July 18, 1940, letter from Dr. Fabera to my father responding to a July 6 letter my dad had written to him. It is amazing how well the mail worked at that tumultuous time!

I’ve copied the translation below (by Lukáš Příbyl) and attached the original scan of Dr. Fabera’s letter in case you wish to use them in a future newsletter or other SVU publication. I recognize your space is limited but hope one or the other version might be appropriate in some form. This exchange is one of my favorites among my dad’s secret treasure trove of 400 letters by 78 (mostly Czech) letter writers. It is conversation being held in the old fashioned way of letter writers, between two souls some 8,000 miles apart—a situation forced upon them by Nazi occupation.

I’m very pleased to report that my debut nonfiction book based on seven of my dad’s WWII-era letter writers, *Adventurers Against Their Will*, will be published in the Czech language by Triton Publishing House, Prague, in 2015. My dream is that it might help in education circles to educate future generations about the impact of the loss of one’s homeland (then, now, and always when a person is displaced and must rebuild their life, sometimes far away from their native land).

All best to you and SVU, Joanie Holzer Schirm:



In Prague, on July 18, 1940

JUDr. ^[i] Miloslav Fábera ^[ii]
Prague XII. Saarská st. ^[iii] 15
Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia
German Reich

Dear doctor Holzer ^[iv]

Accept our sincere greetings, from me and my wife Helena. We thank you for your letter dated July 6 of this year at Ping-Ting-Hsien. We received it, with the seven photographs, on July 7th. The photographs were masterful, we were looking at them for a long time, but your letter was even better. You know how to write, allow a man of this craft to tell you that. You should take notes and write down everything that you see around yourself. Once, a whole book could come out of this – but y o u r book. Your life and your work. It would certainly be very interesting and you would surely be able to sell it well. Proofs of your medical artistry will lay their bones somewhere among yellow rocks and if you don't have the exceptional luck as the personal physician of Tutenchamon, ^[v] after your death no one will appreciate your medical craftsmanship. A good book lives much longer.

I don't believe that for a 440 million nation and such a huge country, a single P.S. Buck ^[vi] would suffice. Try it! Besides that, it is said that notes help to mitigate boredom, which is bound to arrive in a forlorn, foreign country; that they keep the senses spry and vigilant and that one keeps observing even when, from a non-professional view-point, everything has for long become common, etc. Maybe that some old colonial wolf would tell me that undiluted, good whisky satisfies the same requirements and maybe even better, but as far as I know, these good boys never wrote a digestible letter and except for a shotgun had no talent for anything. I see Tsing Tao - as you described it to me yesterday - clearly. I can imagine your work, I know where you came from, what brought you to this life and I am following, with awe, how quickly you got familiarized with the surroundings. You described all that to me on four pages. That's not common at all, believe me. If you could compliment me on my book, then I can, with the same wholeheartedness and sincerity, appreciate your letter.

Regarding the interest in Far East, we are like two trains on the same track, traveling in the same direction – with the difference that while you are already whistling at the final station, I am still crawling far behind you somewhere on the tracks. You wrote a long and beautiful letter to me and I am your debtor.

For that account to be settled, I shall write something about myself to you today. Becoming acquainted through letters is like poker. One does not know what one gets to receive. Take it like that. I already told you in my first letter that my fates ^[vii] are not too interesting, in comparison to yours. Therefore you will likely have a feeling that you are drawing mediocre cards, and I am aware of that. I already know that in you I drew a “street” ^[viii] at least.

This account can be settled only by my second book, ale while my letter was traveling to you by the railway (magistrala) ^[ix] and yours was going in the opposite direction, I decided to extend my own deadline till the fall of 1941. The book poses many interesting questions and pleases me. I would not want it to leave my hands unfinished. The year 1941 – that’s still quite far away, isn’t it? I am in no rush. Everything that is to be finished will be finished, what should be severed will be severed, I view haste like a born Oriental.

