From its inception, the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Science in America, as it was initially called, regarded publishing an important part of its program. Some considered it its imperative. Inasmuch as I had something to do with organizing the SVU publication program in the early years, and being probably the last person who knows anything about that period, I thought it timely and appropriate to put down some of my recollections of those formative years before our institutional memory completely fades away. The present survey covers the period from the Society’s founding until about 1968. The bibliography which follows is a comprehensive chronological listing of all SVU titles to date.

Formative Years

The first order of business of the newly formed Society in 1958 was to establish a newsletter in order that the leadership could communicate with its members. This led to Zprávy SVU (News of SVU), which commenced publishing in September 1959. Ivan Herben, who was elected the Society’s Press Secretary became its first editor. He was no novice, since he came from a prominent journalist family and edited Svobodné slovo in post-World War II Czechoslovakia. From the beginning he made clear that this would be just a newsletter rather than a journal.\(^1\) In the first issue he announced his assumption of the difficult task of keeping track of the “creative work of exile” by keeping the SVU members informed of what has been written and what was in progress, and he made an appeal to the membership to regularly send him news of their publications, lectures, artistic work, etc. He customarily sent out postcards to individual members to remind them of this. He remained in that function until June 1963,\(^2\) when he was reassigned to Europe by his employer, Radio Free Europe. Under his stewardship the Zprávy SVU was truly a professional periodical.

The first independent publication projects which SVU undertook unfortunately have not been realized. As we read in the Society’s status report after the first year of existence, the Washington SVU Chapter came up with the idea of gathering documents on Czechoslovak history covering the period from 1914-1948, as well as documents relating to the history of Czechoslovak immigrants in the US, with emphasis on their cultural and economic contributions. Meanwhile, the Chicago Chapter planned a publication about Czechoslovak arts and sciences. The early program also included the idea of a who’s who in the Czechoslovak artistic and scientific diaspora. There were also plans afoot to establish an “Arts and Sciences Publishing Corporation” on the pattern of the popular Družstevní práce in Czechoslovakia, which would enable SVU members to publish their works in Czech, Slovak or world languages.\(^4\) In this regard an appeal was sent to all members to buy shares in the company at the rate of $25 per share. Because of some unforeseen legal difficulties, the idea was soon scratched and the money was returned to members who already bought such shares. Another idea which floated around was to sponsor a literary competition, which also did not materialize.

Except for a few small brochures and pamphlets, such as Karel B. Jirák’s Antonín
A distinct turn in the SVU publication program was the SVU General Assembly’s decision to create the new post of Publication Committee Chairman, to which I had the pleasure of being elected. Even before the election, I took on the responsibility for editing and publishing the abstracts of papers presented at the First SVU Congress, held in Washington in April 1962. As the first step, I established a Publication Committee, composed of Prof. Peter Demetz, Dr. Jaroslav Němec and myself as Chairman. It did not take long before we had a concrete publication program plan ready, and it was favorably received. Our plan was later expanded and presented in my comprehensive report, presented to the General Assembly at the Second SVU Congress in 1964.

Our plan started with the Proceedings of the First SVU Congress. I took this responsibility upon myself, which was quite logical since I also organized the entire Congress program. From the first day of organizing the Congress program I was determined to see a selection of papers published in book form. Of course I realized that the Society could not afford to publish it on its own because it lacked the necessary finances. I began corresponding with various US and European publishers to see whether I could get them interested in the project. I was convinced that a combination of interesting topics, high quality of papers and outstanding authors would sell our “product” without difficulty. My hunch was right and in a relatively short time I negotiated an agreement with Mouton and Co. in The Hague, Netherlands, the leading European publishing house of Slavic books, with the understanding that they would publish the book entirely at the publisher’s expense. I also took on the responsibility for getting the papers ready for publication and for editing. With my scientific background I introduced the practice of peer reviewing every paper under consideration, using at least two different reviewers for a given paper, which assured that our publication would be of high quality. Although it took an enormous effort, the book was published in 1964, as planned, under the title Czechoslovak Contribution to World Culture. The book was a great success from the start, as was reflected in a number of favorable book reviews in academic journals. Without doubt, this publication put SVU on the world map.

