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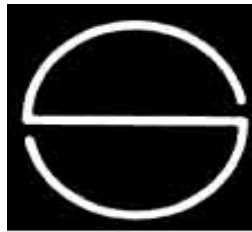
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Why SVU Remains Important, Especially for Young Scholars

Bruce Vlk



Do you remember the first time that you heard of SVU and became involved? For me, it was a series of serendipitous instances over a period of years. I grew up in a highly assimilated Czech- and Slovak-American community just south of Richmond, Virginia. In 2006, two outstanding women from our community presented at the 23rd World Congress in České Budějovice as part of their research-gathering tour of the Czech Republic and Czech villages in Romania. Hearing about their presentation was my first exposure to the organization. A few years later, a colleague at the University of Virginia who studied Czech



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politics mentioned SVU. As a member, she encouraged me to submit my burgeoning research to the upcoming regional conference. I had just recently completed my master's degree and was eager to present wherever I could.

I found that it was a gratifying experience to present new research to a receptive audience, gain feedback and make new connections in my field of study. I will never forget the welcoming provided by Dr. Vlado Simko and other vice presidents during the conference. I continued to present at conferences, publish articles in *Kosmas*, submit updates to *Zprávy* and even connect with other members on LinkedIn. I've since built upon past work to win grant awards and forge partnerships with archival institutions, such as the Library of Virginia. SVU provides such an environment for young scholars. Whether it is connecting with its large network across the world or providing a space for testing new research, the organization still has a place.

Many young people are absorbed with shaping their careers and their future. SVU can help with these goals, but it can also encourage them to be a part of something grander. The more we can encourage the selfless pursuit of new knowledge, the better the world will be. We are all bound by our interest in the Czech and Slovak Republics or our ethnic back-

ground from these countries. We are also open to new members, especially students in the undergraduate, graduate or post-doctoral level. SVU was built a dedicated generation of scholars living, and now it is time for their sons, daughters and grandchildren to carry it through the 21st century. At the recent SVU board meeting, President Petr Hausner said, “Since this is voluntary work and we choose to join, [SVU] should have a kind and positive atmosphere; one that is welcoming.”

SVU is an academic organization at our core. All of us need to use our networks in colleges and universities to encourage new members to join and lapsed members to come back. It takes relationships to make an organization work, just as it came together for me to join and become more involved with SVU. I also encourage you to reach out to practitioners and professionals with academic interests. Our organization just might be the outlet for which they have been searching. More activity from current members will sustain SVU, whether it is sharing your updates, creating new chapter-level social events or submitting an article for publication.

We cannot lose sight of the whole point of SVU: to create new knowledge in the world, to encourage free dissemination of ideas and to foster a network of mutual beneficence.

Minutes of the SVU Board Meeting - December 13, 2014

Location - the residence of Petr Hausner, Potomac, Maryland

Executive Board Members present: Petr Hausner, Peter Ujhazy, Peter Steiner, Thomas Holbik, Bruce Vlk (by phone), Ladislav Goc, J. Fielding Hejtmancik, Jiri Stavovcik,

Guests: Mila Rechcigl – Council Speaker, Jiri Eichler (by Skype) - webmaster and auditor

1. After introductions, the minutes of the prior executive board meeting were presented for approval, after minor clarifications.

⇒ VOTED: To approve the minutes from the SVU Board meeting of 9/20/14

-
2. The top agenda item was the 2015 conference. It was suggested that the conference be held at the University of Virginia (UVA) over 2-3 days, over a weekend. There would need to be buy-in from key people at UVA and perhaps a keynote speaker. Conference facilities and accommodations for participants would be researched. Financial support from UVA could possibly come in the form of free use of the lecture rooms and audio-visual equipment. The attendees/SVU would have to pay for the dorm space or hotel space.

The conference needs a theme. One possibility was “25 Years since the Velvet Revolution”. Another proposal was a focus on Women. It was agreed as that attendance needed to be increased from prior years by the theme and topics chosen.

3. There was discussion of speakers. The SVU could try novel ideas as to the format from prior years needed to be rejuvenated. There would need to be a coordinator for the conference and that this was a critical role both in the planning phase and the execution phase. This role was assumed by Bruce Vlk.
4. It was proposed that there be other activities at the conference besides the lectures such as tours and sporting activities (e.g. bicycling).
5. There was a need to promote the conference in the Czech Republic, particularly to increase awareness of the SVU among those people in their 20's and 30's.
6. The conference will need a treasurer to handle the special aspects of the conference.
7. The SVU needed marketing. Marketing via Facebook may be slow, and the SVU needs to consider better methods to increase awareness of the SVU. The SVU would need to get 300 attendees in order to attract the best speakers.
8. It was decided that all theme and topic ideas be submitted by the end of the year so that a theme and coordinator can be selected.
9. With regard to finances, all funds from the numerous bank ac-

counts had now been centralized. The proposed budget for 2015, which assumed a working budget of \$25,000 with the rest of the cash to be invested in 2 CDs. To protect against a likely increase in interest rates, one CD would have a maturity of 6 months and another CD would have maturity of 1 year. It was agreed that there would need to be an additional \$10,000 in the working budget to be used for marketing. It was:

⇒ VOTED: To approve the budget as presented and to keep a working balance of \$35,000, with the rest to be invested in 2 CD's with maturities of 6 months and 1 year.

10. In line with the requirement of a balanced budget, new dues structure was introduced. Single membership \$40, couple\$ 45, Student \$10, Kosmas \$50 for institutions and \$27 for individuals.

⇒ VOTED: To approve the slightly changed fee structure.

11. SVU publications available for sale were located in multiple places and a list would need to be put together of who paid for books and who did not receive them.

12. There was discussion of Susan Halsey's Ten Ta To phone application. There needs to be an incentive to apply and a formal process to apply, and perhaps a committee to decide the winner which would create greater transparency.

13. Regarding membership, the Memberclicks system where members could manage their own accounts, cost \$200/month, however, the system was rarely used by members. It was inherited and there was no training provided to the current executive board in how to use the system. The challenge is how to keep the data safe if the SVU abandons Memberclicks.

