

All Roads Lead to Olomouc SVU Congress, 28 June - 2 July 2004

We are entering the fourth year of the New Millennium on a very positive note, based on the good news of the steadily improving economy, increased industrial output, drop in unemployment rate, promising stock market and Saddam's capture has brightened the prospects for a happy and prosperous New Year.

SVU, too, is entering the New Year with recharged batteries, having achieved an excellent record last year with great expectations for the future, as was elaborated in my State of the SVU in the Year 2003 Report. The Society has made tremendous strides, both in terms of its new initiatives and in recruitment of young members. Our Iowa conference in Cedar Rapids last June was an unqualified success — from our perspective it was a pivotal event of the year, thanks to the splendid cooperation of Nebraska Chapter, particularly the Chapter's President Kacenska Oslzly. You all read about it in my testimonial, "Reliving the New World's Symphony."

This important event hardly finished and we were fully engrossed in the preparation of another important undertaking, the Working Conference on Czech and Slovak American Archival Materials and their Preservation, in cooperation with the Czech and Slovak Embassies in Washington, DC, where the Conference was held on 22-23 November. The Conference, which was convened under the aegis of the US Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage abroad, was a hit, as has been noted by the media and is elaborated separately in the issue of *Zpravy SVU*.

We are now embarking on the next important event — the 22nd SVU World Congress — undoubtedly the most important event of the year 2004 for SVU members and our friends. The Congress is being cosponsored by the Palacky University in Olomouc, Czech Republic where the Congress will be held. I had an opportunity to visit the University last fall and meet with the responsible officials, including Docent PhDr. Ivo Bartešek, CSc., Dean of the Philosophical Faculty, and Prof. MUDr. PhDr. Jana Maňáková, CSc., Rector of the University. I was cordially received and shown around the beautiful layout of the University and the various facilities it provides. I am gratified that we were able to negotiate very agreeable terms regarding logistics and local arrangements to make the Congress pleasurable and affordable for our members. I also had an excellent meeting with the Deputy Mayor of the City, who promised, on behalf of the Lord Mayor, to assist us with the Congress organisation.

I am sure the Congress visitors will be amazed by the beauty of the historic town and its incredible architectural treasures, just as I was. The Haná Region, where Olomouc is located, has begun writing its history already in the 10th century when it became an important crossroad in the country. After Prague, it is the second to have the most famous protected historical sites. This unique Moravian town is the home of the Moravian bishops and archbishops and the second oldest university in the

SVU Website: www.svu2000.org

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Czechlands, the latter being founded in the year 1573. The Olomouc environs are also something to see. Among other, I had the chance to travel in the Kravarsko region, including Fulnek where John Amos Comenius preached his last sermon for his followers before he left for exile, and Suchdol as well as close-by villages from which the disciples and followers of Master John Hus and Bishop Comenius escaped in large numbers to Herrnhut, Saxony where they reestablished the ancient *Unitas fratrum* under the name of the Moravian Church and eventually found refuge in America where they established their new settlements, such as Bethlehem, PA and Salem, NC.

We now have to get busy and diligently start working in earnest on our program. As has been customary in our previous Congresses, in addition to the central theme "Moravia in the International Context," we are contemplating other sessions and discussion panels in various areas of Czech and Slovak history and culture. We urge all interested persons to fill out the Preregistration and Speaker's Form and return it to the address:

SVU1@comcast.net

Participants from the Czech and Slovak Republics should contact Dr. Karel Konečný: Karel@ffnw.upol.cz
It is in our interest to have as many members participate in this important event as possible. Those of you who are concerned about the long distance of Olomouc from the Czech Capital, don't! I made it only in two and half hours! Our members always regret when they miss some of our memorable events. Don't make a mistake this time! This will be an occasion to remember!

MILOSLAV REHCIGL
SVU President

Preregistration and Speaker's Form

Name:.....

Address:.....

Institutional affiliation:.....

E-mail address:

Phone:.....

I wish to prepare a talk on:.....

.....

.....

I would like to organize a symposium, specialized session or panel discussion:

.....

.....

Additional comments regarding the program, potential speakers

.....

Send to SVU President via e-mail: SVU1@comcast.net

My postal address is: 1703 Mark Lane, Rockville, MD 20852.

From Executive Board

On October 11, 2003 SVU Executive Board held its regular meeting at SVU President Mila Rechcigl's residence in Rockville, MD. The meet-ing was called to order at 9:00 AM in the presence of sufficient number of Board members to constitute Quorum.

Following the approval of the minutes from the July meeting, Rechcigl informed the Board of the untimely death of two prominent SVU members, i.e., journalist Pavel Tigríd and Dr. Mary T. Simko. In this connection, he

mentioned the difficulties he has had in learning when some SVU members pass away and in getting their obituaries from the family of the deceased members. This matter needs to be brought to the attention of SVU membership as a whole because every deceased member deserves to be remembered in our newsletter.

Treasurer Frank Mucha, who could not attend the meeting, sent a detailed report on the status of finances which was briefly discussed. Editor Clinton Machann sent a very positive progress report on the periodical *Kosmas* which was read. Frank Safertal reported on his repeated conversations and e-mails with Bruce Garver. While Garver keeps promising to deliver the missing issue, it appears that nothing is happening. Executive Board instructed Secretary General to send a strongly worded letter to his superiors at the university, expressing disappointment and frustration over the matter. With reference to the *Kosmas* promotional activities in CR and SR, Jiri Eichler assumed responsibility for the project since University of West Bohemia does not have a suitable staff person to carry it out.

