

The End of an Era:

Mila Rechcigl Bids Farewell

The improbable and unexpected really happened. Long-term SVU President Mila Rechcigl, who served continuously as SVU President from 1994 to 2006, after his initial sojourn in 1974-1978, decided to relinquish his post after completion of his current term.

In his parting words at the General Assembly meeting, convened on the occasion of the 23rd SVU World Congress at the University of South Bohemia in Ceske Budejovice, on June 30, 2006, he said the following:

“Before I leave, I would like to again express my sincere appreciation to the members of the outgoing Executive Board who worked diligently with me in the last two years on the SVU agenda. As most of you know, I have served in the office of SVU President continuously since 1994, i.e., twelve years altogether. If you add to this four more years when I served as SVU President during the 1974-1978 period, that makes it sixteen years which is an incredibly long period by any standard. It’s time for change and have younger person to take over, and this is the reason why I decided not to be a candidate in the next term.

The older members among you will remember that when first became President in 1974, the Society was at a brink of financial crisis, which threatened the Society’s very existence. With hard work and perseverance we managed to overcome the impending disaster to the point that within a year the SVU finances were in the black. I was brought back sixteen years later - in 2004 - when the Society was again at very critical point. There was general apathy among the membership, partly due to the unsettling political situation in the old homeland. There was even talk about abolishing the Society, based on the belief that SVU already fulfilled its mission and that the time had come to cease and desist. With coming years we were successful in overcoming these trends. The Society has been revitalized and brought to higher and more glowing horizons than before - to the point that, presently, without doubt, SVU is considered the most influential organization of its kind that promotes Czech and Slovak culture globally and that fosters cooperation between the old homeland and the Western World. As I mentioned in my 2006 State of the SVU Report, the Society’s image could not be better.

I am pleased that we can pass on the reign to our successors with the Society being in excellent shape, in terms of its reputation, as well as organizationally and financially.

I wish my successors all the best, with the hope that they take good care of our Society and continue its mission, as originally foreseen by its founders.”

SVU Website: www.svu2000.org

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Most of the members who attended the General Assembly were unaware that such a historic event would take place on that occasion and were stunned by the announcement, believing that Rechcigl would want to keep the function as long as he could. Although Rechcigl has made occasional hints that he would hand over the reign of the Society as soon as a suitable successor could be found, none of the members took him seriously.

The General Assembly meeting started at 4:15 P.M. As customary, it met one hour after the scheduled time, in order to meet requirements of quorum. Actually, the „Bazilika“ main hall, where the meeting was held, was so crowded with people that it is quite possible that enough people would have been present at 3 o’clock already so that the meeting could have started at the scheduled time.

After opening the meeting and welcoming the members and guests, SVU President Rechcigl, who presided over the meeting, appointed Kathleen Oslzly as Recording Secretary and then named SVU Resolution Committee, consisting of Zdenek David, David Chroust and Vladimir Papousek to draft a resolution to be voted on by the Assembly. At the request of attending scientists, he also named a second resolution committee, consisting of Prof. Thomas A. Miller, Prof. Frantisek Sehnal and Prof. Jaroslav Drobnik to prepare an additional resolution dealing specifically with the environmental and ecological issues.

The next point on the agenda was the approval of the Minutes of the previous Annual meeting, held in North Miami, FL in March 2005, which was presented to the Assembly by Dr. Blanka Kudej who authored the document. Rechcigl then called on the Assembly to honor the memory of the deceased members in the last two years by standing.

Then followed the reports of the individual SVU Chapters, including Prague, Brno, London, Munich, New York, Texas, Nebraska, New York, Chicago, Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Florida and the report of the Student Award Committee, given by Vice President Vera Borkovec. Afterwards, SVU President presented his traditional State of SVU Report for the last 2-year administrative period. His report, which is published separately, was received with applause and approval by the Assembly.

SVU Treasurer Frank Mucha was then asked to give his report on the status of SVU finances, followed by the report of the Auditors of Accounts. At the recommendation of the SVU auditors, the Treasurer's Report was approved by the Assembly and the outgoing Executive Board was granted „Absolutorium.“

By this time, both Resolution Committees completed drafting their resolutions which were presented to the General Assembly for vote. Both Resolutions, whose texts appear elsewhere, were approved as drafted.

Following the established procedures, the outgoing President Rechcigl, after his concluding remarks, appointed a new presiding officer pro tempore. He selected for this purpose Prof. Zdenek Slouka, a former SVU President (1992-1994) and a member of the Nominating Committee. His function was to inform the Assembly of the outcome of the recent SVU elections, based on the Report of the Inspectors of Elections, chaired by Zdenek Vich. All candidates, as originally proposed by the Nominating Committee, chaired by Prof. Petr Zuman, were elected.

After announcing the outcome of the elections, Prof. Slouka asked the newly elected President Karel Raska to assume his new function, while the outgoing President Mila Rechcigl symbolically handed him the gavel.

The Newly Elected SVU Officers for the 2006-2008 Administrative Period

SVU EXECUTIVE BOARD

President

Karel F. Raska, Jr., MUDr., CSc., Professor, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Executive Vice President

Vlado Simko, MUDr., CSc., Professor, SUNY Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY

Vice Presidents

Vera Z. Borkovec, Ph.D., American University, Washington, DC

Peter Filip, Ing., PhDr., DrSc., Professor, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, IL

Charles Heller, Ph.D., Professor, School of Business, University of Maryland

Charles Kulp, Ph.D., Economist, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), Chicago, IL

Karel Pacak, MUDr., Ph.D., DSc., Principal Investigator, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD

Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., Professor, Dean, Winona State University, Winona, MN

George Tesar, Ph.D., Professor, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI and Umea University, Sweden

Dagmar H. White, PhDr., Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale, VA

Secretary-General

Zdenek David, Ph.D., Senior Scholar, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, DC