⇒ VOTED: To abandon Memberclicks in favor of a simple Excel database and the web-based payment gateway.

14. The webpage had been connected to a payment gateway by Jiri Eichler. It can now be used to collect payments for dues, the annual conference and donations. Transactions can also be export to Excel if needed.

15. It was decided that the next meeting of the Board would be at the end of February.

Minutes taken by Thomas Holbik.

The minutes were approved on 5/23/15



SVU Washington Chapter Remembers

On Saturday, May 30, 2015, the SVU Washington Chapter organized its traditional annual Champagne Reception, held at the Slovak Embassy, 2523 International Court, N.W., Washington, DC, from 2 to 5 P.M.

The occasion was used to commemorate the role of the Chapter in the founding of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences, which got its start in Washington, DC, and to pay tribute to the SVU members who contributed to the development and activities of the Chapter.

In attendance were H.E. Peter Kmec, the Ambassador of Slovakia, Mrs. Kmec, and H.E. Petr Gandalovič, the Ambassador of the Czech Republic, and Mrs. Gandalovič. The parent SVU organization was represented by Vice Presidents Dagmar Hasalová White and Jiří Stavovčík and the former SVU President Míla Rechcigl.

The President of the Chapter, Mrs. Otakara Safertal, who also served as the Master of Ceremonies, started the meeting by introducing the honored guests and by explaining the purpose of the event, i.e., to express gratitude to all those people who helped build the Chapter into a prestigious local institution, whose activities have been publically acknowledged by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic by granting it the Gratias Agit Award.

The two Ambassadors were the first to speak, acknowledging the important role of the SVU Washington DC Chapter in the cultural milieu of the Czech and Slovak Washington community and in enhancing the relationship between the home countries and the United States. They were followed by Míla Rechcigl's presentation on the early history of SVU and the formative days of the Chapter.

A group of SVU members then provided reminiscences and memories of some of the accomplished members. Thus, Magda Clyne highlighted major contributions of Dagmar Hasalová-White, while Helena Fabry spoke emotionally about Alexej Bořkovec's and Věra Bořkovec's contributions. Frank Becker spoke about his long time friend Tomáš Gibián. Charlie Kern paid a tribute to Barbara Podoski. Other members highlighted contributions of Lída Brodenová, Frank Meissner, and Emil and Emiline Royco. Juraj Slávik presented a list of active Slovak participants in the history of the SVU Chapter.

Dagmar Hasalová-White was presented a bouquet of flowers, in recognition of her role in the organization of the now traditional SVU Christmas Bazaars, which provide funding for various activities of the Chapter. There are, of course, numerous other members involved in this endeavor, who, each year, contribute substantially to the success of the Bazaars. They include individuals like Alena Apostolou, Kaťka Cartwright, Pavla Červenková, Naomi Dozová, Helen Fabry, Ivana and Ladislav Goč, Jana Kánská, Jarmila Kovell, Věra Lichtenberg, Emiline Royco Ott and Marvin C. Ott, Eva Rechcigl, Zdena and Zdeněk Sádlik, Vlasta

Štras, Anička Sullivan, Jana Švehlová, Eva and Zdeněk Vich, Jaroslava Zolmanová and our newest and youngest 14-year old Stephanie Sadlik Majer. Some of them are not even SVU members.

A champagne reception with other refreshments followed. The Slovak Embassy, as always, has outdone itself with its fantastic food and gracious hospitality. Mrs. Lubomíra Heringhová, in particular, deserves the SVU's gratitude in this regard.

Submitted by Otakara and Frank Safertal, and Mila Rechcigl

**Early History of SVU and the
Formative Years of the Washington DC
Chapter: Mila Rechcigl's Remarks
at the Chapter's Reception
on May 30, 2015**

If we talk about the beginnings of the Washington DC Chapter, we have to also talk about the Society as a whole, since their histories are intertwined. The Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences in America, as it was originally called, had its start in Washington. The people who realized it came from Washington, people who planned it came from Washington and the best ideas in the development of SVU came, in fact, from Washington, as you can read in my memoir *On Behalf of Their Homeland: Fifty Years of SVU* (2008).

Why was the Society established? We were in the midst of Cold War, and the political Czechoslovak exile was hopelessly divided into all sorts of political parties and political clubs. Individuals with different or opposing views did not talk to each other; they just criticized each other, blaming one another for the Communist putsch in February 1948. The

Czechoslovak intelligentsia abroad was getting tired and frustrated by this, because it did not lead anywhere, except to further acrimony. They felt “enough is enough,” and it is time to focus on the positive and start doing something towards improving the image of Czechoslovakia, damaged by the dismal events the Czech and the Slovak culture had suffered under the Communist regime. As Professor Hlavatý put it, “After ten years of exile, it is finally clear what should have been our guide from the beginning. The best policy for a small nation is in the area of nonpolitical orientation, i.e., in the cultural sphere. This recognition led to the establishment of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences.”

Who thought first of the idea of organizing a society of Czechoslovak intellectuals in exile is hard to say, but it is a fact that one of the first persons must have been the first SVU President Václav Hlavatý, a noted Czech mathematician at Indiana University, Bloomington. However, the person who actually made it happen was Dr. Jaroslav Němec, a lawyer by training, an authority on legal jurisprudence at the National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, residing on Park Road in Washington, DC.

There were actually three lawyers at the cradle of the Society. Besides Němec, it was Jaroslav G. Polach and Václav Mostecký, all residents of Washington, DC. Polach dropped out soon, because of the demands of his job, while Mostecký did a lot together with Němec initially, but he too had to excuse himself on account of being transferred, first to Boston, MA, and then to California. So, at the end, the job was left exclusively on the shoulders of Jaroslav Němec.