The next item on the agenda were SVU publications. As was announced previously, *SVU Directory* has been published and is currently stored in Prague, awaiting transfer to the US. VP Rokos agreed to take responsibility for making the necessary arrangements with CSA where he has personal contacts.

Selected papers from the SVU World Congress in Plzen, authored by scholars from the Czech and Slovak Republics have been published under Dean Ivo Budil's editorship. English papers are currently collated and formatted by Ex VP J. P. Skalny. A number of authors have not submitted their papers yet which causes unnecessary delays.

Papers from SVU Iowa Conference are being edited by Prof. Charles Townsend of Princeton University. Cathy Oslzly is assisting him by gathering the papers. The authors are admonished to send in their papers without further delay.

VP Vera Borkovec gave a progress report on the status of the monograph, "Czech and Slovak Theatre Abroad" which she is editing. The publication is on track and should be ready to go to press within a year. VP Dagmar Hasalova White provided her thoughts and furnished a written outline on the contents of the planned monograph concerning the Czech and Slovak Opera Abroad. The Executive Board was pleased with the overall plan which looked doable and very promising.

Rechcigl proposed a new publication project relating to Czech and Slovak Arts Abroad to include painters, sculptors and graphic artists. The Board expressed full support for the idea and instructed VP White to approach L. Puchmajer to ascertain whether she would be willing to assume responsibility for preparing and editing such a monograph.

There is need to also follow up on the status of papers that were presented at the Nebraska conference several years ago. Mila Saskova-Pierce, who was originally designated editor of these papers, should be instructed to act on this project as soon as possible.

Rechcigl gave then a status report on the planned SVU Congress in Olomouc. He is planning a visit to Olomouc at the end of October to finalize the negotiations with the University and discuss details relating to logistics and the program. Next issue of *Zpravy SVU* should have a leading article about the planned Congress with the Call for Papers.

Several Board members committed themselves to organize specific panels. The matter will be discussed in extenso at the next Board meeting.

Next item on the agenda was the planned Working Conference on Czech and Slovak American Archival Materials and their Preservation to be held in the Czech & Slovak Embassies on November 22 and 23, 2003. Mila Rechcigl who is the Conference Coordinator gave a detailed report. The conference is organized and sponsored jointly by SVU, the two Embassies and the US Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad. The key archival institutions in America which possess Czech and/or Slovak archival materials will take part in the Conference together with the archival representatives from the Czech and Slovak Republics. To preserve its working nature and due to space limitations, the attendance is restricted to archivists, historians and related professionals and spokesmen of the major ethnic Czech/Slovak organizations in America.

In connection with the Conference, Rechcigl reminded the Board of the transfer of SVU Archives to IHRC at the University of Minnesota and asked them to give him any SVU related materials so that they can be deposited in SVU archives.

Executive Board noted that a number of months have passed since the completion of the Iowa Conference and requested that the Conference organizers send in their treasurer's report a.s.a.p.

Several new SVU Chapters have or are being formed, including Cleveland, Iowa, Phoenix, Florida, etc. The Executive Board would like VP John Fiala to give a detailed report on status of these chapters at the next Board meeting.

Last item on the agenda was the Herman Marker. Dagmar White, who has assumed responsibility for the project, was instructed to proceed with the matter without further delay.

The next meeting of the Board was scheduled for December 6, 2003.

From New SVU Rolls

IVO BARTECEK holds the position of Dean of the Philosophical Faculty, Palacky University, Olomouc, Czech Republic. He is a native of Stary Bohumin and holds academic degrees from Palacky University (Ph.D., CSc. 1949). He specializes in history of Latin America.

MICHAL BAUER holds the position of Assistant Professor at the Pedagogic Faculty of the University of South Bohemia, Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic. He is a native of Znojmo and holds academic degree from Masaryk University in Brno (Ph.D. 1997). His speciality is Czech literature of the 20th century.

RADAN KAPUCIAN is a teacher of Czech language who is currently completing his 4th year of study at Charles University. He is a native of Czechoslovakia and holds an academic degree from IPVC (B.A. 1995). He specializes in Czech and Slovak literature.

STEVEN KLIMESH is retired and currently lives in Spillville, IA. He is a native of Spillville, IA and holds academic degree from Creighton University (BSBA in Accounting 1970). He is one of the organizers of a new chapter in Spillville, IA.

KELLY JO FRITCH is a student and is employed as nursing assistant at Milder Manor. She is a native of Pawnee City, NE and works on her academic degree (B.S.N.) at University of Nebraska Medical Center.

OLGA CHYLE JUNG is a native of Waterloo, Iowa.

CYRIL M. KLIMESH is retired and lives now in Grants Pass, Oregon. He is a native of Spillville, Iowa and is the author of the historic monograph, *They Came to this Place. A History of Spillville, Iowa and its Czech Settlers.*

ALVIN WALTER MASHEK who is now retired is a native of Winneshiek Co., Iowa. He lives in Spillville and has interest in the history of Czech immigrants.

PHYLLIS MARIE MASHEK, retired, was born in Winneshiek Co. She lives in Spillville, Iowa and has interest in history.

JUDY ANNE LINDSAY is Marketing Manager with IBM in Middletown, Rhode Island. She is a native of Cedar Rapids, IA and has B.S. degree from the University of Iowa (1973). She is interested in Czech folk music and art and Czech traditional ways.