Treasurer

Vladimir Kysucky, M.B.A., Financial Analyst, Columbia University

SVU COUNCIL

Marie Nemcova Banerjee, Smith College, Northampton, MA
Zdenek P. Bazant, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
Petr Bisek, Glen Cove, NY
Ivo Bartecek, Palacky University, Olomouc
Ivo Budil, University of West Bohemia, Plzen
Zora Butorova, Institute of Public Affairs, Bratislava, SR
Josef Cermak, Toronto, Ont., Canada
Lubomir Durovic, Lund Universitet, Lund, Sweden
Libor Ebringer, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, SR
Andrew Elias, Fairfax, VA
Ivo K. Feierabend, San Diego University, San Diego, CA
Jaroslav Folta, National Technical Museum, Prague
Thomas G. Gibian, Sandy Spring, MD
Milan Hauner, Madison, WI
Zdenek Hruban, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Josef Jarab, Palacky University, Olomouc, CR
Jan Kmenta, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Eva Dubska Kushner, Victoria University, Canada
Josef Machac, Mt. Sinai Medical Center, New York, NY
Ladislav Macho, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava
Josef Mestenhauer, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
Miroslav Plavec, University of California, Los Angeles, CA
Jack Rechcigl, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
Mila Saskova-Pierce, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE
Peter Sis, New York, NY
Alexander Tkac, Slovak Technical University, Bratislava, SR
Vaclav Vitek, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
Piotr Wandycz, Yale University, CA
Rudolf Zahradnik, Academy of Sciences of Czech Republic, Prague, CR
Petr Zuman, Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY

AUDITORS OF THE ACCOUNTS

Frank Mucha, New York, NY
Eva Marikova Leeds, Bethlehem, PA
Ivan Furda, Minneapolis, MN
Carol H. Hochman, Pittsburgh, PA

CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION COMMITTEE

George Glos, Library of Congress, Washington, DC
Radomir Luza, Blue Bell, PA
Vladimir Kabes, Bethesda, MD

TISKOVA ZPRAVA SVU

State of the SVU in the Year 2006

Report of SVU President Dr. Miloslav Rechcigl Presented to SVU General Assembly Meeting, Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic, June 30, 2006

It is a pleasure to present our traditional State of SVU Report to our distinguished General Assembly, meeting here, in the historic city of Ceske Budejovice. First, I would like, however, to express our sincere appreciation to Lord Mayor of the City and the Governor of the Budejovice Region to let us use this fantastic facility, the elegant cultural center's "Bazilika" for our meeting.

This report covers the usual two-year administrative period, since the time the present Executive Board was elected at the SVU World Congress in Olomouc in June 2004.

On the whole, I am pleased to report we had two very successful years. As has been our practice, we started our term with the review of SVU Mission Statement and developing an action plan and dividing responsibilities among the individual Board members. The Executive Board essentially has continued with the priorities that were developed earlier, i.e., an Accent on Youth initiative, institutionalizing cultural cooperation with CR and SR, fostering preservation of Czech and Slovak heritage abroad, sponsoring publication projects, and assisting with the development of civil society in CR and SR. To this we added another priority, namely to search for new SVU leadership to assure the Society's continuity in the future.

These priorities were, of course, superimposed over the usual processes relating to the running of the Society, such as holding regular Board meetings, organizing our annual conference and SVU World Congress, maintenance of SVU membership rolls and finances, coordinating local chapter activities, issuance of SVU periodicals and keeping our SVU Website up to date.

The most immediate task of the newly elected Executive Board was selecting a suitable site for the 2005 SVU Conference, as well as that for the next SVU World Congress in 2006. Interestingly, we had decided on the latter before picking the site for the 2005 Conference which was only a few months away.

There was really only one site that met the specific criteria and conditions set by the Executive Board, namely North Miami, Florida. It was decided to join forces with the local American Czech and Slovak Cultural Club and to hold a joint Conference & Festival on the premises of their Club in North Miami on the weekend of 18-20 March 2005. The Conference, with its general theme "Czechs and Slovaks in America: Challenges and Opportunities," and sponsored by Presidents Vaclav Klaus and Ivan Gasparovic, of Czech and Slovak Republics, respectively, generated lots of excitement and publicity. It attracted a half dozen of University Rectors from the Czech and Slovak Republics and other dignitaries, including the Czech and Slovak Ambassadors in the US. I had the pleasure of organizing the academic program, while Cecilia Rokusek and Bob Petrik handled the logistics and cultural and social events. The combination of a beautiful setting in the vicinity of sunny beaches of Florida, the involvement of the local Czech and Slovak community, the interesting academic program and enjoyable cultural activities led to a very successful event which was characterized as "SVU Extravaganza in Florida."

Although we began forming plans for the SVU World Congress soon after completion our Florida Conference, we did not start the organizational work and programming until fall 2005, when the SVU Executive Board gave its approval to hold the Congress at the University of South Bohemia in Ceske Budejovice on 25 June – 2 July 2006. After some back and forth correspondence with our co-organizers in Ceske Budejovice regarding financial arrangements and logistics, only then did the preparation and organizational work begin in earnest. In October 2005 I went to Ceske Budejovice to iron out the remaining bottlenecks and negotiate the details.

Afterwards I devoted some time to correspondence with the Prague Castle and the Bratislava Castle to get sponsorship of the Congress by both the Czech and Slovak Presidents and also to assure President

Klaus' personal participation in the Congress. While this was going on, we began, together with our colleagues in Ceske Budejovice, developing plans for local arrangements. After completion of the logistical details, we could finally focus on the preparation of the program. Docent Michal Bauer was given responsibility for the coordination of the Czech and Slovak panels, while I took charge of organizing the English-language panels. It was an arduous task which in my case took more than four months of steady work in front of the computer, sending out hundreds of personal invitation letters and responding to a plethora of e-mails. I presume Docent Bauer and his colleagues must have spent quite a bit of time on their panels as well. That the hard work paid off is plainly evident from the versatile program and the high quality of individuals papers.

As has been stressed on a number of occasions, publishing monographs and periodicals is the SVU's imperative. In the last two years we have certainly gone a long way to meet this objective. The first task in this area was to get selected papers from the Olomouc SVU World Congress ready for publication. I had the pleasure of editing the English papers, while Docent Ivo Bartecek edited the Czech papers. Most of you must have seen the results of this work in viewing the impressive Congress collections, published by Palacky University, under Docent Bartecek's leadership.