The lawyers’ troika began discussing the idea in earnest as early as in 1954, and the following year they had the letter ready to be sent out to selected individuals. Realizing, in the last moment, that none of them were sufficiently known among the Czechoslovak intellectuals abroad, they came to the conclusion that their idea might end up in a fiasco. So they put it temporarily on hold and waited for some opportune moment.

The opportunity presented itself when Němec became chairman of the newly established Washington Branch of the Czechoslovak National Council of America (CNCA). He thought that they would have a better chance if they could pursue the idea under an umbrella of this reputable organization, and, with his new title, he might be able to convince them to sponsor the effort.

Frankly, it did not take much effort to get the Council interested in the idea. By then, Němec had created a special group within the Washington Branch of the CNCA, called a Study Section, headed by Václav Mostecký, which began gathering the names and addresses of Czechoslovak intellectuals abroad who could be considered for membership in the newly proposed organization. After initial pretesting their idea, with the selected 40 prominent Czechoslovak intellectuals abroad, recruitment letters were sent out to additional 500 scholars, scientists, artists and students at universities. The response was so overwhelming that by May 1958, the number of members exceeded the 200 mark.

Němec, who in the meantime, took over the leadership of the Study Section, when Mostecký left, presented a detailed plan for organizing the new SVU at the CNCA Congress, held in Chicago in February 1958. The new body was to be an integrated part of the CNCA. The CNCA approved the preliminary proposal and formally assigned the responsibility for its implementation to the Study Section. The Study Section then proceeded to form the 14-member Preparatory Council which would take over its work and work out the necessary organizational details prior to convening the SVU General Assembly Meeting, scheduled for October in New York.

Unfortunately, clouds appeared on the horizon when the CNCA demanded that the potential members pay them their regular membership dues and not allowing them, even a portion, for the activities of the newly proposed organization. To be sure, by today's standards, their \$2 dues, which were subsequently raised to \$5, appear relatively small, but for the refugees who had hardly enough money to support themselves, this seemed a lot. So to make a long story short, the alliance fell apart, ending with a "velvet divorce," if I can use that analogy.

The outcome of it was that in the fall of 1958, when the newly proposed Czechoslovak Society of Arts Sciences in America went public, at the Charter meeting of the SVU Preparatory Council, held in New York on October 24, 1958, as originally planned by the Washington Study Section, it was promulgated as an independent organization.

Following the election of Dr. Jaroslav Němec as the new SVU Secretary-General, the Washington DC-based Study Section, which was later renamed Washington DC Chapter, fell under the chairmanship of Dr. Jaro-

slav G. Polach. Through his initiative, starting on November 27, 1959, the newly established Washington DC Chapter began organizing a series of lectures, "Contributions to the Development of the Idea of the Czechoslovak State in the Years 1938-1948." It was an innovative idea and, in fact, the first serious SVU undertaking. The prominent politicians of the 1938-1946 period were invited to give personal and authoritative accounts of their activities and experiences, accompanied with explanations and documentary evidence. In addition to their oral presentation, which was tape-recorded, each participant also had to present his contribution in writing.

During the Annual Meeting of the Chapter, convened on June 1, 1960, it was generally expected that Polach would continue in his chairmanship role but, because of the pressure of his job, he withdrew. In subsequent elections, Dr. Ladislav Feierabend was elected the new chairman, while I was elected secretary, Miloš Jansa treasurer and Vojtěch Nevlud vice chairman and press officer. My main job as secretary was to write minutes, send out the invitations and also keep track of the membership. My responsibilities were, however, soon augmented to also include the responsibility for correspondence, and, in addition, I became a member of the program committee.

We essentially continued with the lecture series. The presentations were followed by intensive discussion and commentary from the audience. Because of the frequently controversial nature of the topics, some of the discussions were quite lively and even confrontational. The meetings were run with an iron hand, so that they never got out of hand. It should be noted that the lectures were usually the first occurrence in the Czechoslovak post-World War II exile of having politicians of opposing views talking from the same platform. Until SVU came up with this lecture series, they would hardly ever speak to one another.

From the very beginning, we followed the practice to allow attendance only to SVU members and specially invited guests. This had the obvious influence on the Czechoslovak community: nobody wanted to be left out, and, as a consequence, the outsiders wanted to become SVU members. The psychology worked and the membership kept rising.

During my tenure as secretary, I developed a very close relationship with Ladislav Feierabend, who also taught me a lot regarding organiza-

tion, management and diplomatic skills. To get more people interested and involved, he introduced the practice of having each speaker introduced by a different person, who also moderated the discussion. This required some preparation and the person also gained invaluable experience in public speaking. To make the meetings more sociable, my wife Eva came up with an innovation, namely to have every meeting followed by refreshments. This practice, which has been kept to date, gave each meeting a friendlier and more sociable atmosphere, conducive to opening up and talking to one another.

In conclusion, let me reiterate that the Washington Chapter has always been in the forefront, ahead of anybody else in the entire Society. Washington DC is the place where it all started, where the idea of forming SVU was conceived, where the Society was planned, where the SVU Bylaws have been written, where the first SVU project was undertaken, where the idea of SVU Conferences and SVU World Congresses originated, where the first SVU Congress was held, which considerably enhanced the Society's image, where the eight editions of SVU Directory have been prepared, where the idea of publishing an English periodical was conceived, where the idea of establishing SVU Research Institute originated, where through the ingenious idea of holding Bazaars have assured income which allows the Washington DC Chapter to be fiscally independent and not to depend on charity, and I could go on and on. The Washington Metropolitan area, more than any other, gave the Society its future leaders. Just have look at some statistics below:

SVU Presidents: Jaroslav Němec, Jan V. Mládek, Míla Rechcigl, Petr Hausner

SVU Secretaries General: Jaroslav Němec, Věra Bořkovec, Blanka Glos, Věra Ulbrecht, Eva Vaněk, Frank Safertal

SVU Treasurers: Oldřich Černý, Emil Royco, Frank Meissner

Editors, Zprávy SVU: Vojtěch Nevlud, Jaroslav Němec, Jaromír Zástěra, Zdenka Vozaríková, M. Oravec, Irena Lettrich, Libuše Zorin, Andrew Eliáš

Editor, SVU Directory: Eva Rechcigl, Míla Rechcigl

SVU Archivist: Josef Žanda, Míla Rechcigl

SVU Congress Organizers (Program): Míla Rechcigl, Andrew Eliáš,
Frank Meissner, Dagmar White

SVU Organizers (Local arrangements) J. Drábek, Jr., A. Bořkovec, Emil
Royco, D.H. White

The Washington DC Chapter can be proud of its achievements, and the parent Society is greatly indebted to its initiatives, inventiveness, and high quality performance. I applaud the Chapter for organizing this session to express gratitude to its hard working members who made this possible.