The second publication on our list was a collection of Prof. René Wellek’s Essays on Czech Literature, on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday. I again succeeded in negotiating a similar agreement with the same publisher. The book was published in 1963, again without any cost to SVU, under Prof. Demetz’s editorship and with his introduction. The third book on our agenda was Václav Hlavatý’s Festschrift for his seventieth birthday. I again took it upon myself to find an outside publisher. After some correspondence back and forth with several publishing houses, we were able to get an agreement from the Indiana University Press to have them publish it at their expense. The Festschrift was published in 1966 under the title Perspectives in Geometry and Relativity. Moreover, we were contemplating issuing another Festschrift for Prof. Francis Dvorník’s seventy-fifth birthday as an international collection of papers in Byzantine and Slavic
studies. We already had an editorial board, composed of Prof. Otakar Odložilik, Prof. Roman Jakobson, Prof. Dmitrij Obolensky and Prof. George Soulis, and the Dutch publisher Mouton agreed to publish it. Unfortunately, we depended too much on Prof. Odložilik’s initiative, and he could not get the project off the ground. Another major project carried out while I was Chairman of the Publications Committee were the Proceedings of our 2nd SVU Congress. This was an enormous undertaking resulting in a two-volume set of almost two thousand pages, published under the title *Czechoslovakia Past and Present*, under my editorship. The volumes again enjoyed favorable reviews.

When I saw the futility of trying to prepare the planned who’s who among Czechs and Slovaks abroad,8 I came up with the idea of publishing a *Directory of SVU Members* instead, which seemed more feasible to me. The idea was accepted without opposition, particularly when I volunteered my wife Eva and myself to undertake the job. We prepared the individual entries from questionnaires collected from SVU members. Entries included the member’s name, position, affiliation and place of employment, business phone, private address with telephone, place and date of birth, academic degrees with the name of granting institution and year awarded, areas of specialization and interest, and major publications or artistic works. We also appended a geographical and subject index. The *Directory* was completed and published in time for the Third SVU Congress in 1966. It soon became an SVU bestseller, as did its seven later editions.

To our regret Jaroslav G. Polach, charged with preparing for publication the Washington, DC, SVU Chapter lectures series on “The Idea of Developing the Czechoslovak State 1938-1948,” failed to accomplish this. This was most unfortunate since this was probably the oldest publication project SVU undertook and was on its agenda from the very beginning. In retrospect, I am glad that we at least succeeded in having Dr. Polach deposit the lectures in SVU’s archives. While I was in charge of SVU’s publication program, we also published several books of fiction, including Egon Hostovský’s new novel *Tři noci*, Vladimír Vaněk’s story collection *Kniha povídek*, and Otakar Machotka’s *Povídky exulantovy*, and we sponsored the poetry collections of Pavel Javor, Miloslav Zlámal and Josef Martínek. We also sponsored Antonín Kratochvíl’s study *kommunistische Hochschulpolitik in der Tschechoslowakei* and a memorial volume of reminiscences about Masaryk’s Republic edited by Ivan Herben and František Třešták. SVU also planned to commemorate the Czechoslovak Republic’s 50th anniversary by publishing a scholarly volume prospectively titled “Czechoslovakia 1918-1968.” Mouton was ready to publish it at no cost to the Society but editor Prof. Henry Kučera was unable to carry out the task. Our Committee had even more ambitious plans, such as publishing an authoritative historical treatise on Czechoslovakia, for which purpose we advocated the establishment of a special Commission of notable historians. Other recommendations included preparing an inventory of doctoral dissertations relating to Czechoslovakia, a periodic bibliography of writings by Czech scholars and scientists, a bibliography on Czechoslovakia, and an inventory of unpublished manuscripts for possible publication by SVU. The Executive Board sent out an appeal to members to volunteer on the proposed projects.

In January 1964, SVU launched a quarterly periodical with the aim of “preserving and fostering free Czechoslovak culture”9 under the editorship of Ladislav Radimský, known by his pen name Petr Den. Titled *Proměny/Premeny* (Metamorphoses), the periodical was to “attempt to spiritualize man in his surrounding and ever-changing world, in the context of the everlasting values of our national tradition.” It planned to publish original and
translated poetry, short stories, essays, studies and articles. It was an outstanding journal which attracted new aspiring authors from all over the world and also frequently brought in Samizdat publications from Czechoslovakia. It ceased publication after the Velvet Revolution in 1994 because the SVU leadership felt that it was not needed anymore.