With our Webmaster Jiri Eichler's help, SVU produced a CD containing *Selected Papers from the 2003 SVU North American Conference, Cedar Rapids, Iowa*, this being our first electronic attempt in publishing. In the same vain, we proceeded with the electronic production of the revised *SVU Biographical Directory*. I presume some of you purchased these two CDs which were available for sale here. While doing this, we have simultaneously begun working, with our Webmaster, on a Biographical Data Base comprised of biographical sketches of selected SVU members, which has been posted on SVU Website.

Among new SVU monographs, Vice President Vera Borkovec was given the responsibility for putting together and editing a book on "Czech and Slovak Theatre Abroad", while Vice President Dagmar Hasalova White assumed responsibility for preparing a comparable volume on "Czech Opera Abroad." I should also mention that, on the occasion of my 75th birthday, SVU honored me by publishing a selection of my writings, under the title *Czechs and Slovaks in America. Surveys, Reflections and Personal Insights Relating to the History and the Contributions of Czech and Slovak Immigrants in America and their Descendants* (2005), as a part of the East European Monographs series. SVU also sponsored musicologist Jan Vicar's monograph on *Czech Music and Aesthetics* (2005), which was available at the SVU Conference in Florida. With reference to the present Congress, plans are in motion to also publish selected papers.

As far as SVU periodicals are concerned, Andrew Elias and Clinton Machann deserve our thanks for publishing our newsletter *Zpravy SVU* and the English periodical *Kosmas*. Both periodicals have been issued in timely fashion and have been praised by the readers for their interesting content and high quality.

As pointed out earlier, the preservation of Czech and Slovak cultural heritage belongs among SVU top priorities. In this regard, our Florida Conference dealt exclusively with this subject, as did one entire section of this Congress' program. Some of you, who attended the SVU Florida Conference, will recall that at that meeting I announced the establishment of a special SVU Czech and Slovak Studies Fund at the University of Minnesota's Immigration History Research Center (IHRC). The purpose of the Fund is to prepare an inventory of SVU Archives which was deposited there and to provide financial assistance to students and scholars in conducting research in the Archives. To be sure, it was meant as seed money to attract other Czech and Slovak organizations to assist with the maintenance and development of IHRC's Czech and Slovak collection. I had the pleasure of presenting our \$10,000 check to Rudolph Vecoli, the Director of IHRC at a special ceremony, attended by both the Czech Ambassador Martin Palous and the Slovak Ambassador Rastislav Kacer. I should also like to mention that in July 2005 the University of Minnesota sent their truck to pick up the remaining archival materials maintained in our house.

Organizationally speaking, you will be pleased that we have established two new SVU Chapters: one in Olomouc, under the leadership of Evzen Weigl, and an other in North Miami, Florida, with Blanka Kudej, serving as its President. The former was the direct result of our SVU World Congress held at Palacky University in 2004, while the latter was, similarly, an outcome of the Florida Conference. In this connection, I am pleased to also report that our colleagues at the University of South Bohemia are planning to establish a new chapter here, under the leadership of Prof. Vladimir Papousek. With all this good news, I am a bit concerned about the future of some of our older chapters which are rapidly aging with their officers. Unless the younger generation will soon take over they may phase out into oblivion as some other chapters have done. Consequently, I urge all the officers of the respective chapters who have reached the venerable age of seventy or over to voluntarily step down and let the younger generation take over before it is too late.

With respect to SVU membership, a number of our members passed away, while others are aging, I am pleased to report, however, that we have recruited a significant number of new members, a preponderance of whom came from the younger generation, particularly students. I am gratified that our Blue Ribbon SVU Leadership Search Committee has also made a real effort to rejuvenate the future SVU Executive Board which is reflected in the voting ballots.

It should be noted that most of the new SVU members are young Americans, usually associated with universities, with interest in Czech or Slovak culture or affairs. Inasmuch as we cannot in the future count on new immigration waves from the old countries, it is abundantly clear that the future of our Society will depend on this type of people, i.e. university-based professors and students pursuing studies on Czech or Slovak matters and other professionals in the US and Canada involved in some work or business with the Czech and Slovak Republics, who may not have any Czech or Slovak roots. Although some of these professionals may have some working knowledge of Czech or Slovak, for the most part, they are primarily English-speaking people. For this reason, and considering that younger people in the Czech and Slovak Republics are being trained in English, the English language needs to remain the SVU's "lingua franca" in the future. It should also be noted that the main source of revenue of the Society comes from the US and Canada, in comparison with the small contributions coming from Europe. With the exception of a few newly established chapters in the Midwest and the South of the US, hardly any established local chapters have been recruiting new members. Practically all new members have been recruited individually who have no association with any SVU chapters.

As a part of our Civil Society emphasis, SVU established a special SVU Tolerance and Humanitarian Award, thanks to the generous donation of Andrew Elias. This award is given annually to an individual whose life and work symbolizes the values of human tolerance and humanitarianism. It was a pleasure to present last year's award to Jan Figel, Slovak Commissioner at EU for Education. This year's award was given to Petra Prochazkova, a prominent Czech journalist who concentrated her efforts on bringing to the public attention the worst violations of human rights.

In the area of civil rights, I would also like to commend Lois Herman for her leadership role in promoting the women's issues idea, not only in terms of organizing an effective force within SVU but also for systematically contributing to our Women's Issue Sub-Website.

From the time I was given the chief responsibility of heading and managing the Society, I have made a deliberate effort to assure that we have a solid financial base and that we manage our precious financial resources wisely. In this regard, I would like to commend our Treasurer Frank Mucha who was my principal ally in this effort, who made sure that our books are carefully maintained and that we operate with a balanced budget. As a result of this policy, I am pleased to say that our finances are sound. We do not depend on anyone, we don't owe anything to anyone and we stand on our own two feet. The Society's image could not be better and its visibility is high, thanks, in part, to our splendid SVU Website, managed by our always dependable Webmaster Jiri Eichler.