Publications

Encyclopedia of Bohemian and Czech-American Biography

URGENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Past SVU President Míla Rechcigl has for years been diligently working on the most ambitious SVU project yet, preparing a comprehensive and up to date compilation of Czech-American biography.

It is a tremendous and unparalleled undertaking which, when finished, will comprise several thousand biographies of notable American personalities with Czech roots, starting from the time the first Czech put his foot on American soil to date. The planned encyclopedic vade mecum, reflecting enduring contributions of our countrymen to the development of the United States, Canada and Latin America, will be not only an invaluable tool for all researchers and students of Czech-American history, but also a carte blanche for the Americas, as well as for the Czech Republic, which considers Czech-Americans as their own and as a part of its magnificent cultural history.

In contrast to the traditional Who's Who, which are quite impersonal, telegraphic in style, terse, full of abbreviations that make them hard to read, and frankly unpalatable, if not boring, Mila Rechcigl has chosen an encyclopedic style with a flowing narrative to make biographies more interesting and a pleasure to read. For easier use, instead of alphabetical arrangement, he is organizing this monumental endeavor into specific sections of various facets and areas of human endeavor, covering business, religion, government & politics, law, music, dramatic art, visual art, creative writing, publishing, media, education, activism & reform, the humanities, social sciences, biological sciences, physical sciences & mathematics, engineering, medicine, military, exploration, espionage, sports, modeling, and recreation. The publication will, of course, have an alphabetical index as well.

Inasmuch as the manuscript is rapidly approaching its completion, to assure its completeness, Dr. Rechcigl would welcome additional suggestions of significant individuals for possible inclusion in any one of the areas mentioned above. **This is the last chance for the deserving SVU members and other noted personalities with the Czech roots to be included! There are no fiscal obligations.**

H.E. Petr Gandalovič, ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United States, as well as myself, in my capacity as president of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU), wholeheartedly support this effort and urge our readers to send, as soon as possible, the names of deserving individuals to Dr. Rechcigl, via the following e-mail: svu.one@gmail.com. Be sure to include the person's place and year of birth, as well as death (if applicable). Short biographies would be welcome.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Petr Hausner
SVU President

SCOPE of the ENCYCLOPEDIA

To give the readers an idea of the magnitude of the work, below is a General Outline

-
- I. Pioneers
 - II. Community Leadership
 - III. Business
 - IV. Religion
 - V. Government & Politics
 - VI. Law
 - VII. Music
 - VIII. Dramatic Art
 - IX. Visual Art
 - X. Creative Writing
 - XI. Publishing, Printing, Editing
 - XII. Media
 - XIII. Education
 - XIV. Activism, Reform, Anarchism
 - XV. The Humanities
 - XVI. Social Sciences
 - XVII. Biological Sciences
 - XVIII. Physical Sciences & Mathematics
 - XIX. Engineering
 - XX. Medicine
 - XXI. Allied Health Sciences
 - XXII. Agricultural and Food Sciences
 - XXIII. Military
 - XXV. Espionage
 - XXVI. Sports
 - XXIV. Exploration
 - XXVII. Modeling
 - XXVIII. Recreation

Each of the above sections is subdivided into subsections, as shown in an illustrative example of the Music section below

- VII. Music
 - A. Composers
 - B. Conductors
 - C. Band Leaders
 - D. Musicians
 - 1. Pianists
 - 2. Organists
 - 3. Violinists, Violists
 - 4. Cellists, Contrabassists
 - 5. Guitarists

-
6. Harpists
 7. Wind Instrument Players
 8. Percussionists
 9. Accordion Players
- E. Opera Singers
F. Folk and Jazz Singers and Musicians
G. Impresarios
H. Musicologists and Music Historians
I. Music Critics
J. Music Publishers
K. Music Makers

In Memoriam

Editor's note:

We should all be grateful to Mila Rechcigl for contributing the entries in this column, issue after issue, and for writing most of them himself.

Recently, Mila send me this message: "I have been sending you only the latest obituaries (2015 and late 2014). I realize that you cannot publish the older obits., so I have been posting them on academia.edu. There has to be a record of these people somewhere."

I felt moved to reply this way: "Thanks for writing so many obituaries for *Zprávy SVU* ... as sad and painful as that is. I always marvel at the talent and humanity ... at how big-hearted each of our passing SVU colleagues was. It also leaves me with the fact and the feeling that there's no more time to see, hear and learn from each one of them. That hits hard, and the only good thing about it is the feeling of determination to make the most of the time we still have ahead with the SVU colleagues (old and new) still around us. Do keep writing."

Mila wrote back: "I am now going through the *SVU Directory* to check whom I may have missed for inclusion in the *Encyclopedia*. As I go through and check the names against info on Internet and other sources I have been shocked to learn how many of our members have died. Hardly anybody knows about it within SVU, and no obituaries of these folks ever appeared in *Zprávy SVU*. It's shocking and very sad!"

Mojmír Svatopluk Frinta (1922-2015)

It is with great regret that I report the passing of long-time SVU member Mojmir Frinta on Wednesday, January 21, 2015. I knew him from the inception of our Society and still vividly recall when I invited him, in my capacity as a program chair, to our First World Congress of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Science in America, as the Society was then called, held in Washington, DC, on April 20-22, 1962. He talked on the subject "Czechoslovak Painting from Its Beginnings until the Second World War." He also actively took part in the Society's Second World Congress in 1964, which I also organized, with the paper "The Beautiful Style in Sculpture around the 1400s."