Here are the general facts; my father, about whom you already know that he was a brewer, brewed beer in Debrecín, ^[x] somewhere in Sedmihradý, ^[xi] in Radovec, in Černovice, ^[xii] in Lwow ^[xiii] in the Ukraine and finally in Novonikolaievsk, a suburb of the city of Omsk in Siberia. He spent more than half of his life abroad as a brewer and a soldier and when he returned, he lived here for only nine years. He died from head and neck cancer at the age of 49, in 1930, at Dr. Keller’s clinic. I, except for the hundreds and hundreds of kilometers which I walked through various Balkan countries, spent my whole life traveling the line: Plzeň, Rokycany, Beroun, Praha, Týnec nad Sázavou. ^[xiv]

Neklidná hranice (*The Restless Border*) ^[xv] was the reliving of my father’s life, but also my wanderer’s desire. When it came into being, one can’t say. Maybe really in the years 1936-1938, but that is just the fact, intellectually this subject matter permeates my mind since high school (*gymnasium*). Nobody’s Mountain, my second novel, was coming into being together with the first theme. I studied gymnasium in Rokycany, law studies in Prague, military service I got through in Beroun and now I am at the Czech-Moravian bank in Prague II. Na Poříčí 22, you might know it under different names. That’s all. A concise curriculum vitae – nothing more.

Let’s remember we met over *The Restless Border*. The most interesting letter I got, but except for it I received plenty more. [Mr.] Professor Podpěra from Brno ^[xvi], who worked as a botanist in Siberia sent me his corrections about flora and in order for me to avoid making mistakes in my next novel, he put his whole, still unpublished work about Amurian ^[xvii] flora at my disposal. One cavalry general criticized the raids carried out by Blumel’s ^[xviii] unit. A certain Mr. Spitz, who also was in Siberia, wanted to exact a statement from me that he is not identical with commissar Spitz. I found a certain “Mr. Václav”, who is nowadays better known as the “witness from the Tumen ^[xix] river”. Mr. Václav lived in Manchuria for almost ten years and was a fur trader. Imagine how

happy I was when I found him. I did not regret cognac, nor time as I “sucked” information out of him. There are witnesses that Mr. Václav really was there but if you talked to him, you wouldn’t believe it. Just a small piece of the conversation:

I: “Mr. Václav, I would like to know what kind of trees were there. Could you tell me something about that?”

Mr. Václav: /scratching his hair/ “Who would ever take notice of trees?” /A long silence/. “Have you ever been to the White Mountain ^[xxi] grove?”

I: “I was.”

Mr. Václav: “Well, on that river it was just the same, just that it was a bit more dense, the trees were all over each other, as some have already fell, some were bent down, also the thickets were impassable, but otherwise it was all like the White Mountain grove.”

I: /quite desperately/ “And do you remember anything really interesting, Mr. Václav?”

Mr. Václav /quickly drains his stakan ^[xxi] / “Sure I do!” / He keeps silent, awfully long he is silent. Then makes a very mysterious face/ “Something really got me interested, Mr. Doctor. When I was at that fanza with those Koreans, I entertained myself with that girl of theirs. You wouldn’t believe it, she had under her belly, if I say twenty, that’s too much, twenty such black, sweaty hairs, nothing more.”

Yes indeed, informants! Just let them inform you.

You write about former lieutenant colonel Mr. B. Ulman. I know him and I am not at all surprised that you were seduced by his tales. Just so you know how small the world is, B. Ulman was the physician I thought of when I wrote to you that I would like to write in a Czech physician into Nobody’s mountain. However, I made up the way out of Tsing Tao, since the stories of Mr. Ulman would suffice for a long novel by themselves.

You refer me to Mr. Dr. Jaroslav Průšek. ^[xxii] He is my friend but I had to write all the way to Ping-Ting to find out what an authority he is. He himself, an unbelievably humble and reticent person, answered – when I asked him to proof-read the names – that he was not sure he was up to it, since he really did not know Manchuria that well. Dr. Průšek has now published a very interesting study “Triple teachings about society in China”, dealing with the C’in dynasty from 210 B.C. Only this year in the fall will his great book “Sister my China”

be published. I will send you both of these books to your P.O. you indicated to me. They will surely interest you. I only don't know whether post regulations will allow me to [send them].