As for Anglophone periodicals, as I stated in our 1962 Publication Committee’s Report,10 “we were contemplating the issuance of a scholarly journal in English language,” pointing out that the Czechs and Slovaks abroad were the only ethnic group lacking such a periodical. With its focus on Czechoslovak topics we felt it would enhance the image of Czechoslovakia, having been greatly tarnished by the Communist regime. The periodical was also expected to foster greater interest in Czechoslovak area studies and thus to invigorate scholarship on the country’s history, literature, arts, economic conditions, etc. Unfortunately, the SVU Executive Board, which received our recommendation, was reluctant to take on such a venture. It should also be noted that in those early days there was a group of well-meaning members who thought of themselves as “patriots” and regarded publishing in languages other than Czech or Slovak to be a “national betrayal.” They generally disliked our emphasis on English titles, in which effort I received full support from people like René Wellek, Jan Mládek and Jaroslav Němec.

The idea was tabled until my 1974-78 Presidency. After soliciting opinion from leading Czechoslovak scholars around the world, including Prof. René Wellek, Prof. Roman Jakobson, Prof. G.H.N. Seton-Watson, Prof. William E. Harkins, Prof. H. Gordon Skilling, Prof. George Gibian, Prof. Heinrich Kunstmann, I persuaded our Executive Board of the need to publish an English-language periodical devoted to Czechoslovakia and its culture, and I appointed a committee to work out the details.11 As my term as SVU President neared its end, not enough time remained to get the periodical off the ground. Under my successor, Jan F. Tříška, a newly elected Executive Board favored the idea of publishing the English periodical but failed to find sufficient external funding sources for it.12 It was not until Leopold Pospíšil’s Presidency (1980-82) that the idea materialized. In the fall of 1981 the SVU Council voted the necessary funds and in 1982 the first issue came out. The new periodical bore the name Kosmas, with the subtitle *Journal of Czechoslovak and Central European Studies*. As the preface explained, “although the periodical’s broad coverage might warrant calling it ‘Cosmos,’ the title of Kosmas was chosen to honor the scholar and monk of that name who practiced many arts and sciences and wrote the memorable *Chronica Bohemorum* which has survived nearly one millennium as an eloquent treatise on early medieval Bohemia. No lesser authority than František Palacký, the ‘Father of the Nation’ and eminent leader of the Czech national revival, bestowed on Kosmas the epithet ‘The Virtual Herodotus of this Country.’”13 Prof. John F.N. Bradley of the University of Manchester, appointed first editor at my recommendation, deserves much credit for getting the journal off the ground.

In concluding I must also mention the SVU *Bulletin*, which I also instigated, and which SVU started publishing in 1980 during Jan F. Tříška's Presidency under Zdenka Fischmann's editorship. Since his Executive Board could not publish an English-language journal, I persuaded them to at least go ahead with a newsletter, arguing that the Society had an increasing number of members who did not know the Czech or Slovak languages and could not read *Zprávy SVU*. This newsletter was published separately for some fifteen years. For financial reasons, it was combined in 1995 with the *Zprávy SVU*, which was then Czech, Slovak and English. Beginning with the September 2000 issue *Zprávy*
SVU began publishing in English only. Over its nearly fifty years in existence the Society has matured and aspired to higher horizons and dimensions of excellence that even its founders did not anticipate. This is reflected in its present highly versatile publication program, as shown in the bibliography below.

Chronological Bibliography of SVU Publications

Periodicals

Zprávy SVU, 48 vols. since 1959, bimonthly (free to members).

SVU Membership Directories


Congress and Conference Publications

1st Congress (Washington, DC, April 20-22, 1962):


2nd Congress (Columbia University, New York, September 11-13, 1964):


3rd Congress (Columbia University, New York, September 2-4, 1966):


4th Congress (Georgetown University, Washington, DC, August 30-September 1, 1968):

5th Congress (New York University, New York, November 10-12, 1970):

1st European conference (Horgen, Canton of Zürich, Switzerland, 1971):

6th Congress (George Washington University, Washington, DC, November 10-12, 1972):
Program (Washington, DC, 1972), 38 pp.