Mojmír was born in Prague on July 28, 1922, as the son of Antonín Frinta, a founding member of the Prague Linguistic Circle. He attended the School of Graphic Arts and School of Applied Arts in 1941-1943 in Prague and studied art history at Charles University in 1945-1947. In 1947, he went on a Bourse d'échange du gouvernement Français to Paris to study at the Academie Andre Lhote, Ecole Nationale des Beaux Arts (fresco and lithography), and Ecole du Louvre. He also worked as an art restorer at the atelier Chauffrey et Muller. In 1951, he immigrated to the US, where he continued his studies on the history of art at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, which awarded him an MA in 1953 and a Ph.D. in the history of art in 1960.

After serving on the staff of the Medieval Department at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, as a senior restorer (1955-1963), he moved with his family from New York City to Altamont, NY, having received an appointment at the State University of New York (now the University at Albany). He was the first art historian in the expanding program housed in the Art Department. In 1965, he became an associate professor and in 1969 a professor of art history. He retired after teaching for 30 years and became professor emeritus in 1993. In the fall of 1991, he was a visiting professor at his first alma mater school, Charles University in Prague.

His major interest was Medieval and Early Renaissance painting. He endeavored in his research to incorporate art technological findings into

standard art historical approaches (stylistic and connoisseurship). Most of the fifty articles were first presented at scholarly colloquia, symposia, and congresses and then published in the *Acta* and periodicals such as *The Art Bulletin*, *The Art Quarterly*, *The Burlington Magazine*, *Pantheon*, *Mitteilungen des Kunsthistorischen Institutes in Florenz*, *Gesta*, *Simiolus*, *Umění*, *Acta historiae artium*, *Zograf*.

His book *The Genius of Robert Campin* was published by Mouton at The Hague in 1966. Actually it was through my contact with Peter de Ridder, director of this old, tradition-rich Dutch firm Mouton & Co., which led to publishing Mojmír's book manuscript there. I knew Peter de Ridder personally through the negotiations with him that led to publishing the proceedings of the first two SVU Congresses, under the title *The Czechoslovak Contribution to World Culture* (1964) and the two-volume *Czechoslovakia Past and Present* (1968). Frinta was also the author of *Punched Decoration on Late Medieval Panel Painting, Part I: Catalogue of Punch Shapes* (Prague: Maxdorf, 1998). *Part II: History of the Procedure* has not been published yet. His passing is a great loss to SVU and to his many friends and acquaintances.

Mila Rechcigl

Thomas George Gibian (1922-2015)

Tom was born in Prague into a loving family in the optimistic days of the newly independent Czechoslovakia. His father, Richard, and his mother, Vera (Šindelářová), loved books, music and discussion. The oldest of three boys, Tom enjoyed a happy childhood. He was a good student and made friends with whom he remained close for the rest of his life. He was a junior ranked tennis player and loved to ski and play soccer. In the fall of 1938, with war seeming imminent, Tom and his brother George were sent to École des Roches, in Normandy, and in January, to St.



Edmunds College outside of London. When the Nazis invaded Czechoslovakia in the spring of 1939, Tom's parents and brother Paul managed to join them in England. In the fall of 1940, the family embarked for the United States on a passenger ship travelling in convoy. After surviving attacks by a German bomber and U-boat, their ship arrived safely in Boston.

Tom received a scholarship from the Institute of International Education to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He lived with a faculty member and, in exchange for room and board, was responsible for shoveling coal for the family furnace. Upon graduating with a BS in chemistry in 1942, Tom joined the Czech section of the British Royal Air Force. Trained as a Spitfire pilot, he served in the Czech 310th and 312th Squadrons in England. He flew 77 combat sorties, provided low level support to troops on and just after D-Day, and escorted fleets of bombers deep into Germany. He was awarded medals and commendations for his service, but rarely spoke about his experiences during the war. Tom returned to the US in December 1945. While a student at the Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie-Mellon University), Tom met his future wife, Laura Cynthia Sutherland, known as Peg. After Tom completed his D.Sc. in Chemistry, Tom and Peg were married. They moved to Philadelphia, where Tom worked as a research chemist.

In 1951, Tom joined Dewey & Almy Chemical Company, in Cambridge Mass., eventually becoming vice president of the Organic Chemicals



Division. When Dewey & Almy was acquired by W. R. Grace & Co in 1954, Tom was acquired with it. In 1963, he was named president of Grace's Research Division, in Clarksville, Maryland. Tom left Grace in 1974, to become president and CEO of Chemical Construction Corporation (Chemico), an international engineering firm. In 1976, he formed his own engineering company, TGI Corporation. In

1979, the company was invited by the government of the Peoples' Republic of China to visit Beijing to introduce its technology. In 1980, Tom became President and CEO of Henkel Corporation, in charge of the non-European businesses of this large, multidivisional company. In recognition of his contributions to the global chemical industry, he was awarded the prestigious International Palladium Medal of the Société de Chimie Industrielle in 1983. Tom retired in 1986, maintaining a lively interest in the chemical industry, including service as a director of the Société de Chimie Industrielle, American Section, as a member of the Board of Trustees of Carnegie-Mellon University, and as a member of the Board of Alpharma Inc, a manufacturer of pharmaceuticals with headquarters in New Jersey and Oslo, Norway.

In Sandy Spring, Tom and Peg made a home for themselves and their children, Barbara, Janet, Tom and Dave, at Pen-y-bryn. They joined the Sandy Spring Friends Meeting, and established deep ties in the community which was their home for over 50 years. Blending business savvy and common sense with sensitivity and concern for others, Tom served on the Board of the Montgomery General Hospital, and as clerk of the boards of trustees of Friends House, Inc, and of Sandy Spring Friends School. His loyal participation was appreciated among the Washington Czech community. He served as executive vice president of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU), was a founding member and director of the American Friends of the Czech Republic (AFoCR). He enjoyed membership in the Cosmos Club.