You ask me what maps I fancy. Well, I don't know whether I should bother you with it. Maybe it will be difficult for you to hunt for them and then maybe they won't allow you to send them. But I'll say it: I'd be content with a map of Manchuria, a scale of which will be smaller than 1:7.500.000, which I have in my atlas of the world. I am particularly interested in the section of the Russo-Manchurian border south of Pogranicnaje, because that's where all of my second novel takes place. It might well be on the Manchurian side, I only need to know the border.

Thank you for the effort of writing to the American missionaries in Manchuria. When I read that in your letter, I only thought: "If I had an American missionary". Then I, however, remembered Mr. Václav and I cooled down a bit. It seems a long time spent in a foreign country wipes off sharp edges and makes drab.

I used the address of Mr. Kára consciously. Věra Hrubá who once lived there / or might still live there/ had financial dealings with our institution ^[xxiii], that's how I got to the address. I will correct the mistake in the next, third edition. Thank you for bringing my attention to it. Mr. K. Z. Klíma ^[xxiv] sends you his regards and wishes you much success.

Dear doctor, I am about to finish in order not to tire you too much and not to deprive you of your valuable time. I imprinted every sentence of your letter firmly into my memory and with the help of the photographs I can now see you quite clearly. I imagine you in your hospital, surveying your patients, during a moment of rest. Your work is difficult but immensely beautiful. As a former inhabitant of student dorms I knew many students of medicine and laicly understand their lives, their worries and a world opinion this craft brings along. I had a long talk with a veterinary who spent ten years in Mongolia /Karel Šergl/ and who cured "everything" there. I can thus imagine well your daily medical attendance and the condition in which you get to see the diseases. You did a good thing that you did not stay in Shanghai as a "fashionable physician". This ascetic life in Ping Ting will bear interest to you many times, about that we are both, I and my Helena, strongly convinced. We have no other option but to keep looking forward that once we will get to see each other, that we will really stand in front of each other and not over the distance of several thousand kilometers and that we will talk about it. Then we will be able to more or less philosophically analyze it. Paper would not suffice for that. Be certain that we often talk about you and hope from the bottom of our hearts that no harm comes to you there and that you survive it there in full health.

These “forts” [outposts] of civilization are a nice thing, the men who are carrying out their duty there are worthy of admiration, but there is a time when the garrison needs to be changed. You will surely realize that yourself. Later, with time. But the old cannot be thrown away. As you see, I know many people from the Far East but I realized one thing [about them] – they all came from this tiny country in the heart of Europe and after years they all came back here again. I know, it is better “to sing elsewhere from the choir than eat sweets at home” ^[xxv], but even that has to have its end. Then my house will be open to you, as is so nicely said by the Mohammedans [Muslims].

Our wholehearted greetings and best wishes, Dr. Miloslav Fábera

Enclosed: Photographs

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Joanie Schirm

Author – Adventurers Against Their Will

Winner Best Biography: 2013 Global Ebook Awards

www.joanieschirm.com

Watch Award Winning Book Trailer: <http://youtu.be/LpIIEP4pPy0>

Click here for Prague Post 2/8/14 article: <http://bit.ly/1ge3WUd>

“*Adventurers Against Their Will* is a brilliant and compelling account of men and women caught in the turbulence of war. Part insightful history and part family drama, the book leads readers on a journey into the past, answering many questions and posing new ones along the way. Joanie Schirm has made a fresh and vital contribution to our understanding of World War II’s impact on the lives of people in Central Europe.” –**Madeleine Albright, Former U.S. Secretary of State**

To Order *Adventurers Against Their Will* : www.joanieschirm.com

Notes:

^[ii] Dr. of Law.

^[iii] Miloslav Fábera was a Czech writer and scriptwriter (1912-1988). At one point he was the director of the Czech Film Studios (1970s). His writing was much inspired by the adventures written down in the diaries of his father, a soldier and legionnaire. He had a passion for Asia, which was often manifested in his work. He collaborated with some well-known Czech filmmakers, though his writing during Communist times was often quite biased, as the regime required.

^[iiii] The street is no longer called that way, was likely renamed during the occu-

pation, but the previous and current names of it could be checked in an archive.