CZECH AND SLOVAK HERITAGE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC

Resolution of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU) on the Occasion of its Twenty-Third World Congress Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic, June 30, 2006

During its Twenty-Third World Congress in the year 2006 in the city of Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic, the metropolis of Southern Bohemia, the city and its region opened their hearts to welcome members of the SVU to this signature cultural event for participants from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, the United States and other countries around the world.

WHEREAS this 2006 SVU Congress is dedicated to placing Czech and Slovak culture and scholarship in an international context, and

WHEREAS this congress will help draw attention to the significant contributions of Czech and Slovak scholars, scientists and professionals in the arts, sciences, education and business, and

WHEREAS this congress is dedicated to the promotion and understanding of the intellectual and cultural attainments of Czechs and Slovaks in the past, the present, and the future,

BE IT RESOLVED that SVU does commit itself anew to:

providing opportunities for scholars and scientists of all nationalities on both sides of the Atlantic and the Pacific to make contributions to the understanding of Czech and Slovak culture and history;

providing a venue for academic exchange and dialogue concerning the Czech and Slovak contributions to global civilization;

providing opportunities for scholars of all nationalities to disseminate research on Czech and Slovak topics;

developing an understanding of our own human failings in tolerance and compassion without that understanding we should fail as a world society;

preserving our connections with worldwide Czech and Slovak communities, as well as with their friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that SVU is committed to the promotion of cultural diversity, ethnic tolerance, and the preservation and promotion of the varied and rich Czech and Slovak history and culture for all generations.

Approved by the SVU General Assembly at its annual meeting in Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic, June 30, 2006

Miloslav Rechcigl, Jr.
SVU President

Resolution of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU)

1. Environmental impact of the genetically modified (OM) crops has been examined in more detail than any other agricultural innovation. No serious damaging effects have been detected and the rapid world-wide growth (15-20% annually) of OM crop cultivation testifies to their advantages. Properly used OM crops do not pollute environment and are compatible with the management of landscapes combining intensive agriculture with the organic farming and with the nature conservation areas. The refusal of OM crops by a part of European population is scientifically unjustified. Strangely, denial of OM crops is often combined with a lack of support for nature conservation.
2. The growth of world population and the increasing living standards are associated with intensive utilization of natural resources. The consequences are mitigated by environment protection efforts with special status assigned to the National Parks where ecosystems should develop undisturbed by direct human activities. To achieve this, no interference with natural processes, including large-scale disturbances, must be warranted. However, inadequate awareness of the depth of current ecological problems and the short-term economic interests provoke resistance to the very concept of nature conservation.

3. The rapid growth of scientific knowledge has outpaced efforts to educate the general public. Explaining the benefits and risks of OM crops as well as the needs of nature conservation in understandable terms has become an exigent task.

Approved by the SVU General Assembly at its annual meeting in Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic, June 30, 2006

Miloslav Rechcigl, Jr.
SVU President

Usneseni Ceskoslovenske spolecnosti pro vedy a umeni (SVU)

- I. Vliv geneticky modifikovanych (GM) plodin na zivotni prostredi byl zkouman podrobneji nez u kterekoliv jine nove zemedelske technologie. Nebyly zjistyeny zadne skodlive ucinky a rychle celosvetove sireni GM plodin (rocne o 15-20%) svedci o jejich prednostech. Spravne pouziti GM plodiny nezamoruje prostredi a je slucitelne s vyuzitim krajiny, ktera zahrnuje bezne i ekologicke zemedelstvi v sousedstvi chranenych oblasti. Odmitani GM plodin casti evropske verejnosti nema vedecke opodstatneni a je kupodivu casto spojeno s nedostatkem pochopeni pro prisnou ochranu prirody.
2. Rust svetove populace a zvysujici se zivotni uroven jsou spojeny s nadmernym vyuzivanim prrodnich zdroju. Nasledky jsou zmirmovany opatrenimi na ochranu zivotniho prostredi. V ochrane prirody maji zvlastni postaveni Narodni parky, ve kterych se maji ekosystemy ponechat prirodzenemu vyvoji bez primych zasahu cloveka. Toho lze dosahnout jen pri zajisteni bezzasahovosti do prirodnich procesu, i kdyz predstavuji rozsahle disturbance. Bohuzel nedostatecne povedomi o hloubce soucasnych ekologickych problemu a zejména kratkodobe ekonomicke zajmy jsou u casti populace duvodem pro odmitani zakladni koncepce Narodnich parku.
3. Snahy o prubeznou informovanost siroke verejnosti nedrzi krok s rychlym narustem vedeckych poznatku. Vysvetleni vyhod a moznych rizik GM plodin se stejne jako objasneni potrebnosti bezzasahovych chranenych uzemi stava nalehavym ukolem nasi doby.

Schvaleno Valnym shromazdenim SVU na vyrocní schuzi Spolecnosti v Ceskych Budejovicich, v Ceske republice dne 30. cervna 2006.

Miloslav Rechcigl, Jr.
Predseda SVU

Greetings of Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United States H.E. Petr Kolář

Spectabilis, Ambassadors, Mr. President, my dear friends, ladies and gentlemen,

I am very pleased that we gathered here today and privileged to speak to this SVU elite group of people, who promote the Czech Republic and its interests in the world, by their activities, by their credit, and by their intellectual abilities, for which they are respected in their own communities.

I am very proud that I can consider myself to be your friend, one of you, one that has so many common interests with those of yours, as I learned during my numerous visits to your various SVU Chapters as the Ambassador representing the Czech Republic in the United States of America, our most strategic ally, a country with which we share common values as well as most of foreign policy priorities.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am very happy indeed that we are meeting in the southern part of Bohemia, my birthplace! So I am welcoming you at home! In this regard, may I also suggest that apart from work, attending panels and discussions, I hope that you will enjoy the beauties of Southern Bohemia and that by visiting the fabulous places around here you will be able to struck the right balance between intellectual and cultural enlightenment. I wish you a very pleasant stay!

Thank you and, once again: welcome!

Pozdrav místopředsedy Akademie věd České republiky Prof. PhDr. Jaroslava Pánka, DrSc.