Tom loved to travel, both to see new places and to visit family and friends around the world. Tom was a role model who led by example. He was brave in the face of danger, adaptable when confronted with change, had an open mind and the willingness to learn from everyone around him. He loved the life that he was blessed to live.

A Memorial Service in celebration of Tom's life was held at 2:00 pm on Saturday, April 4, 2015, at the Sandy Spring Friends Meetinghouse, 17715 Meetinghouse Road, Sandy Spring MD. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Building Fund of the Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting (sandyspring.org) or to the American Friends of the Czech Republic (afocr.org) or to the Washington Chapter of the SVU (svu2000.org).



Tom & Peg joyfully celebrated their 66th Wedding Anniversary in February 2015, with Peg's sister, Babs, their four children, Barbara, Janet, Tom & Dave, two daughters-in-law, Chris & Tina, and three of their grandchildren, Will, Greer & Rebecca.

Svatopluk “Svat’a” Kuděj (1924-2015)



We are saddened to report the passing of our faithful SVU member Svat’a Kuděj, who died on April 26, 2015, at the age of 91. He was born on April 30, 1924, in Mírov in northern Moravia. When he was six years old his family moved to Kutná Hora in Bohemia where he spent his formative years. After completing gymnasium, he attended the University

of Economics in Prague (1945-49), graduating cum laude as a commercial engineer. During these formative education stages, he also diligently studied English, French and Russian, having already been bilingual in Czech and German. After his university studies, Kuděj worked for several years at the Czechoslovak embassy's Commercial Attaché Section

in Istanbul, Turkey. In 1951 he married his high school sweetheart, Blanka Ohlídková and in the same year their daughter, also Blanka, was born.

In 1966 Svat'a, Blanka and their daughter escaped from Czechoslovakia, and in 1967 they settled in New York City. Svat'a became a successful businessman exporting aircraft parts, while Blanka held an important position at Columbia University School of Law Library. In 2001 they moved to Florida. The Kudějs were very active in New York's Czech community, especially in the local chapter of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Science (SVU) and later also nationally and internationally. Blanka became secretary general of the Society for several years, among a number of other functions she held, during which times Svat'a helped her enormously. He was also of great assistance to her in Florida when Blanka became president of the SVU local chapter there. Frankly, he was involved in just about everything Blanka did for SVU, but in his unassuming role, his invisible contributions have not been fully recognized.

I still remember our first meeting, which took place in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, at a reception on the occasion of President Václav Havel's visit there. There are certain individuals whom one likes almost instantly, when first meeting them, just as there are other individuals whom one instinctively dislikes. Svat'a and Blanka Kuděj, without doubt, fell into the first category. We became instant friends. Svat'a Kuděj's parting is a great loss to SVU and to all of us who knew him well and who were his close friends.

Mila Rechcigl

Josef Mestenhauser (1925-2015)

We are saddened by the sudden passing of our long-time SVU member Josef Mestenhauser, who died on March 14, 2015, at the age of 89. He was born in Vrchlaví on June 23, 1925. He was initially trained as a lawyer at Charles University (1945-48). As a 22-year-old law student in Prague, he was arrested by the secret police when the Communists seized power, and beaten and imprisoned for three weeks. After he was



released, he succeeded in escaping to Germany and eventually immigrated to the US in 1949. As he later learned, in his absence he was tried, convicted and sentenced to 25 years in prison. After coming to the US he studied political science at University of Minnesota (M.A., 1952; Ph.D., 1960). He has been with University of Minnesota since 1960, where he advanced from assistant professor to associate professor (1965-77) and then to full professor (1977).

He was a specialist on international education and communications, social change, cross cultural education and learning. He authored more than 120 scholarly papers and lectured around the world on international education and cultural exchanges. He was the author of *Learning with Foreign Students: A Handbook* (1976) and *Reflections on the Past, Present, and Future of Internationalizing Higher Education: Discovering Opportunities to Meet the Challenges* (2011). He co-authored *Culture, Learning, and the Disciplines: Theory and Practice in Cross-Cultural Orientation* (1981) and co-edited *Reforming the Higher Education Curriculum* (1998).

Apart from his academic career, he became a tireless advocate for his cultural heritage, co-founding and serving as president of the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center in St. Paul. In the years 1999 to 2008 he served as honorary consul for the Czech Republic.

I have known Josef since 1999, when we organized our SVU Regional Conference in Minneapolis, on the occasion of President Václav Havel's visit to Macalester College. Josef helped us involve the local Czech and Slovak community and several Minnesota-based academic institutions. We have been friends ever since. Subsequently I got him also actively involved in SVU and for several years he served as one of the SVU vice presidents. His departure is a great loss to all his friends, as well as to the SVU as a whole.

Mila Rechcigl

Paula Pitha-Rowe (1937-2015)



It is with sadness and great regret that we inform you of the passing of our SVU member Paula Pitha-Rowe, who died of a heart attack on March 5, 2015, at Union Memorial Hospital, Baltimore, MD, at the age of 78. Paula Pitha-Rowe (née Mahr), was born in Prague on November 7, 1937. She studied chemistry at the Technical University in Prague, graduating as an engineer in 1960, and then biochemistry and microbiology at the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences (ČSAV), where she earned her CSc./Ph.D. in 1964. She later trained at the Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry in Prague, the National Research Council in Ottawa, Canada, the Curie Institute in Paris and the Salk Institute in California.

She joined the faculty of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in 1971, becoming a full professor in oncology, molecular biology and genetics in the biology department and at the medical school in 1985. She retired in 2013 but continued to teach. The focus of her research was on the effects of viral infection on the expression of cellular genes and in the novel approaches to modulation of the antiviral and anti-inflammatory responses, interferon-molecular mechanism of induction and action, regulation of gene expression, and RNA tumor viruses.