^[liv] Literally: Dear Mr. Dr. Holzer

^[lv] Tutankhamun, an Egyptian pharaoh, whose tomb was actually found intact, with all the treasures.

^[vi] Pearl S. Buck, an American female novelist, sinologist, Pulitzer winner, first American woman to be awarded Nobel prize (for literature, for her book about peasant life in China).

^[vii] Fate, but he uses plural form, several fates, destinies.

^[viii] Term in card game.

^[ix] Uses the word “magistrala”, which refers to the Trans-Siberian railway.

^[x] Debrecín, in Hungarian Debrecen, is the second largest city in Hungary. At the time when the father was working there, it was still in the country of Austria-Hungary.

^[xi] Sedmíhradsko, Transylvania in English, the originally Austro-Hungarian territory became a part of Romania after WWI.

^[xii] Places in Ukraine. Chernowitz was in the Bukovina part of today’s Ukraine. It first belonged to Austria-Hungary, then to Romania, then to USSR in 1940, then to Romania again in 1941, then USSR in 1944 and since 1991 to Ukraine.

^[xiii] Today Lviv in the Ukraine (also in German – and English, the city is called Lemberg).

^[xiv] All Czech towns and cities.

^[xv] His first book, published 1940. I have a vague recollection that we somehow had it, but it is likely in one of the boxes in the cellar, if I am correct. I can write you the synopsis, should you be interested.

^[xvi] Josef Podpěra (1878 - 1954), a renowned Czech botanist.

^[xvii] Amur, the world’s 9th longest river, forms a border between the Russian Far East and the Chinese Northeast. By Amurian he means the region along the river.

^[xviii] From what I understand a character in Fabera’s book.

^[xix] A river that now serves as part of the boundary between China, North Korea, and Russia.

^[xx] A hill in Prague, the site of an historic battle, now and at the time when this letter was written a park.

^[xxi] Stakan, a glass in Russian.

^[xxii] A renowned Czech Orientalist, whose main focus was on China and Japan.

^[xxiii] Meaning the bank Fabera worked in. He only became a professional writer in 1942.

^[xxiv] Karel Zdeněk Klíma, one of prominent Czech journalists of the 1920s and 30s (editor in chief of Lidové noviny) and a participant in anti-Nazi resistance. Killed by the Gestapo in 1942.

^[xxv] Sorry, cannot come up with a fitting English proverb now, this is literal translation.

Obituaries

Věra Bořkovec (1926-2014)

We are saddened by the death of Prof. Věra Bořkovec, a long time SVU member and SVU officer, who passed away on Thursday, September 11, 2014, after a prolonged illness.



10 At the memorial service for Vera Borkovec– photo Peter Ujhazy

Věra was a native of Brno, being born on August 13, 1926, but grew up in Teheran, Iran, where her father Josef Žanda was sent in 1934 as director of the Škoda company. The family returned to Prague in 1945, and she began her studies at Charles Univ., majoring in English and Persian studies. After immigrating to the US, Věra got her M.A. in French from Hollins College in 1960, M.A. in Russian from American University and her Ph.D. in Russian from Georgetown Univ.

After a teaching career of more than thirty years in the Department of Language and Foreign Studies at American University, where she taught Russian (sometimes Czech) language, linguistics, literature and drama, she retired as Associate Professor Emerita and since then she devoted herself to her lifelong interests and avocations: theatre, poetry, literary translation, and SVU. Having translated and published a number of stories by Arnošt Lustig, she turned to the translation of Czech and Russian plays, mainly the plays of Russia's Aleksandr Volodin and the Czech playwright Josef Topol. She published some of her translations of poems by the Nobel laureate Jaroslav Seifert, and in 1998 her translated volume of poetry by Libuše Čačalová was published in the Czech Republic under the title *Kingdom of Pebbles*. She also compiled and edited *Taste of a Lost Homeland*, a bilingual anthology of Czech and Slovak exile poetry written in America, which was dedicated to the memory of Frank Marlow, and published by SVU in 2002.