ELZA GABRIELA LICHVAROVA holds the position of a paralegal and legal coordinator with W. P. Stewart & Co. in New York City. She is a native of Kosice, Slovakia and has been educated at VPJS (1992-92) and Baruch College, CUNY (B.B.A. in Finance, 2000).

CAROL JOYCE DVORAK holds the position of the Mental Health Coordinator at Lancaster Mental Health Center in Lincoln, Nebraska. She is a native of Friend, NE and holds degrees from the South East Community College (L.P.N. 1967), Nebraska Wesleyan University (B.S.W. 2000) and University of Nebraska-Omaha (M.S.W. 2003). She specializes in dual disorder and psychological trauma and is interested in women's issues.

PAVEL SANKA is employed as Assistant to Senator Ing. Jaroslav Sula. He is a native of Strakonice and holds degree from the University of Economics in Prague (B.A. 2001). He expects his Ing. in economics in 2004. His interest lie in economics, politics, and human resource development.

CHARLES JOHN OPATRY is retired and lives in Cedar Rapids, IA. He is a native of Cleveland, OH and has academic degrees from Charles University (Com. Ing. 1946) and University of Northern Iowa (M.A. in French and German Languages, 1999). His interests are in international business, history, literature, music, languages (French, German, Spanish).

HELEN WINSTON lives in Winona, MN. Her interest lies in music.

ROBERT S. WACHAL holds the position of Professor Emeritus at University of Iowa. He is a native of Omaha, NE and has Ph.D. from University of Wisconsin. His interest lies in English language.

VERA GREEN is President of GravityWork, Inc. Structural Solutions in Architecture. She is a native of Litomerice, Czech Republic and holds academic degree from Ceske vysoke uceni technicke in Prague (Ing. in Architecture, 1979). Her main interests are music, architecture and arts.

NANCY JANE DANIELS is a Flight Attendant with Northwest Airlines. She is a native of St. Lucas, IA.

VICKI J. HUDACHEK is associated with the University of Iowa. She is a native of Iowa City, IA and has an academic degree from School of Communication (Photography), Minneapolis, MN (1982). Her interests are in information gathering and photography.

Activities of SVU Members

In this column we welcome preferably short news items about SVU members, current activities, including their honors, publications, lectures, etc. Send your material via e-mail to: SVU1@comcast.net

IVO BUDIL, Vice President of SVU, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, is a candidate for President of the University of West Bohemia in Plzen, Czech Republic. A native of Prague, he has been associated with the University for seven years. He studied natural sciences at Charles University (RNDr., 1990), in 1994 was awarded Ph.D. in sociology, and in 2001 was named Docent in sociology. Between 1991 and 1996 he was associated with the First Faculty of Medicine at Charles University in Prague and since 1996 has been teaching at the University of West Bohemia. In 1998 he became Head of the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology and in 1999 and again in 2002 was elected Dean of the Faculty of Humanities. He is a member of several science boards of the University of West Bohemia, Philosophical Faculty of Charles University, Faculty of Humanity Studies of Charles University, as well as that of University of Pardubice, and Pedagogic Faculty of the University of West Bohemia. In 2002 he was elected a member of the Academic Senate of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic and since 2002 served as a member of expert commission for social sciences in the Council for Research and Development, associated with the Government of the Czech Republic. He is the author of numerous publications, including *Mytus, jazyk a kulturní antropologie* (1992, 1995, 1998, 2003), *Za obzor Zapadu* (2001) and *Od prvotního jazyka k rase* (2002). He lives in Plzen with his wife Pavla and three children.

Dr. Budil was one of the key players in organizing the very successful SVU World Congress in Plzen in 2002. The following year the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences elected him as SVU Fellow.

PETER SIS, an internationally acclaimed author/artist, has been named a MacArthur Fellow for 2003, an honor bestowed by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. To quote the Foundation's press release, "The MacArthur Fellows Program is designed to emphasize the importance of the creative individual in society. Fellows are selected for the originality and creativity of their work and the potential to do more in the future." Fellows receive \$500,000 in monetary support over five years, offering "highly creative people the gift of time and the unfettered opportunity to explore, create, and accomplish." The award-winning author and illustrator authored more than twenty books, including *Tibet Through the Red Box*, *Starry Messenger: Galileo Galilei*, *The Three Golden Keys*, *Madlenka*, and *Madlenka's Dog*. His most recent book, *The Tree of Life: Charles Darwin* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux / Frances Foster Books / October 2003), is a multilayered, panoramic look at the life of Charles Darwin. In the book, Sis examines the personal, public, and secret lives of this nineteenth-century figure, taking readers on a journey through the life of this icon of modern science and thinking. Featuring detailed and dramatic maps, charts, and a gatefold spread, *The Tree of Life* brings readers into Darwin's universe, private and public, and envelops them in the visions, ideas, and experiences of a man driven by his ideas and his ideals. Peter Sis will be on tour this November to celebrate the publication of *The Tree of Life*.

In addition to his prolific career as an author, Peter Sis has contributed more than a thousand drawings to *The New York Times Book Review* and has illustrated for *Time* magazine and *The Atlantic Monthly*.

Born in Brno, Czechoslovakia, he attended the Academy of Applied Arts in Prague and the Royal College of Art in London. He immigrated to the United States in 1982. Sis's work has been exhibited at such institutions as the Art Institute of Chicago and the New York Public Library, and he has also designed a mural for the Baltimore/Washington International Airport, a poster for the New York City subway system, and a stage set for the Joffrey Ballet.