Vážený pane předsedo SVU, magnificence, excellence, dámy a pánové,

jménem Akademie věd České republiky a jejího předsedy prof. Václava Pačesa bych chtěl upřímně pozdravit právě zahajovaný 23. kongres Československé společnosti pro vědu a umění. Od doby, kdy se tento kongres vrátil „domů“ a stal se neodmyslitelnou součástí života české vědecké komunity, důkladně poznaly činnost SVU nejen starší generace vědců, kteří informace o SVU dříve získávali především z vysílání zahraničního rozhlasu. Seznámili se z ní také mladí badatelé, kteří přijali tuto vynikající organizaci za svou a kteří využívají každého z kongresových setkání k tomu, aby nově formulovali svůj vztah k české a slovenské vědě a kultuře v mezinárodních souvislostech. Ostatně i program českobudějovického kongresu dokládá, že množství témat vhodných k vědecké diskusi je nekonečné a nevyčerpatelné.

Bylo by možné hovořit o historii SVU a o významu mezinárodní spolupráce, pro niž tolik vykonala. Ocenění by si zasloužily pozoruhodné výsledky její práce za uplynulá desetiletí. Já bych však chtěl upozornit na něco jiného. Na skutečnost, že si čeští vědci této činnosti nejen váží, ale že se jí snaží také patřičným způsobem zhodnotit. Je to úkol především pro české historiky. Právě Historický ústav Akademie věd České republiky se pokusil vykonat práci, která chce být oceněním díla těch, kteří se zasloužili o poznání českých dějin a o rozšíření poznatků o minulosti a současnosti českých zemí v zahraničí. Proto zcela nedávno vydal třísvazkovou publikaci *Scholars of Bohemian, Czech and Czechoslovak History Studies* (Prague 2006), která je prvním bio-bibliografickým lexikonem svého druhu. Přináší 472 hesel (items), věnovaných historikům v zahraničí, kteří se věnují výzkumu českých dějin. Lexikon podává přehled o tom, jak vypadají na počátku 21. století historická bohemistická studia ve světě. Není jistě překvapivé, že v nich zaujímají čestné místo země sousedící s Českou republikou - Německo, Slovensko, Polsko a Rakousko -, ale také Rusko, Velká Británie, Francie a Japonsko. Snad již poněkud překvapí, že se výzkum českých dějin rozvíjí ve 24 zemích čtyř kontinentů (s výjimkou Afriky). Co je však nesmírně cenným zjištěním, je neobyčejně silný podíl obou velkých zemí Severní Ameriky. USA zaujímají vynikající druhé místo se šedesáti badateli a téměř 13-procentním podílem a Kanada desáté místo s devíti historiky českých zemí a dvouprocentním podílem na jejich celosvětovém počtu. Historici obou zemí se podílejí na výzkumu dějin středověku, raného novověku, 19. a 20. století, ale hlavně nejnovější historie. Vnější nové pohledy a jsou schopni uvést minulost malé země ve střední Evropě do světového kontextu. Za tento neocenitelný přínos české vědě i celé České republice jsme jim nesmírně vděční.

Dámy a pánové, dovoluji, abych jako výraz naší vděčnosti historikům českých zemí, působícím v USA a Kanadě, předal výtisk našeho nového lexikonu panu profesoru Rechcíglovi, dlouholetému předsedovi SVU a živoucí spojenci našich a amerických vědců. Děkujeme Vám, pane předsedo!

23. mezinárodní kongres SVU “Česká a slovenská věda a kultura v mezinárodních souvislostech”, České Budějovice ve dnech 25. června až 2. července 2006

Jihočeská univerzita v Českých Budějovicích pořádala spolu s Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (Společnost pro vědy a umění) a ve spolupráci s Jihočeským krajem a statutárním městem České Budějovice v pořadí již 23. Mezinárodní kongres Společnosti pro vědy a umění (SVU). Nad prestižním mezinárodním kongresem přijal záštitu prezident České republiky Václav Klaus a prezident Slovenské republiky Ivan Gašparovič. Prezident Václav Klaus spolu s předsedou SVU Dr. Miloslavem Rechcíglem jr. slavnostně zahájili kongres za účasti několika velvyslanců a řady významných akademických hostů ze zahraničí včetně vrcholných představitelů z několika amerických univerzit.

Společnost pro vědy a umění vznikla v roce 1958 v USA jako nezisková organizace sdružující české a slovenské umělce a vědce v exilu. V minulosti stáli v čele SVU například významný matematik Hlavatý, uznávaný literární historik Wellek či široce obdivovaný dirigent Kubelík. Tato vlastenecká organizace byla od svého založení ve svém konání mimořádně úspěšná a rychle si proto vybuodovala mezinárodní kredit. Bezprostředně po pádu ‘železné opony’ už nic nebránilo tomu, aby SVU konečně mohla rozšířit svoji činnost také na svobodném území bývalého Československa. Díky tomu vznikly v uplynulých letech nové pobočky SVU v českých zemích, a rovněž několik kongresů Společnosti mohlo být uspořádáno u nás doma (Praha, Brno, Plzeň a Olomouc). Letošního kongresu SVU v Českých Budějovicích se zúčastnilo celkem na čtyři stovky lidí, velká většina jich přijela z USA a Kanady, početné zastoupení však měla také domácí komunita badatelů v přírodních a společenských vědách. Kongres SVU se konal za předsednictví Dr. Miloslava Rechcígla jr. (Washington, DC), který byl do budějovického kongresu dlouholetým předsedou Společnosti. Realizačním ředitelem budějovického kongresu byl prof. Vladimír Papoušek, prorektor JU, a programovým ředitelem doc. Michal Bauer, oba z Filosofické fakulty JU. Na nich spočíval také největší díl zodpovědnosti za průběh kongresu. Přednášky a diskusní příspěvky byly zařazeny do celkem 65 sekcí/diskusních panelů, z nichž 48 sekcí připravili američtí kolegové a 17 sekcí sestavili čeští a slovenští kolegové. Tématický záběr jednotlivých sekcí byl obrovský, jen

namátkou uvádím: partnerství univerzit, moderní historie, mezinárodní obchod a diplomacie, šlechta na prahu novověku, kytarou proti totalitě, dějiny zahraničních Čechů, hudba a muzikologie, vojenská historie, mezinárodní finance, nadnárodní charakter českého baroka, slovenská historie, literatura a literární kritika, právo a spravedlnost; česká literatura, sokolské hnutí, současná teologie, jazyky a lingvistika, knihovnictví, ochrana národního dědictví v zahraničí, vliv západní populární hudby na českou společnost v období komunismu, české a slovenské politické myšlení v době evropské integrace, biologie, infekční biologie, geneticky modifikované organismy; akvakultury a vodní organismy; lékařství, zdravotnické vzdělávání, fyzika a fyzikální chemie, badatelé z českých zemí, kteří přinesli změnu a řada dalších. K tomu se navíc konala celá řada doprovodných programů, koncerty, divadelní představení a poznávací výlety.