Věra came into the SVU limelight after the premature death of



9 Vera Borkovec

Secretary-General John G. Lexa in 1977, when she was elected to replace him as the first woman to hold the office of Secretary General in the Society's history. She held this post three times: reelected in 1980 and once again in 1993-1994. In 1982-84 she was Chairman of the Washington, DC Chapter. Upon my return to SVU Presidency in 1994, she was elected one of the SVU Vice Presidents, which position she held until 2008. During the 20th Anniversary SVU World Congress she was put in charge of local arrangements. She arranged the staging of the play *Hour of Love* by Josef Topol, which she also translated into English for its performance by the American University's Department of Performing Arts. Since 2012 she has been President of the Washington DC SVU Chapter.



11 The Czech Ambassador Petr Gandalovic speaks at the service - photo Peter Ujhazy

Věra and her late husband Sasa were involved in SVU from its early days and worked very diligently to make it the successful organization it is today. Vera's cheerfulness and readiness to help others will be sorely missed by her many friends. A memorial service took place in mid October. The ambassador of the Czech Republic, H.E. Gandalovic was present. Dagmar White directed directed a musical interlude.

Source: Mila Rechcigl

Otilia Marie Kabeš (1920-2014)

Otilia Kabeš was born in Czechoslovakia in 1920 and spent her early years in the heady post World War I era of the country's First Republic. Daughter of a prosperous businessman who represented Pilsener Prazdroj, she grew up in Prague's high society of the time. In 1941, she married Vladimír Kabeš, a lawyer and son of the founder of the Aero aircraft and automobile industry. Their early years as a married couple were overshadowed by the horrors of the Nazi occupation when her younger brother, engaged in the Czech underground, was shot by the remaining Gestapo forces on May 5, 1945, just days before the liberation



12 Otilia Kabeš

of Prague. Her dreams of becoming a medical doctor were cut short when Hitler barred Czechs from university studies during the years of the occupation.

In 1948, after the Communist takeover of Czechoslovakia and the closing of the borders, Otilia arranged escape for herself and her two small daughters, reuniting with her husband who had escaped earlier as a political refugee. They lived for almost two years in the American zone in post war Germany until they arrived to the United States in 1950. When the family settled in Arlington, Virginia, Otilia helped to make ends meet by working at the exclusive Garfinkel's store in Washington, D.C. where she earned her tuition to become certified as a medical technician. She subsequently worked in a lab in a doctor's office.

When her husband's career took the family to Switzerland in 1959, she earned a degree in Russian and Interpretation at the University of Geneva. She worked as an interpreter for the United Nations conferences in Geneva. In 1968, she was commended by the city of Geneva for her work in helping the Swiss authorities work with Czech citizens who found themselves in Switzerland during the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia.

When she and her husband returned to the Washington, D.C. area in 1983, she continued to work as a translator and interpreter for the State Department. She volunteered hosting foreign visitors for the Meridian House and taught continuing education courses at American University. Using her fluency in Czech, English, German, Russian and French, she volunteered to translate wartime documents at the Holocaust Museum. She was also very active in many Czech heritage organizations, among them the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences.

Otilia was an avid skier and ballroom dancer. She and her husband traveled to every continent. They enjoyed a rich social life and loved to entertain friends and family. She was a member of the Kenwood Club where she perfected her golf game.

After the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia in 1989, Otilia and her husband traveled often to the country of their birth and reconnected with childhood friends and relatives.

Otilia was pre-deceased in 2009 by her loving husband of 68 years, Vladimir. Her daughters, Marianne and Alexandra, son-in-law Neil and granddaughter Samantha will keep them both forever in their hearts. May they rest in peace together.

Otilia Kabes' life's celebration took place on December 7th 2014 in Bethesda, Dagmar White arranged the music for the service.

Contributed by Marianne Kabes-Crane.

George (Jiří) Kovtun (1927-2014)

We are saddened by the sudden death of one of our most productive SVU members-George (Jiří) Kovtun – which took place in Prague on September 8, 2014. He was born in Horincevo, which was then part of the Czechoslovak province of Subcarpathian Ruthenia, on April 23, 1927. He originally studied law at Charles Univ. (1946-48), while also working for Vývoj (Development) magazine.