JAN P. SKALNY, Executive VP of SVU, President of Materials Service Life, a high-tech consulting company, recently co-organized another one of the *Anna Maria Workshops*, a yearly event dedicated to problems related to service life of concrete-based infrastructure. These yearly international workshops, attended by academic, industrial and governmental experts, are by invitation only and are highly valued by the participants for the open-minded, highly technical atmosphere.

VLADIMIR NOVOTNY, PhD, PE in 2002 was appointed a CDM Endowed Chair Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Northeastern University in Boston after 29 years at Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI. In January 2003, he was honored by the election to International Water Academy (Oslo, Norway) and in August 2003, he presented a Key Note lecture at the International Conference on Diffuse Pollution and Watershed Management in Dublin, Ireland. He has also published extensively in the last two years, including the 2nd edition of his *Water Quality: Diffuse Pollution and Watershed Management* (Mahwah: John Wiley and Sons).

RADOSLAV KVAPIL, a concert pianist of fame, has recently established a new organization, The International Dvorak Society O.P.S., with headquarters in Prague, Czech Republic. One of the aims of the Society will be to honor the memory of Antonin Dvorak in connection with the 100th anniversary of his death. This undoubtedly will be one of the most important events of this century. On its agenda, the Society wishes to work closely with SVU. More details will be provided later once definite plans become available.

TOMAS HUDLICKY, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Florida, Gainesville has been named a member of the Advisory Board of the prestigious *Collection of Czechoslovak Chemical Communications* published in Prague.

PAVEL J. JELEN, Professor of Food Science and Technology at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada was invited as keynote speaker to open the “National Cheese Days” (a major competition and scientific seminar on milk and cheese) in Prague, organised by the VSCHT University of Chemical Technology, January 21-22. Further, in March 21-25 he is helping organize and is participating in the 4th International Dairy Federation Cheese Science Symposium, which, thanks to his personal friendship, will be opened by Mr. Milan Vyhnaek from Australia, a native of Hnatnice in Orlicke Hory, a graduate of the famed Dairy School in Kromeriz, a very successful Australian Cheese business enter-preneur, whose life-long devotion to the cause of cheese earned him the rare distinction of being the only person in the history of cheesemaking to be honored by the Queen of England with the OBE (Order of British Empire) title. The symposium follows the third such meeting which he organized in Banff, Alberta in 2000. The proceedings from this meeting became a major quadruple issue of *International Dairy Journal* (published by Elsevier) which he founded and of which he is now the senior editor.

STANLEY B. WINTERS, Professor Emeritus of NJ Institute of Technology, who now lives in Florida, has contributed several studies on Otakar Odlozilik, i.e., *Otakar Odlozilik. Deniky z let 1924-1948* (Praha: Vyzkumne centrum pro dejiny vedy 2002), Vol. I, pp. 7-12; and *Cesky casopis historicky vol. 2* (2003), pp. 366-331.

PIOTR S. WANDYCZ, Bradford Durfee Professor Emeritus of History at Yale University, is the author of the chapter “Myths, Stereotypes and Complexes in the History of Eastern and Central Europe” in Jacek Purchla, Ed., *Central Europe. A New Dimension of Heritage* (Cracow, 2003), pp. 33-42. In the spring of 2003 two of his books were published in Poland, respectively: *O Federalizmie i emigracj*, ed. by S.Lukaksiewicz (Lublin, 2003); *Pax Europea 1815-1914* (Krakow, 2003). He also gave a lecture on “Great Powers and East Central Europe 1878-1989” at the College of Europe – Natolin and participated in a panel on “Europe of Yesterday and Tomorrow” at the International Conference on Twentieth Century Federalist Conceptions in East Central Europe in Lublin. Among several honors, he was presented the Mertoribus Medal of the Pilsudski Institute of America and was offered a Festschrift on the occasion of 80th birthday.

THOMAS SCHWANDA, Professor of Spiritual Formation at Reformed Bible College, Grand Rapids, MI, contributed articles about John Amos Comenius, John Hus and Nicholas Ludwig v. Zinzendorf in *Upper Room Dictionary of Christian Formation*.

CLAIRE E. NOLTE, Associate Professor of History at Manhattan College, Riverdale, NY, made several presentations about the Czech Sokol at the Conference of the German Studies Association, New Orleans (September, 2003) and the Canadian Association of Slavists Convention (Halifax, Nova Scotia (May, 2003).

THOMAS D. MARZIK, Professor of History at Saint Joseph’s University, Philadelphia, contributed a chapter to *Otec a syn*, edited by Antonin Sum (Praha: Pragma, 2003).

MILAN FRYSCAK, Associate Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures at New York University, is spending his longest stay in the Czech Republic. He was there for the Dobrovsky Symposium in mid-June, then from late July through late August, teaching in the Charles University Summer School of Slavonic Studies and is currently teaching in the winter semester.

ZDENEK V. DAVID, Senior Scholar at Woodrow Wilson International Centers for Scholars, Washington, DC, is the author of “White Mountain, 1620: An Annihilation of Apotheosis of Utraquism?”, *Communion viatorum: A Theological Journal*, vol. 45, No. 1 (2003), pp. 25-60.

KATHERINE DAVID-FOX, Assistant Professor of History at the University of Maryland, was the recipient of Pech Prize in the year 2002, which was established by the Czechoslovak History Conference in 1985. She has been President of the Czechoslovak History Conference since 2001.