V následující části se chci podělit o zážitky z jednání přírodovědných a medicínských sekcí. Jednání v těchto panelech dokázalo přitáhnout velký zájem účastníků kongresu i hostů z řad studentů a pracovníků Jihočeské university a Akademie věd. Pozvání do panelů o infekčních onemocněních a metodách jejich studia přijaly legendy československé vědy, které se právem těší velkého mezinárodního uznání. Jmenovat mohu pány profesory Jana Svobodu, Antonína Holého, Fedora Čiampora, Emila Palečka, Arminga Delonga, Ivana Rašku a za klinické obory potom Martina Bojara. Diskutovány byly nové přístupy ke studiu retrovirů i chřipkových virů, možnosti moderní terapie virových i boreliových nákaz, poslední novinky v elektronové mikroskopii a elektrochemii, otevírající okna nového poznání na úrovni biomakromolekul a subcelulárních struktur. V jiných sekcích na rozhraní medicíny a biologie se představili s výsledky své práce manželé Jana a Karel Raškovi, lékaři a univerzitní profesori z New Jersey. Strhující byla přednáška pana profesora Jiřího Mesteckého, další legendy československé imunologie a virologie, který představil novinky z oblasti imunity proti HIV, mechanismu pathogeneze AIDS a vývoje vakcíny proti HIV. A tak se posluchači mohli dozvědět z úst nejpovolanějších, že virus HIV je nesouměřitelně proměnlivějším než virus chřipky. Nerad bych však ošidil další disciplíny přírodních věd na programu českobudějovického kongresu SVU. Zejména bych se chtěl podělit o velký zážitek z přednášky pana prof. Josefa Palduse z Kanady, předního světového odborníka v oblasti kvantové mechaniky aplikované do teorie chemické vazby, složitých mnohačetných systémů a jejich matematického popisu ('počítačová chemie'). Pan prof. Jiří Janata z Georgia Tech v Atlantě představil v neobvykle aktuálním světle analytickou chemii ve službách boje s biologickým a chemickým terorismem. Přestože se několik významných představitelů československé přírodovědy působících dlouhá léta v exilu nemohlo na poslední chvíli zúčastnit, kvalitní program kongresu byl tak nabitý, že jeden prakticky nemohl stihnout všechna zajímavá sdělení. To však částečně vynahradily neobyčejně bezprostřední diskuse o přestávkách, v poledním čase či při dobrém pivu večer v některé ze zahrádek budějovických restaurací. Zkrátka atmosféra, jakou je třeba zažít na vlastní kůži, a která je jen obtížně sdělitelná. Kongres SVU, jakož i SVU samotná, vytváří to nejdůležitější, totiž mezigenerační mosty.

Na závěrečném slavnostním shromáždění Společnosti předal odstupující předseda SVU Dr. M. Recheigl jr. řadu ocenění a udělil i několik nových členství ve Společnosti. Vyjádřil radost a spokojenost s průběhem 23. mezinárodního kongresu SVU a poděkoval budějovickým organizátorům za jejich práci. Hosty závěrečného jednání byli předseda AV ČR prof. Václav Pačes (hovořil o vývoji a perspektivách vědy v AV ČR) a reportérka LN a válečná zpravodajka Petra Procházková (hovořila o odlišnostech v pojetí humanitární činnosti). Na úplný závěr byly vyhlášeny výsledky tajné volby nového předsedy/prezidenta SVU. V příštím funkčním období povede Společnost pro vědy a umění prof. Karel Raška, jr. z Morristown v New Jersey. Srdečně blahopřeji novému předsedovi. Společnosti pro vědu a umění potom přeji šťastnou budoucnost. O tu se snad nemusíme obávat. Zaslouhuje si ji převelice, neboť pomohla udržet nesmírně významný díl mezigenerační paměti přes dlouhé období komunistické totality. A tak i její zásluhou je nelehké budování moderní demokratické společnosti Čechů a Slováků přece jen o něco snazší.

*Libor Grubhoffer
Biologická fakulta JU*

2006 SVU Elias Humanitarian and Tolerance Award

Beginning with the year 2001, the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences has been granting annual Human Tolerance Award, bearing the name of the sponsor Andrew Elias," in recognizing and honoring individuals whose life and work been guided by tolerance and compassion."

At the recommendation of the SVU Civil Society Award Committee, consisting of Jaroslava Moserova (Chair), Martin Palous and Martin Butora, the SVU Executive Board decided to give this year's Elias Humanitarian and

Tolerance Award to a noted Czech journalist Petra Prochazkova. The rationale for this year's selection is reflected in Petra Prochazkova's biography below.

The award was presented to her, together with an honorarium of \$1000, by SVU President Mila Rechcigl, on the occasion of the SVU World Congress at the University of South Bohemia in Ceske Budejovice on June 30, 2006. Following the presentation, the awardee gave a talk on "Illusion in the West about the Impact of Humanitarian Aid."

Petra Prochazkova's Bio:

Petra Prochazkova was born in Cesky Brod on 20th October, 1964. She graduated from Charles University Dept. of Journalism. After the Velvet Revolution she started working for one of the major dailies Lidove Noviny. The paper sent her to Russia in 1992. She worked as a war reporter in Abchasia. Since 1994 she started supplementing her written reports by excellent film documentaries from various centers of conflict, in Abchasia, Georgia, Osetia, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Kurdistan, documenting conditions in prison camps and raided villages, trying to kindle compassion and understanding in the general public. She very bravely stayed in Czechnya during the worst fighting, showing great compassion and courage and offered herself as a hostage in exchange for the sick in a hospital.