13 George Kovtun

In 1948 he left Czechoslovakia and initially resided in West Germany and in Norway, where he worked as a social worker. In 1951-73 he was editor at Radio Free Europe in Munich and in 1976-77 he worked as an editor at Voice of America in Washington, DC. His degree in library science from Pratt Institute in New York, led to his employment in the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, as an area specialist, starting in 1977.

While in exile, he published several collections of poetry (*Blahoslavení*, 1953; *Tu-Fuův žal*, 1954; *Hřbet velryby*, 1995) and prepared several translations from Russian (B. Pasternak, Alexandr Solženicyn, Osip Mandelstam, Josif Brodskij). He also wrote a novel *Pražská ekloga* (1973) and a novelette *Zpráva z Lisabonu* (1979). Subsequently he wrote several studies about T.G. Masaryk, i.e., *Slovo má poslanec Masaryk* (1985), *Czechoslovak Declaration of Independence* (1985), *Masarykův triumf: Příběh konce světové války* (1987), *Masaryk and America: Testimony of a Relationship* (1988), *Republika v nebezpečném světě: Éra prezidenta Masaryka 1918–1935* (2005). In addition he authored *Tajuplná vražda: Případ Leopolda Hilsnera* (1994).

While working in the Library of Congress he prepared several important bibliographies, i.e., *Thomas G. Masaryk (1850-1937: A Selective List of Reading Materials in English)* (1981), *Czech and Slovak History: An American Bibliography* (1996) and *Czech and Slovak Literature in English* (1988).

His passing away is a great loss to SVU and to the Czech community abroad, as well as to the Czech Republic.

Contributed by Mila Rechcigl

George (Jiri) Pistorius (1922-2014)

One of the earliest SVU members, George (Jiří) Pistorius passed away on Saturday, March 15, 2014, at Sweet Brook, Williamstown, MA, following a long illness. He was born in Prague on March 19, 1922, as a son of a notable economist Theodor Pistorius who founded the Institute for Export in Prague. He was the grandson of Josef Jiránek, who was a noted concert pianist and pupil of Smetana.



Pistorius attended Charles University (1945-48), where he studied French and comparative literature. He left Prague in 1948 for Paris, where he worked as a journalist, writing cultural and education programs for the French Broadcasting Company, and did postgraduate studies in Slavic philology at Université de Paris (1948-50).

When he first came to the US in 1958, he taught French and German at Lafayette College in Easton, PA, while attending University of Pennsylvania, where he studied Romance languages, specializing in French (Ph.D.). In 1963, he moved to Williamstown to teach French at Williams College, where he taught for 29 years until his retirement in 1992. He was chair of the Romance Languages Department, 1971-1982.

He was fluent in four languages, and was interested in Franco-German liter-

ary relations. He was an active member of the Modern Language Association, and wrote at least five books and numerous articles focused on 19th- and 20th-century French literature and 20th-century Franco-German literary relations. In Czech, he authored *Bibliografie díla F. X. Šaldy* (1948), *Padesát let Egona Hostovského* (1958) and *Doba a slovesnost* (2007). A pianist himself, he knew classical music inside out and faithfully attended concerts around Williams College campus.

His passing away is a great loss to SVU, as well as to the Romance Languages community.

Contributed by Mila Rechcigl

Ten Ta To



15 Suzanna Halsey

Dear friends and Czech language aficionados!

I have good news for all students and practitioners of Czech. In more than thirty years of teaching Czech I often observed my students' frustration with remembering grammatical genders. So, inspired by the ubiquitous smart phone technology I decided to produce Ten Ta To, an application for Android and iOS phones, a tool for learning and practicing grammatical

genders of Czech nouns. The demonstrative pronouns ten, ta, to (this) are used for teaching masculine, feminine or neuter gender of Czech nouns. Similar to the articles der, die, das in German or le, la in French.

Czech natives apply the correct gender intuitively. But for English speakers, it is a big challenge. Often, the Czech gender is not natural or logical. However, it is very important to identify the proper gender for further correct use of Czech nouns, adjectives, pronouns, numbers and the past tense participle, as in other Slavic languages.

I have teamed up with the developer Lubos Mikusiak who has already created such an app for German, French and Dutch.

(See <http://czechmatters.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=39c33d86e0d73cd9703e91513&id=197b3c3358&e=985e7edeb4>.)