She was an internationally renowned scientist whose research led the way for the development of interferon. She pioneered basic research towards the understanding of inflammatory cellular immune responses to viruses and other infectious agents, and how viruses may contribute to cancer. This work led to her international acclaim and honors in this field. She received the 1996 Milstein Award for excellence in interferon and cytokine research, and the 2005 G J Mendel Honorary Medal for Merit in Biological Sciences, and was elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

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Introducing Our Fellow SVU Members

Lee Cabell / Libor Cáběl



I was born in Ostrava, Czechoslovakia. I went to a mechanical engineering high school in Opava and attended university in Ostrava and Brno, where I also taught figure skating, the sport which I had been doing as a child into my teens. In 1982, I illegally immigrated with my twin sister to Austria via Yugoslavia, since I did not agree with the Czechoslovak Communist Party and its philosophy. I lived in Vienna for almost a year before coming to Boston, Massachusetts, in April 1983, where I learned how to speak English and started ice skating again. At the end of that year I moved to San Francisco, where my sister and her Czech husband lived, and I continued learning the English language before securing my first job in figure skating in upstate New York as a coach in the fall of 1984. In 1988 I moved to Omaha, Nebraska, to teach figure skating and started to communicate with a biomechanist of figure skating from Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Based on his suggestion, I started studying for my master's degree at the University of Kansas in Lawrence and later for my doctorate in biomechanics at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. My hope was to combine figure skating with the science of biomechanics, which only partially became reality. I accepted my first job as an assistant professor at the University of Texas in Austin, Texas, and then in the fall of 2001 I was offered a faculty position at Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey, where I teach and do research in Clinical and Sport Biomechanics to this day. I publish frequently at skating, biomechanical, and clinical scientific journals. I also collaborate in my field of Biomechanics with my colleagues at Palacký University in Olomouc, Charles Uni-

versity in Prague and Bat'a University in Zlin. Professor Janura invited me to lecture at Palacký University in 2013.

I am a Buddhist and started practicing Buddhism during my graduate studies in Kentucky twentz years ago. Meditation has proven to be very beneficial in my life, especially in communication with other people. I am a member of Shambhala Meditation Center and Interdependence Project Center in New York City, where I practice Buddhism and meditation. I still travel to the Czech Republic almost every year to visit my family and friends and am always very happy to speak the Czech language and experience the Czech culture.

2015 SVU Regional Conference Charlottesville, Virginia July 17-19, 2015

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Friday, July 17, 2015: Arrival and Reception

Registration Desk: Venable Hall, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Dinner: On one's own (many options on "The Corner" – University Avenue) 5:00-6:30 pm

Welcome Reception: Garrett Hall, 7:00 pm

Saturday, July 18, 2015: Conference Opening, Sessions, Banquet

Registration Desk: Conference Services Office, Page House, McCormick Road Residence Area, throughout the day

SESSION ONE — SATURDAY, JULY 18 — 9:00 – 9:30 am

1-01 Plenary Conference Opening – Monroe Hall, Rm. 130

Petr Hausner (*President, SVU*)

“Opening Address: Welcome and Thanks”

SESSION TWO – SATURDAY, JULY 18 – 9:30 – 12:00 noon

2-01 Documentary Film and Discussion – Monroe Hall, 124

Anna V. Polesny (*Northampton, MA*)

“Turning Points” (feature length documentary film) with discussion afterwards

2-02 Czech and Slovak Culture, Politics and Society – Monroe Hall, 122

Hugh LeCaine Agnew (*The George Washington University, DC*)

“Making an Exhibition of Your Self: Czech Identity between Industrialization and Folklore”

Judith Fiehler (*Library of Congress, DC*)

“Josef Suk’s *Zrání* and the Birth of the First Republic”

Louis A. Reith (*Georgetown U, emeritus; U of Nebraska-Lincoln*)

“Who is Adelheid?”

Zdeněk V. David (*Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, DC*)

“The Influence of Patočka’s Philosophy on Havel’s Political Thought”

Mary Stegmaier (*University of Missouri*)

“The Effects of Electoral Rules on Parliamentary Behavior: A Comparative Analysis of Poland and the Czech Republic”

Lunch Break, 12:00 – 1:00 pm – on your own at “The Corner”

SESSION THREE – SATURDAY, JULY 18 – 1:00 – 4:00 pm

3-01 “Strong Women” and the Experience of Emigration and Immigration – Monroe

Victor L. Zitta (*Mississippi State University, emeritus*) and

Douglas Steele (*Chapel Hill, NC*)

“Lydia Zitová, Bohemian Immigrant Girl”

Michele Surat (*Maggie Walker Governor’s School, Richmond, VA*)

“Strong Women as Catalysts for Immigration: Examples from the Surat Family”

Amanda Vtipil (*Prince George County Regional Heritage Center*)

“Written in Stone: The Value of Community-Based Cemetery Preservation”

Marie Pearson and John Moser (*Virginia Czech and Slovak Heritage Society*)

“How a Small Settlement, New Bohemia (1915) Inspired a Heritage Center”

3-02 Science and Social Science – Monroe

Daša Jendrušáková (*Kean University, NJ*)

“Slovak and US Female Practitioners: Attitudes to Use of and Effectiveness of Corporal Punishment”

Petr F. Hausner (*NIH*)

“Sleeping Beauty: a Good Friend and a Dangerous Foe”

Peter Ujhazy (*NIH*)

“The Science of Team Science”

Daša Jendrušáková (*Kean University, NJ*), with Johanna Terry and Donald Marks

“A Study of the *Enriching Your Relationship with Yourself and Others* Program”

SESSION FOUR – SATURDAY, JULY 18 – 4:00 – 5:00 pm

4-01 Annual General Meeting/Valná Hromada – Monroe Hall, Rm. 130

Prior to the convocation of the Valná hromada, there will be a presentation by Mr. Martin Herman of the American Fund for Czech and Slovak Leadership Studies on the activities of his organization.