She mainly concentrates on calling public attention to the worst violations of human rights, showing mass graves, victims of kidnappings, destitution etc. In 2001 she was evicted from Russia.

She initiated humanitarian help to the post-conflict localities, knowing from first hand experience under what conditions people have to live. She is very effectively active in the humanitarian organization Berkat.

She is a very exceptional personality, an active promoter of human rights, a true humanitarian, endowed with surprising modesty.

Karel Raska – Newly Elected SVU President for 2006-2008 Period

Karel Raska, Jr., M.D., Ph.D., F.C.A.P., was born in Prague to a family of physicians. He attended schools in Prague. In 1956 he started his studies at the Charles University Medical School and graduated with distinction in 1962. After compulsory military service in the Czechoslovak Air Force he entered graduate studies in Biochemistry at the Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry of Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. In 1965 he defended his dissertation "The Mechanism of Biological Activity of 5-azacytidine" and was awarded Ph.D. in Biochemistry.

After receiving a Commonwealth Fund Fellowship he came in 1965 to the Department of Pharmacology at Yale University School of Medicine where he continued studies of anti-cancer nucleoside analogs. In late 1967 he returned to Prague.

After August 21, 1968 he emigrated to the U.S.A. and joined the faculty of Rutgers Medical School in New Brunswick, N.J. (now Robert Wood Johnson Medical School). He rose in the ranks to a Professor in 1976. Between 1989 and 1992 he was the Professor and Chairman of the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at New Jersey Medical School in Newark, N.J. Since 1992 he is the Professor and Chairman of the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at Saint Peter's University Hospital and Director of the Institute of Molecular Diagnostics and Pathology.

He was Visiting Professor at the 3rd Medical Faculty, Charles University and Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Drexel University College of Medicine.

His research focused on the molecular biology of DNA tumor viruses, clinical immunology and immunopathology. Fourteen students got a Ph.D. degree in his laboratory and he trained dozens of postdoctoral fellows. He published over 250 articles and reports.

He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Pathology in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology with special competence in Immunopathology. He has been repeatedly elected to "The Best Doctors in America".

He is a member of many scientific societies in the U.S.A. and also an honorary member of the Learned Society of the Czech Republic. During 2004-2006 he was Vice President of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU).

He is married to Jana Raskova, M.D., Professor and Division Chief at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. They have 2 sons. The older, Karel III, is a highly respected cardiologist in New Jersey. The younger, Francis, is a historian and teaches American studies at Charles University in Prague. The Raskas are proud of their 8 year old twin grandchildren, Karel IV and Magdalena, who speak English, Czech and Polish.

New SVU Publications

Moravia from World Perspective. Selected Papers from the 22nd SVU World Congress, Palacky University, June 26 to July 4, 2004. Edited by Tomas Motlicek and Miloslav Rechcigl, Jr. Ostrava: Repronis, 2006. 2 vols; 434 p., 432 p.

Contains papers from the whole spectrum of disciplines and subjects, including Education, University Administration, Librarianship and Information Resources, Visual Arts, Music, Theatre, History, Military History, The Czechoslovak Jewish Community, Literature and Literary Criticism, Languages and Linguistics, Politics and International Relations, Edvard Benes Symposium, Economics, and Bata and Batism.

A separate section relating to Czechs and Slovaks Abroad covers such topics as Emigration and Ethnicity, Czech and Slovak Settlements and Footprints in America, Cultural Contributions of Czechs and Slovak Abroad and Moravian Texas.

All the above papers are in English. There is also a Czech section which includes the following subjects: Moravian Brethren, Status of Research concerning the Czech Communities Abroad, and Biology.

Academic Sessions - Abstracts. 23rd World Congress of Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences, University of South Bohemia, Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic, June 25 – July 4, 2006 with central theme Czech and Slovak Culture and Science in the International Context. (Ceske Budejovice: Tomas Halama, 2006) 152 p.

Schedule of the 23rd World Congress of Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences, University of South Bohemia, Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic, June 25 – July 4, 2006 (Ceske Budejovice, 2006) 8 p..

Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences. ***Selected Papers - 2003 SVU North American Conference, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 26-28 June 2003.*** Prepared by Prof. Charles Townsend, Kacenska Oslzly, Mila Rechcigl and Jiri Eichler.

A CD containing papers in the following areas: Immigration of Czechs and Slovaks to America and their Settlements, Contributions of Czech and Slovak Americans, Preservation of Czech and Slovak Heritage in America, Teaching Czech and Slovak and Other Foreign Languages in America, Issues that Concern Czech and Slovak Americans, Echoes of Czech and Slovak History and Culture in America, and Relations with Czech and Slovak Republics.

Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences. ***SVU Directory. Biographies of Members.*** Compiled and edited by Miloslav Rechcigl, Jr., Eva Rechcigl, and Jiri Eichler. Washington, DC, 2006.

This is the third revised version of the SVU Directory since the democracy has returned to the Czech and Slovak Republics. Its purpose is to provide a ready-made reference on important matters relating to the Society and its activities, and above all, its members, many of whom possess some unique expertise relating to things Czech or

Slovak. Since regular publishing takes quite a bit of time and is also more expensive, we have decided to publish this revised version electronically on CD.

The biographical entries of members are based primarily on the revisions sent by individual members and on the questionnaires sent to Society members earlier. Wherever possible, the directory supplies the following information about each member:

name; occupational title, professional affiliation, institutional address with telephone and FAX number and e-mail address; Home address with telephone and FAX numbers; place and date of birth; degree (s) received (field, institution, and year); major field (s) of competence or interest; major publications, awards..

Postovní schránka domov. Mala antologie exilove povidky padesatych let. Vybral a usporadal Michal Priban. K vydani pripravila Alena Moravkova. Praha: SVU, 2005. 88 str.