The *Ten Ta To* app will be free to download through Google Play and App

Store. It will complement the classwork of Czech courses of all levels and provide a practical tool for all users of Czech globally. One can use it anywhere, in a park, on a train, on a plane or in a waiting room.

No internet connection is necessary. If you need to quickly look up the correct gender just pick up the phone and type the first few characters. (Scroll down for more details.) Our budget is \$6,500. We have already received support from the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU) in New York. We need to raise \$4,000 more to complete and launch the app.

Please support the project by making your tax-deductible contribution. Any amount is appreciated. Contributors of \$500 and more will receive a thank-you in the application and in all promotion.

Please attach the form bellow and please make your check payable to:

Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences, Inc.

write in a memo Ten Ta To and mail to

SVU c/o Suzanna Halsey

515 Avenue I, #1B Brooklyn, NY 11230

Thank you for your attention. We are looking for your participation and support.

Děkujeme!

Suzanna (Zuzana) Halsey

producer and content editor

646-580-6612

suzanna@czechmatters.com

Please send with your donation.

I wish to support the Ten Ta To project and enclose a check for:

\$ _____

Name: Mr./ Ms.

Email /Address:

Thank you. Let us know if you wish to remain an anonymous donor.

Ten Ta To—A Czech language training application for Android and iOS mo-

bile devices. No internet connection necessary. Free to download from Google Play and App Store.

Ten Ta To app will contain 4,000 of the most frequently used nouns, including nouns from the popular textbook *New Czech Step by Step*, and the following functions:

1. A summary of rules and guidelines to determine the gender of Czech nouns.
2. A look-up of a noun's gender by typing the first few letters of the word.
3. Activities for practicing and memorizing the correct gender. A user can...
 - ... play a three-level game of selecting the gender of random words; incorrect answers are cycled back until the correct answer is given.
 - Student will see statistics of her/his progress;
 - ... create a personal list of problematic words;
 - ... look up the definition and usage of a word by clicking the word and accessing a dictionary.

Announcement

This marks the fourth year of the **Film and Beer Series at Bistro Bohem in Washington DC**. The series this year focuses on the work of acclaimed screenwriter and actor Zdeněk Svěrák, who is renowned for the Oscar-winning film *Kolya*. All of the films will screen in Czech with English subtitles. Each screening includes one free beer as well as an introduction by a representative from the Czech Embassy. All screenings are subject to change. The screenings take place the third Tuesday of every month.

Upcoming Screenings in 2015, always at 7PM:

Jan. 20	Elementary School Obecná škola
Feb. 17	Kolya Kolja
March 17	Empties Vratné lahve
Apr. 21	Secluded, Near Woods Na samotě u lesa
May 19	Dark Blue World Tmavomodrý svět
June 16	Waiter, Scarper Vrchní, prchni!
July 21	What's Up Doc? Co je vám, doktore?
Aug. 18	My Sweet Little Village Vesničko má středisková
Sept. 15	Accumulator 1 Akumulátor 1
Oct. 20	Ruffiano and Sweeteeth Lotrando a Zubejda (TBC)
Nov. 17	Jára Cimrman Lying, Sleeping Jára Cimrman ležící, Spící
Dec. 15	The Three Veterans Tři veteráni

Announcement



14 Norma Comrada

Norma Comrada, an active SVU member, translated several of Čapek's collections of short stories and his 1938 play "The Mother" into English. Norma is currently Courtesy Professor of Slavic Literature in Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies. She will receive the "**Medaile Karla Čapka**" from the Společnost Bratří Čapků in Prague on January 31, 2015. The medal is in recognition of her translations of Čapek's work and her articles and presentations as well as literary work.

Find more about Norma Comrada at <http://www.radio.cz/en/section/one-on-one/us-translator-norma-comrada-on-how-she-learnt-by-translating-karel-capek>



1 The abstract beauty of a frozen stream - Photo Petr Hausner

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Bethesda, MD 20827

Periodical



16 Girls helping in the kitchen during the successful Christmas Bazaar which was organized by the Washington Chapter of SVU in December 2014 - photo Petr Hausner