JOZKA MESTENHAUSER just returned from Mexico where he pre-sented keynote address on Internationalization of Higher Education to the Mexican National Association for International Education (AMPEI). His address on the topic of “Internationalization at Home” will be published in a future edition of the association’s journal. Similarly, he addressed a European conference on the same theme held in Malmoe, Sweden. That keynote address is available at the web site of the University of Malmoe, <<http://www.mah.se/iah2003>>. He

also attended an invitational conference jointly sponsored by the Faculty of Pedagogy of the Charles University in Prague and the University of Minnesota Department of Educational Policy and Administration on the theme of the "Role of Public Universities in the Knowledge and Innovation Based Society." His paper, to be published in the January issue of the "Teorie Vedy" XII (XXV) #3, 2003 (in English) was "Production, utilization and transfer of knowledge in a global context". His position of the Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic gave him an exceptional opportunity to host H.E. Ambassador Martin Palous to Minnesota recently to bolster the work of the Czech ethnic organizations, to provide a focus on the Czech Republic, and to support the forthcoming Trade mission that Minnesota's governor Pawlenty will lead to Poland and the Czech Republic this June. Finally, the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center that Jozka helped create several years ago, of which he is the out-going President, is a striving organization that has developed interesting and quality programs for significant audiences. Information about this Center and its cooperative nature with other organizations (including SVU) can be accessed at www.cs-center.org. His most recent interest is the application of cognitive sciences to the pedagogy of international education, on which he will give a workshop for the Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA) to be held in Washington, D.C. on February 11.

KAREN REHCIGL KOLLECAS, Account Executive for ALLTEL, has always been considered one of the best salespersons for whatever company she has worked for, which was recognized by a large number of awards, including paid-up vacation in Hawaii, etc. In the last several years she was the best ALL TELL salesperson in the Southwest. In December 2003 she was named the best ALL TELL Account Executive for the entire United States. Congratulations!

DR. MICHAEL SUMICHRAST, known to our members as a successful investor and author of books on finance and real estate, finished his latest book "*Opportunities in Financial Careers*," which should be out in March, 2004. In addition, he is updating his bestseller (six previous editions), "*The Complete Book of Home Buying*," with new chapters on internet, What Can You Afford, etc. This edition will also include what Sumichrast calls "My Favorite Housing Stories" about useless bureau-crats, environmentalist wackos, greedy lawyers, and others. These stories are written in a humorous, somewhat sarcastic language, and each story ends with "Moral of the Story."

In Memoriam

MARY T. SIMKO, M.D., who passed away recently, received special honors at the prestigious Christmas Music Concert entitled La Force de l'Esprit at the Deer Ledge Mansion, Tenafly, New York on December 7, 2003. In the presence of numerous diplomatic dignitaries representing the United Nations in New York, Mary was cited by the concert organizer, Ms. Florence Bocarius, for her untiring effort to promote in the United States the music of a foremost Slovak composer Eugen Suchon. In honor of Mary Simko a chorus sang Suchon's musical poem "Aka si mi krasna, ty rodna zem moja . . ."

ANTHONY VECERA (1927-2003)

Only now we have learned about the untimely death of our member Anthony Vecera on July 20, 2003. He was a native of Napajedla, where he was born on February 1, 1927. After communist takeover he escaped to Italy and in 1952 emigrated to Batawa, Canada. He became a photographer and a filmmaker and lived in Toronto, Ontario.

MARTHA KELETI, widow of Dr. ěuri Keleti, former vice president of SVU, hosted a remembrance gathering for friends and members of the Pittsburgh synagogue, honoring her late husband. ěuri was a passionate „východniar“ (born in Michalovce) and a true Slovak patriot.

Deceased SVU Members and their Obituaries

We have been losing quite a few members lately. The problem is that we find out about it only by accident and usually quite late. We would very much appreciate it if the members would inform us whenever some of our members die and if they would also send us their obituary, suitable for printing. Send the information via e-mail to the following address: SVU1@comcast.net

SVU deceased members certainly deserve to be remembered and an obituary is the minimal honor that we can provide. Our membership at large likes to be informed about these matters and some of them may want to get in touch with the family of the deceased.

In this connection, it would be useful if we could systematically build a biographical data bank which, in addition to other useful uses, could also be used as a resource for preparing future obituaries which are always hard to find and which are difficult to compose if the biographical data are lacking. We invite members' thoughts on the subject.

MILA RECHCIGL, SVU

President

SVU Local Chapters

Prague SVU Chapter

Předsednictvo Pražské skupiny Společnosti pro vědu a umění udělilo Ceny SVU — Praha za rok 2003. Ocenění byli: Václav Havel, Ivan Klíma, Otomar Krejča, Oldřich Kulháněk, Radoslav Kvapil, Radovan Lukavský, Josef Topol, Olbram Zoubek. Slavnostní předání se uskutečnilo v sídle Senátu ČR v Rytířském sále Valdštejnského paláce v Praze 27. května 2003 za účasti hostitele, předsedy Senátu doc. JUDr. Petra Pitharta.

Předsedkyně pražské skupiny SVU Doc. Morávková v úvodním projevu zdůraznila zvláště význam všech umělců pro rozvoj domácí kultury a pro propagaci České republiky ve světě.

Ocenění obdrželi grafický list vypracovaný vynikajícím grafikem Oldřichem Kulhánkem, rovněž jedním z oceněných. Jak hostitel, tak ocenění ve svých projevech zdůraznili neobyčejnost chvíle, která jim umožnila se takto setkat a při následující kávě či sklence moravského vína pak prohodit mnohé, k čemu nebyla příležitost ve shonu každodenních povinností.