Guided Walking Tour of UVA Academical Village: 5:00 pm. Meet at bus stop near Monroe Hall. Evening Banquet: 7:00 pm – Garrett Hall

Sunday, September 1, 2013: Conference Sessions, Optional City Tour

SESSION FIVE – SUNDAY, JULY 19 – 9:00 am – 12:00 noon

5-01 “Strong Women” in History on Both Sides of the Atlantic –

Monroe Hall, Rm. 124

Louis A. Reith (*Georgetown University, emeritus;
U of Nebraska, Lincoln*)

“The Correspondence of Perchta of Rožmberk”

Hugh LeCaine Agnew (*The George Washington University, DC*)
“Showing Your True Colors: Women and Others in Czech
Banner Dedication Ceremonies in the 19th Century”

Mila Rechcigl (*Silver Spring, MD*)
“First Czech Women Activists: Moravian Women
in America”

Mila Saskova-Pierce (*U of Nebraska, Lincoln*)
“Czech Feminists in Nebraska at the Beginning of the
20th Century”

5-02 Women as Engines of Economic Growth in Slovakia –

Monroe Hall, Rm. 130

H. E. Ambassador Peter Kmec, Slovak Republic
(*Washington, DC/Slovakia*)

“The Slovak Entrepreneurial Ecosystem and the Višegrad
Group of Four States”

Vladimíra Briestenská (*Timber Foundation, Bratislava*)

“The Timber Foundation and Women’s Entrepreneurial
Activities in Slovakia”

Mary MacPherson, (*Slovak American Foundation*)

“The Slovak American Foundation’s Efforts to Support
Slovak Women Entrepreneurs”

Lunch Break, 12:00 – 1:00 pm – On your own at “The Corner”

*2:00 – 4:00 pm –Monticello Group Tour, meet at Monroe Hall, carpool
with group members*

With grateful thanks to the following for their support:

Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy,
Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the
University of Virginia,
The University of Virginia Center for Russian, East European and
Eurasian Studies, and the
Virginia Czech/Slovak Heritage Society.

Closing of the Pittsburgh Chapter Announced

June 1, 2015

SVU
PO Box 34617
Bethesda, MD 20827

Dear Dr. Petr Hausner,

It is with regret that I write to you regarding the current status of the Pittsburgh chapter of SVU. We have over recent years tried to find support and new membership for our chapter in the Czech and Slovak communities of the Pittsburgh region, but have been unsuccessful in our attempts.

Even though we have been diligent in our reporting, we've had a recent inquiry from the IRS regarding our tax-exempt status and reporting for group exemption. Most recently the IRS indicated it could find no record of information regarding the "parent organization" which represents our chapter. It appears we would need to submit paperwork to re-apply for our tax exempt status.

For the reasons given above, we must ask for your assistance in closing the Pittsburgh chapter of SVU. We would also like to know what the guidelines are for monies that have remained in our local chapter's treasury. The current amount is: \$814.94

We thank you for your assistance in this matter and look forward to your response as to how we should proceed with this request to close our chapter.

Yours truly,

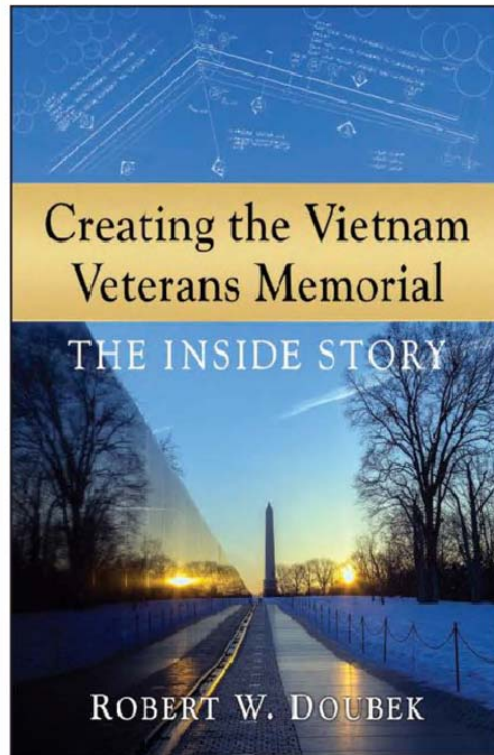
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McFarland



Creating the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

The Inside Story

Robert W. Doubek

\$35 softcover (7 x 10)
Ca. 15 photos, index
ISBN 978-0-7864-7909-2
Ebook ISBN 978-1-4766-1988-0 2015

Since its dedication in 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial has become an American cultural icon symbolizing the war in Vietnam—the defining experience of the Baby Boom generation. The black granite wall of names is one of the most familiar media images associated with the war, and after three decades the memorial remains one of the nation's most visited monuments.

While the memorial has enjoyed broad acceptance by the American public, its origins were both humble and contentious. A grassroots effort launched by veterans with no funds, the project was completed in just three and a half years. But an emotional debate about aesthetics and the interpretation of heroism, patriotism and history nearly doomed the project. Written from an insider's perspective, this book tells the complete story of the memorial's creation amid Washington politics, a nationwide design competition and the heated controversy over the winning design and its creator.

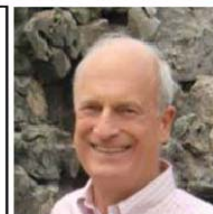
Robert W. Doubek served in Vietnam in 1969 as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Air Force and later was in charge of building the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Mall in Washington. Presently, as an employee of the U.S. State Department, he travels worldwide to purchase land for construction of new U.S. embassy and consulate compounds. He lives in Washington, D.C.



Author's Discussion

**Saturday, July 25, 2015
3:30 p.m.**

**5015 Connecticut Ave NW
Washington, DC 20008**



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Bethesda, MD 20827

Periodical

Announcement

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to inform you that my book, *Creating the Vietnam Veterans Memorial: The Inside Story*, was released yesterday by McFarland & Company. The book is now being shipped to those who have pre-ordered, but if you wish to place an order now, please call 1-800-253-2187 or go on-line to www.mcfarlandpub.com.

Thanks for your interest.
Sincerely,

Robert Doubek