7th Congress (New York University, New York, November 15-17, 1974):

8th Congress (George Washington University, Washington, DC, August 12-15, 1976), on central theme “Contributions of Czechs and Slovaks in North America”:
Program (Washington, DC, 1976), 26 pp.

9th World Congress (Cleveland State University, Cleveland, Ohio, October 26-29, 1978):

10th World Congress (Georgetown University, Washington, DC, October 17-19, 1980):
Arts and Crafts of Czechoslovakian Artists Abroad: Exhibition of Paintings, Drawings and Craft: by Czech and Slovak Artists Abroad Organized by Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Science in America on the Occasion of its 10th Congress, 13 leaves.

11th Congress (University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, October 28-31, 1982):
Program (Pittsburgh, 1982), 26 pp.
Art SVU: Czechoslovakian Artists Working Abroad, an Exhibition of Fine Arts by Czechs and Slovaks Living Outside Czechoslovakia, Organized by the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences on the Occasion of its 11th Congress, 6 pp.

12th World Congress (Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Oct. 25-28, 1984):
Program, 38 pp.
Abstracts, 90 pp.
13th World Congress (Northeastern University, Boston, Sept. 18-21, 1986):

*Program*, 32 pp.
*Abstracts*, 111 pp.
*Art Exhibition: Art Gallery, Dodge Library, Northeastern University, Boston*, 6 leaves.

14th World Congress (National 4-H Center, Chevy Chase, Md., Sept. 15-18, 1988):

*Program*, 26 pp.
*Art Exhibition*, 4 pp.

15th World Congress (Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Oct. 11-14, 1990):

*Program*, 30 pp.
*Abstracts*, 76 p.
*Art Exhibition: Canadian Artists of Czech and Slovak Origin*, 20 pp.

16th World Congress (Prague and Bratislava, June 26 - July 2, 1992), in cooperation with the Council of Learned Societies of CSFR:


17th World Congress (Prague, June 26-29, 1994), in cooperation with the Council of Learned Societies of CR:

*Czech and Slovak Contribution to the World Culture: Abstracts* (Prague, 1994), 137, 64 pp.


Jánal, Rudolf, ed. *Sborník Československé společnosti pro vědy zemědělské,*
lesnické, veterinární a potravinářské: sborník přispěvků ze 17. světového kongresu SVU (Prague, 1994), 238 pp.

18th World Congress (Brno, Czech Republic, August 26-29, 1996):


Conference of Košice SVU Chapter (Vysoké Tatry, August 1996):


Annual Meeting and Conference (Bell County Exposition Center, Belton, Tex., July 12-13, 1997), on “Czech-Americans in Transition: Challenges and Opportunities for the Future”:

Program and Conference Participants, 12 pp.

19th World Congress (Bratislava, July 5-10, 1998):


Special Conference (Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn., April 24-26, 1999), on central theme “Czech and Slovak America: Quo Vadis?”:

Program and Speakers, 20 pp.

20th Anniversary World Congress (American University, Washington, DC, August 9-13, 2000), on central theme “Civil Society and Democracy into the New Millennium”:

Program, special offprint of Zprávy SVU, 40 pp.

North American Conference (Lincoln, Neb., August 1-3, 2001) on “The Czech and Slovak Legacy in the Americas: Preservation of Heritage with the Accent on Youth”:


21st Anniversary World Congress (University of West Bohemia, Plzeň, Czech Republic,
June 24-30, 2002) on “Transformation of Czech and Slovak Society on the Threshold of the New Millennium and Its Role in a Globalizing World”:

*Program, Abstracts, List of Participants and Lecturers, 160 pp.*


*Program, Abstracts and Biographies of Speakers, 76 pp.*

Working Conference (Czech and Slovak Embassies, Washington, DC, November 22-23, 2003):


22nd World Congress (Palacký University, Olomouc, Czech Republic, June 26-July 4, 2004) on central theme “Moravia from World Perspective”:


Special Conference and Festival (North Miami, Fla., March 17-20, 2005) on central theme “Czech and Slovak Cultural Heritage on Both Sides of the Atlantic”:

*Program and Abstracts* (North Miami, FL, SVU, 2005), 50 pp.
23rd World Congress (University of South Bohemia, České Budějovice, Czech Republic, June 25- July 2, 2006):


**Monographs**

1961


1962


1963


1964

Duben, V.N. *Czech and Slovak Periodicals Outside Czechoslovakia as of September 1964* (New York), 208 pp.