Edmonton Chapter

The Edmonton SVU Chapter will contribute financial support to Wirth Institute of Austrian and Central European Studies at the University of Alberta (Dr. Franz Szabo the Director) to help create a new position, the Fellowship in Czech and Slovak Studies, at this Institute. The Institute has official support of the Ambassadors and thus Governments of the countries within whose sphere of interest it operates, i.e. Czech, Slovak, Slovenian, Hungarian, Polish and Austrian. These Fellowship positions (the Hungarian and Austrian Fellowships are already in place, the Polish one is being finalized) will represent each of the 6 countries of Central Europe concerned; this is one of the goals of the Institute, which recently received very substantial funding support from the Wirth Family of Toronto in whose honor the institute has recently been renamed from the original Canadian Centre for Austrian and Central European Studies.

The Chapter members approved President Jelen's proposal to focus the year 2004 as "The Year of Czech Music in Edmonton", including financial support in partnership with the above mentioned Wirth Institute. The obvious reasons are,

a) several "significant digit" dates (Dvorak's death 1904; Janacek's birth 1854; Smetana's birth 1824 and death 1884; Suk's birth 1874; Karel Stamic's birth 1754); and

b) several concerts that are always specific cultural uses such as the above); another of the popular travelogue presentations by their "resident adventurer" Jan Soukup (December 5, "On bicycles around Maui"); and a planned lecture on "New painting and appreciation of visual arts" by University of Alberta Prof. Graham Peacock, one of the leading contemporary Canadian artists whose painting "Slapska Dam" decorates the SVU Edmonton CD Ma Vlast produced in 2001. Recently arrangements were finalized to donate this painting to the National Gallery in Prague by the University of Alberta as a result of a very successful exhibition of the "New Paint-ing" group in Prague in 2002, invited and curated by Prof. Kni-zak. Prof. Peacock's recently completed "Orlik Dam", another work which will become a part of a cycle of "Vltava Dam Paintings", will be unveiled at this SVU Edmonton event, the date of which will be announced later.

Spillville-Iowa-Midwest

The Spillville - Iowa - Midwest Chapter of SVU continues its organizing efforts. The second organizational meeting was held November 15, 2003 and the next meeting is scheduled for Saturday January 17, 2004 at the Spillville Library. Project and artisan groups are being defined. A slate of officers is being assembled. A web

site should be established, debugged and operational by the next meeting. Czech/Slovak Communities like Spillville, Protivin, Little Turkey, etc. of Chapter members will be permanently featured on the web site.

We expect to consider the chapter operational early in 2004 and to have an official inaugural meeting in the Spring when travel is more certain after the threats of winter weather are past.

Events are being planned for 2004. For example: Central College Choir (60 people strong) and associated performers, of Pella, IA, will start their international tour with a performance in St. Wenceslaus Church in Spillville on April 15, 2004. This concert is being arranged in partnership with the St. Wenceslaus Heritage Society to benefit restoration and maintenance of the Old 1870 School, Home to Dvorak's Opus 96 and 97.

Agreement has just been reached with Luther College of Decorah, Iowa to feature the Czech History and Heritage of the Spillville Area during their annual Alumni Lutherlag, multi-generational gathering of people interested in lifelong learning. The program will run July 18, 19, 20, 21, 2004 and will take place mostly on-site in and around Spillville. It is open to the public and will be posted on-line in January, 2004. Go to: www.luther.edu and click on Alumni and then go to Lutherlag. Persons interested in registering should contact Kirk Johnson at Luther College, johnsonk@luther.edu.

A tour from Protivin, Iowa, led by Gene and Rita Kovarik (e-mail gkovarik@iowatelecom.net) will be in the Czech Republic during the 2004 SVU Congress in Olomouc and they are planning a visit to the Congress on Wed. June 30.

Report on Kosmas

The Fall 2003 issue of *Kosmas* was printed about a week before Thanksgiving, and it was mailed to subscribers shortly afterwards.

The current issue has a strong focus on the arts. I hope that readers will enjoy the various special features we incorporated into the issue along with important new critical articles. I believe that the cluster of articles from Spring 2003 and Fall 2003 on the current literary reputation of Milan Kundera represents a major critical contribution to studies of this important modern novelist with a Czech past and that the articles probably deserve to be published separately as a book.

I ask that SVU members encourage potential contributors to send us their manuscripts. The most convenient and efficient way to do this is to send an electronic file as an e-mail attachment to Assistant Editor Sarah Hart at [<sarahhart@tamu.edu>](mailto:sarahhart@tamu.edu). I would especially like to see new contributions in the fields of history, politics, social science, though I am proud of our recent publications on literature and the arts. Also, I hope that everyone will help Frank Safertal in his role as Subscriptions Editor by encouraging people they know to subscribe (or renew their subscriptions).

Finally, I would like to report that the Fall 2003 issue of *International Focus*, published by the International Programs Office at Texas A&M University, contains an article entitled "International Journals Bring Prestige to Texas A&M." Two journals are discussed in the article: *Kosmas* and *Callaloo* (which focuses on the African Diaspora). Here is the final paragraph: "Not only will *Callaloo* and *Kosmas* continue to bring prestige to Texas A&M, but the journals will continue to provide a forum for international scholarly exchange of ideas and cross-cultural recognition."

CLINTON MACHANN
Editor, *Kosmas*

New SVU Biographical Directory

"I just received SVU Directory. It is really remarkable book.

I must say I cannot imagine how you could put all this together."