Obsahuje prispevky od Jana Cepa, Aurelie Jelinkove, Jiriho Kovtuna. Frantiska Listopada, Zdenka Nemecka, Jaroslava Strnada, Bedricha Svatose, Vladimira Stedreho, Vladimira Vanka a Roberta Vlacha.

Cesko-slovenska Britanie. Milan Kocourek a Zuzana Slobodova. Pro SVU Londyn vydalo nakladatelstvi Carpio v Treboni. R. 2006. Editor: Miroslav Hule a Stanislava Koblihova. 256 str.

Prvni cast obsahuje zivotni osudy Cechu a Slovaku, kteri se ve Spojenem kralovstvi usadili a dokazali se zde ve svych profesich vypracovat na vynikajici odborniky. Mezi jinymi tu najdeme portrety Vaclava Hollara, Adolfa Vilema Straky, Ladislava Balaze, Generealmajora Jiriho Hartmana. Ivana Jelinka, Evy Jiricne, Jan Kaplana, Miloslava Kaspara, Jaroslava, Krejciho, Jana Kresadla, Benjamina Kurase, Sir Franka Lampla, Otce Jana Langa SJ, Ivana Stipala, Liby Taylorove, Antonina Tucavskeho, Karla Wenera a Jozefa Zvonara-Tiena.

Druha cast obsahuje zivotopisy vybranych Britu, "kteri se nejakym zpusobem zamotali do ceske a slovenske kultury," jmenovite David Short, Andrew Gardner, Tim Haughton, Kieran Williams, Andrew Lance, Sir Michael Burton, Mike Ivory, Roger Darlington a Ewald Osers.

Publications of SVU Members

The prodigious and ever-busy Josef Cermak published 2nd revised edition of his popular monograph, *It all Began with Prince Rupert .The Story of Czechs and Slovaks in Canada* (Otrokovice, Czech Republic, Hart Press, 2005).

This is a 455 page encyclopedic account of of Czechs and Slovaks in Canada and their contributions in various disciplines and professions. The book is divided into five major sections, titled An Urge to Succeed, Home in the Heart of Europe, Home in Canada, Profiles and Vignettes. After the bird=s eye view of the Czechoslovak history, the author delves into the subject of immigration, covering three major immigration waves, starting with the impact of Prince Rupert of Bohemia - the Immigrant who never came.@ Then come descriptive narratives of the major Czech, Slovak and Czechoslovak associations and clubs that have played an important role in the lives of Czechs and Slovaks in Canada. The Profile section encompasses the media, business, executives, sports, professions, scientists, teachers, engineers, architects, physicians, lawyers, interpreters and translators, accountants, artists, music, ballet, literature, theatre, film, politics, social work, charities and public service. The book is appended with notes, bibliography, tables and is illustrated with numerous photographs throughout the text.

The price of the book is \$38 plus postage. In Prague it can be purchased at the Fiser bookstore on Kaprova ulice and in Canada from Czech-books.com via e-mail: www.czech-books.com

Michal Bauer edited a monograph, *Hledani expresionistickych poetik (Searching for Expressionistic Poetics)*. Papers from an international conference held in Ceske Budejovice on February 11-13, 2004. It was published by the University of South Bohemia in Ceske Budejovice in collaboration with Nova tiskarna in Pelhrimov in 2006.

It comprises 17 papers, with an introduction by Vladimir Papousek. It has 356 pages and includes a detailed name index.

Michael Bauer also edited the proceedings of an earlier conference in Ceske Budejovice, held on January 9-10, 2000. The monograph, which bears the title *Neznamy clovek Milada Souckova*, was published by the Institute for Czech Literature, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic in 2006. The publication, which has 144 pages, includes sixteen essays and an introduction by Vladimir Papousek.

Kdyby Ogden umel cesky . What if Ogden could speak Czech is the title of a new volume authored by Ogden Nash, Jiri Weinberger and Vera Borkovcova. It was published by Baronet in Prague in 2006. The Czech translation was prepared by Jiri Weinberger, while Vera Borkovcova served as a language consultant. This bilingual slender volume of some 76 pages includes twenty-six English poems of Ogden Nash with Czech translations.

As pointed out in the introduction, Ogden Nash (1902-1972) was called "Gods gift to the US." Although his verse had universal appeal with the choice of topics and endless play in words, he is virtually unknown in the Czech Republic.

Ivan M. Viest, a consulting engineer with specialization in structural engineering, has written his autobiography entitled *An Immigrant's Story*, published by Xlibris Corporation of Philadelphia in 2006. It covers the author's early upbringing in his native Slovakia, schooling through the first university degree and miscellaneous experiences during the World War II. The remainder of the book deals with activities after the author came to the US. Although the emphasis is placed on his professional contributions, description of his extensive travels and other extra-curricular activities are part of the account. Comments on a variety of public developments, on author's visit to Slovakia after a 17-year absence and on comparison of the life in the US and the country of his birth complete the story.

The book can be ordered directly from Xlibris - .via e-mail on the following address Orders@Xlibris.com
The price is \$22.94 plus shipping charges.

From New SVU Rolls

Josette Angelique Baer is a resident international scholar and senior lecturer in political science at Smolny College at St. Petersburg, Russia, with permanent residence in Zurich Switzerland. She is a native of Muensterlingen, Switzerland and has academic degrees from University of Zurich (M.A. in Philosophy 1993; Ph.D. in Philosophy 1996). She specializes in Czech and Slovak political thought of the 19th century, President Masaryk, President Havel, Charter 77. Slovak National movement of the 19th century and Czech relations with Balkans.

Andrew Michael Drozd holds the position of Associate Professor of Russian at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, AL. He is a native of Richmond, TX and has academic degrees from Louisiana State University (B.A. 1984), University of Texas (M.A. 1986, M.A. 1988) and Indiana University (Ph.D. 1995). His interests are in Russian literature and language, Russian history, Czech language, literature and history, folklore.

Marie Blaha Pearson is a retired social worker, residing in Hopewell, VA. She was trained in psychology (B.A. St. Leo University 1980). She is interested in oral and written histories of families who immigrated from Czech villages in Romania to the US.

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