1965


1966


1968


1970


Duben, V.N. *České a slovenské noviny a časopisy* (New York), 28 pp


1971


1972


1973

1975


1976


1977


1978


1980


1981


1983


1985


1986


1987


1988

*Kultur und Gewalt: Erfahrungen einer Region* (Kendat, Cambria), 72 pp.

1990


*Společnost a kultura* (Lancaster: Lancaster Univ. Press), 198 pp.

1991


1992

Fiala, Oliver, a Jan Jirásek, comps. *SVU Sydney 1972-1992: Záznamy z dvacetileté činnosti Místní skupiny Společnosti pro vědy a umění v Sydney* (Sydney), 142 pp. 1993

Sommer, Karel. *UNRRA a Československo* (Opava: Slezský ústav AV ČR, with financial support from Washington SVU chapter), 112 pp. 1995


White, Lewis M., ed. *On all Fronts: Czechoslovaks in World War II*, part 3 (Boulder, Colo.: East European Monographs, with financial support from Washington SVU chapter), 333 pp. 2002


**Publications Sponsored by SVU**

1965


1966


1968


1982


1984


1985
Absolon, Karel B. *Developmental Technology of Gastric Surgery 1521 to Present* (Rockville, Md.: Kabel Publishers), 170 pp.


1986


Prečan, Vilém, ed. *Ten Years of Charter 77* (Hannover, CSDS), 111 pp.


1987

*ACTA: čvrtečník Čs. dokumentačního střediska nezávislé literatury* 1, nos. 1-4 (1987); 2, nos. 5-8 (1988); 3, nos. 9-12 (1989).


1988

*Demokracie pro všechny: dokumenty Hnutí za občanskou svobodu* (Scheinfeld: CSDS), 19 pp.

*Democracy for All: Documents of the Movement for Civil Liberties* (Scheinfeld, CSDS), 20 pp.


1989
About Theatre (Stockholm: CSDS and Charter 77 Foundation), 96 pp., also Voices from Czechoslovakia, 3-4.


1990


1992


2000


2004


University-based Collections, Collections Maintained by Public Museums and Libraries, Collections of Ethnic and Other Related Organizations (v. 1) and Personal Papers and Collections, Repositories Abroad Bearing on the Subject, Virtual Archives on the Internet. Appendixes (v. 2).

2005


Audiovisual Materials

Records and Tapes

Veit, Vladimir. *Ve lvi stopě* (Recorded in Vienna, Austria, April 1985).

Video Cassettes

Bernard, Jindřich, Emil Purgina and Vladimír Škutina. *SVU a čs. výtvarnici v exilu* (Videotaped at SVU World Congress Art Exhibit, Boston, Sept. 18-21, 1986). Note: provides material about selected painters and a few sculptors of Czechoslovak descent living in the West.

Škutina, Vladimír (commentary), and Jindřich Bernard (camera). *Jihoafrické rozhovory*.

Škutina, Vladimír (interviewer), and Jindřich Bernard (camera). *Rudolf Firkušný*.


Papánek, Jan, Pavel Pecháček (interviewer) and Michael Baumbuck (camera). *Rozhovor s Janem Papánkem*. Note: recollections about his life and Czechoslovakia.

Steinbach, Karel, Pavel Pecháček (interviewer) and Michael Baumbuck (camera). *Rozhovor s Karlem Steinbachem*. Note: reflections about cultural and political life in post-World War I Czechoslovakia.


CDs and DVDs


Internet


Websites of SVU chapters:
- Lincoln, Neb., at [http://www.unl.edu/SVUNebraska](http://www.unl.edu/SVUNebraska)

NOTES

8. Several SVU members, including Oldřich Černý, Jaroslav Němec and Jiří Nehněvajsa, who were at different times appointed by the Executive Board to carry it out, eventually gave up the task.