– VACLAV VITEK, Professor, University of Pennsylvania

As you were informed previously, a long-awaited *SVU Directory* was published a few months ago in Prague. It is a product of Mila and Eva Rehcigl and Jiri Eichler who have diligently worked on it for years. It is an impressive publication comprised of some 3000 biographical entries of individual members, listing their addresses, telephone numbers and e-mails, apart from information on their education, publications and areas of expertise. Besides alphabetical listing, the directory also provides a classification of members by subject and by geographical location.

The *SVU Directory*, which has now reached its 8th edition, has always been the bestseller among SVU publications, and there is every expectation that this will also be true about the current edition. In many respects it represents the cream of the crop of the Czech and Slovak intellectuals and professionals throughout the world and thus it is the best business card SVU has to offer to its members.

Most members who had ordered the *Directory* earlier and paid for it must have received it by now. Some thirty remaining members who also

ordered it will receive their copies as soon as we get additional copies from Prague where the bulk of *SVU Directories* are kept.

Because of prohibitive transport costs, any new orders will have to be handled individually and the copies sent by postal mail directly from Prague. To recoup some of our production costs it will be necessary to charge additional postage. A total cost for the *Directory*, including the mailing and handling is \$25. Send your orders with your check to SVU Treasurer, F. Mucha, 36 West 88th St., New York, NY. 10024.

Planned Monograph on Czech Opera in America

By Dagmar Hasalova White

General Outline

Opera by Czech composers is presented in America through three venues:

- a) by professional opera houses
- b) by amateur and semiprofessional groups in Czech communities (sung in the original language)
- c) in American colleges and universities, presented by music departments as rarely-heard works

At the Metropolitan Opera, the first performance of *The Bartered Bride* was sung in German with Emmy Destinn in the title role and Mahler conducting. By now a respectable number of Czech operas have become part of the Met's repertoire: *The Bartered Bride*, *Rusalka*, *Jenufa*, *The Cunning Little Vixens*, *Kata Kabanova*. In concert opera presentations, Eve Queller in New York and Stephen Crout in Washington dipped into Czech operatic repertoire.

Czech opera introduced to the American public through Czech communities has an impressive record: *Hubicka*, *Rusalka*, *Jacobin*, *Cert a Kaca*, *Dve Vdovy*, *Selma Sedlak*, and *Tvrda Palice*. Many of these were first performances in America. Also arias, duets, and ensembles from Czech operas are being performed during celebrations, such as the 28th of October and Masaryk's birthday, and in various concerts in clubs and Sokol Halls in Czech communities. But the main emphasis will be on the Czech community in America, which with their creativity and talent is contributing not only to the cultural life of their new country but also maintaining their own musical heritage.

At first these fully staged operatic performances were mostly accompanied modestly on piano, later with full orchestras, and finally at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D. C. Various chapters will deal with these performances, especially on Lida Brodenova and her SOKOL operas. The book will be illustrated with many photographs, programs, critiques, scenery designs, etc.

She has asked a few participants in these endeavors to contribute articles of reminiscences: conductors Karel Husa (*Jacobin*), Stephen Prussing (*Two Widows* and *The Devil and Kate*), choreographer Milica Hasalová Moravcik (*The Bartered Bride* and *Two Widows*), Scenery, Antonin Svehla and Liba Puchmajer. Also others who helped to enrich the cultural life of the Czech community in America.

Comments and suggestions should be sent to: LWhite6663@aol.com

A Successful Archival Conference

In the days 22-23 November 2003 SVU together with the Embassies of the Czech and Slovak Republics in Washington, DC organized a special working conference related to the preservation of Czech and Slovak archives in America.

This was indeed a Czech-Slovak undertaking because on the first day the Conference took place on the grounds of the Czech Embassy and on the second day on the grounds of the Slovak Embassy with the Czech Ambassador Martin Palous and Slovak Ambassador Rastislav Kacer participating.

This was truly a working conference, as clearly expressed by Senator Moserova, who said that this was the first useful conference of this year, one which made sense and had a definite purpose. The Conference was attended by specialists and representatives of the most important archival institutions both in America and in the Czech and Slovak Republics which deal with the documentation of Czech and Slovak America or with the relationships between Czechoslovakia and its successor states and America. The importance of the Conference was evident in that Czech and Slovak media reported the proceedings each day and even carried an interview with Dr. Mila Rechcigl who was the coordinator of the Conference.

"There are many archival materials throughout America and we are afraid that they might be destroyed . . . ninety percent of the material can be found in the basements and attics of individuals and society officers," said Miloslav Rechcigl, President of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU) which gave impetus for the Conference, informed the CTK (Czech Press). Rechcigl went on to say that often

these individuals and society presidents are not aware of the importance of historical documents and their progeny will simply discard them.

One of the purposes of the Conference was to bring this impending danger to the attention of Czech and Slovak ethnic organizations in America (numbering several hundreds) and to inspire them to a cooperative effort to preserve these valuable documents for the future. After all, we are dealing with some basic information about the life, suffering and work of the Czechs and Slovaks in America, about the work of Czechoslovak exiles in America, and about the relations between the US and our homeland, which must be preserved because they are an indispensable part of Czech, Slovak and American culture. These documents are irreplaceable and many exist only in the original.

The United States has truly a great interest in preserving these documents which was proven by the presence of so many representatives of important American institutions and the fact that the Conference was organized under the auspices of the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, with its Chairman Warren L. Miller in attendance. It should be noted that Mr. Miller had been appointed to this function by the President of the US.

The representatives of the Czech Republic, as well as the representatives of the Slovak Republic, have the same interest and many of their archival institutions would welcome receiving these materials. As Rechcigl pointed out, there is so much material that it cannot be deposited in a single archive. What matters is that the material be deposited in a secure place, that is well taken care of and available to the public, regardless of where it is deposited.

This unique Conference doubtlessly served its purpose and surpassed even the expectations of the organizers. It was the first time that the most important "players" on both sides of the Atlantic were able to meet. These were not only archivists and scholars, but also government representatives, community leaders and members of various Czech and Slovak ethnic organizations in America. This was the first important step taken for forming a working base for cooperative work toward the single goal of preserving these valuable documents for the future.

In conclusion – the participants of the Conference unanimously adopted a Resolution which outlined the necessary efforts for the preservation of the mentioned archival materials and enumerated concrete steps and agenda toward the attainment of this goal. This action is, of course, feasible only with the full participation of the Czech and Slovak communities in the US and Canada. We are therefore appealing to all the various societies to lend their hand for this common and significant effort. The mechanism for such cooperation is already in place in the recently created umbrella organization "The National Heritage Commission" to which most of the important Czech ethnic organizations belong. It would be desirable to have the Slovak organizations join in as well.
SVU Press Release

RESOLUTION

Recommendations by the Attendees of the Working Conference on CZ & SL American Archival Materials and their Preservation, Washington, DC, November 22-23, 2003

1. *We assert the importance of archival materials relating to Czechs and Slovaks in America and to relations between the US and the historical Czech and Slovak homelands, including the states of Czecho-slovakia, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic;*

2. *We should launch a concerted effort to preserve these materials for future generations;*

3. *We recommend the establishment of working linkages and encourage cooperation and collaboration among the many archives related to Czechs and Slovaks supported by universities, public libraries, and various other private and governmental institutions on both sides of the Atlantic;*

4. *We advocate the establishment of an information system designated to help interested people, including potential researchers as well as potential donors, inform each other about the availability of archival materials and the status and policies of archival institutions;*

5. *We recommend the publication of Miloslav Rechcigl's comprehensive report entitled "Czechoslovak American Archivalia. US-Based Archival Material Relating to Emigres and Exiles from the Territory of Former Czechoslovakia and Relevant Holdings Bearing on their Ancestral Land" which outlines the basis of Czech and Slovak American archival materials in the US and the Czech and Slovak Republics;*

6. *We recommend the publication of the proceedings of the Working Conference on Czech and Slovak American archival materials and their Preservation;*

7. *We recommend the establishment of a coordinating committee to follow up on the recommendations of the working Conference and prepare guidelines for future activities related to the archives.*

8. Finally, We thank SVU and the Czech and Slovak Embassies for organising the conference and for the Embassie's hospitality, in the hope and confidence that these institutions will assist us in carrying out the important tasks outlined above.

Honoring Lifetime Achievement

This is a new column in which we plan to honor, from time to time, the life achievements of selected SVU members. We welcome appropriate contributions about deserving members from our membership, preferably signed and suitable for printing. Those members who feel that they should be included can submit for consideration supporting material about themselves. Send the material via e-mail to: SVU@comcast.net

Vladimír M. Kabeš

Dr. Kabes, born in 1918 and raised in Prague, started his career in the aircraft and automobile industry in Czechoslovakia at AERO Prague, where he had, successively, responsibilities for social affairs, labor relations, and automobile sales. He earned his Charles University Law Degree in December 1945.

After leaving the industry post in 1946, he served as press secretary in the Czechoslovak Parliament and later joined Foote, Cone & Belding, a London-based public relations firm, as the Prague representative for Lockheed Aircraft Corporation. He left the country as a political exile in 1948.

Dr. Kabes came to Washington, D.C. in 1950 and became U.S. citizen in 1956. In 1957 he graduated as MCL from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. He acted as coordinator of an East-European legal research project at the Library of Congress. Sub-sequently, he joined the International Commission of Jurists, where he served first as its United Nations representative in New York and, from 1959 to 1969, as Senior Legal Officer and later Executive Secretary in Geneva, Switzerland. In 1966-1969, he was co-President of the Conference of non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) at UN/ECOSOC. He also served in a consulting capacity at the Foundation of Amnesty International.

In 1963-64, Dr. Kabes was consultant on constitutional problems to the Prime Minister of Zaire in Kinshasa. In 1969, he set up and managed the Swiss branch of Commerce Clearing House, the Chicago-based law publishers.

In 1972, Dr. Kabes became Secretary General (CEO) of the International Touring Alliance in Geneva, a world-wide association of automobile and touring clubs with regulatory functions on international customs documents for motorists.

Upon statutory retirement in 1983, Dr. Kabes returned to Washington, D.C. to establish his own international consulting practice.

In 1990, Dr. Kabes was one of the distinguished Czech and Slovak personalities living abroad and selected by President Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia to serve on his Board of Consultants. He is presently member of the Board of the American Fund for Czechoslovak Relief, New York, of the Czech and Slovak Solidarity Council and of the American Friends of the Czech Republic, both in Washington, D.C.

In 1999, Dr. Kabes received from President Havel the Czech Medal of Merit First Class and from the Masaryk Democratic Movement in Prague the T. G. Masaryk Medal. In 1998 he was honored by his alma mater, The Prague Charles University, and is a holder of the Premysl Pitter Medal, commemorating Czech humanitarian of the World War II era. He was also granted an award by the World Tourism Organization in Madrid.