

22nd SVU World Congress Palacky University, Olomouc Czech Republic June 27-July 3, 2004

Dear SVU Members:

This note is primarily addressed to SVU members in North America, Western Europe and in English-speaking countries.

Preparation for our Congress are in full swing. Our Olomouc co-organizers, under the direction of Docent Ivo Barteczek, Dean of the Philosophical Faculty of Palacky University are going out of their way to make the Congress highly interesting, very informative, enjoyable, and above all, a lasting experience. See Ivo Barteczek's "Invitation" which follows.

All the logistical and local arrangements have been made so that we can now exclusively concentrate on the preparation of the academic program, including disciplinary sessions, discussion panels and symposia. Inasmuch as the general theme of the Congress is on "Moravia from World Perspective," we are very much interested in subjects relating to Moravia, past and present, its role and significance in Czech history, as well as from international perspectives. Having said that, we are, nevertheless, interested in other topics, as well, that have some bearing on Czechoslovakia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Czechs and Slovaks Abroad, Czech/Slovak relations and cooperation with North America and the Western Europe. When it comes down to it, we will accept almost any interesting paper on any subject in human endeavor, including history, philosophy, theology, literature, linguistics, the arts, music, politics, international relations, sociology, anthropology, civil rights, women's issues, law, economics, library and information sciences, sciences, technology, medicine, agriculture, environment, computers, business, management, sports, etc. We are calling for papers and seek volunteers for organizing specific sessions.

We encourage all of our members to attend, as this will indeed be a memorable experience you will never forget. To assist us with our planning, it is imperative that all interested persons fill out the registration forms, including the speakers' form, and return them to us a.s.a.p. These forms are strictly for participants from abroad (including foreigners or former Czech/Slovak emigrants who now live in CR or SR). Registration for participants from the Czech and Slovak Republics (permanent residents only) is handled separately by our Olomouc co-organizers. All participants, including speakers need to register and pay the registration fee. If you have any questions, please, contact me: SVU1@comcast.net

I look forward to seeing you in Olomouc.

MILOSLAV REHCIGL
SVU President

SVU Website: www.svu2000.org

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Invitation to Olomouc

I VO B A R T E C E K

Dean, Philosophical Faculty UP

The 22nd SVU World Congress will take place from June 27-July 3rd 2004 at the second oldest university in the Czech Republic – Palacky University in Olomouc. The participants of the Congress will be guests of Palacky University, the Olomouc Region and the City of Olomouc. With its general theme “Moravia from the World Perspective” the focus of the program will be on Moravia, as a whole, examining various of its aspects, including economic, political and cultural, in the context of the history of the Czech Lands, as viewed internally, as well as externally, and its importance from the world perspective.

The topics will reflect on the importance of selected personalities whose roots were in or were associated with Moravia, or on the role of.

Moravia as a transitory point between Southern and Northern Europe or Eastern and Western Europe, or on the events which were expressively identified with Moravia in the past and present. Interdisciplinary approach enables one to examine things narrowly, as well as from a comparative viewpoint. The common denominator, however, remains the role and the status of Moravia, as seen internally, as well as from the outside.

For the Congress participants, besides organizing specialized academic panels, we prepared an abundant and varied cultural and social program. On Saturday, June 26 and Sunday, June 27th, after their arrival, the participants will be accommodated in the hotels or University dorms according to their wishes. The social program will begin on Sunday afternoon with a Welcoming Party by the Rector of Palacky University, followed by the opening of the exhibit "Czechs in America." This party, as well as most other programs, will be held in the halls of the ancient University, in the "Konvikt" building, an unique, newly restored, imposing Baroque structure.

The Official Opening will take place on Monday, June 28th, in the Regional Center Olomouc, located in the heart of the social and business district of Olomouc. The Congress will begin with a morning press conference, followed by the ceremonial Opening of the Congress, with representatives of various universities and other dignitaries of the Czech Republic and Slovakia present. The visitors will be able to enjoy the splendor of the academic procession, the university hierarchy wearing their traditional spectacular academic gown and university insignia, including awarding an honorary doctorate. This will be followed by a buffet luncheon, hosted by the Governor of the Olomouc Region.

On Monday afternoon there will be the SVU Plenary Session and in the evening the participants will be treated to either Antonin Dvorak's Opera "Rusalka" or Leos Janacek's "The Cunning Little Vixen" in the Moravian Theatre.

The Academic Sessions, beginning on Tuesday morning through Friday noon, June 29th through July 2nd, will be held in the Konvikt Building. A number of sessions will run concurrently, both in the morning and in the afternoon, with short breaks for refreshments. The lunches will be available in the close-by restaurant Zbrojnice. As per agreement, the American and other Western panels are organized by Dr. Miloslav Rechcigl and the local panels are coordinated by Doc. Ivo Bartecek.

From Tuesday through Thursday the Congress participants will be able to take advantage of guided tours of the historic part of the City. After Prague, Olomouc is the second most important reservoir of cultural treasures in the Czech Republic. The City is famous for its Renaissance palaces, historical buildings, unique baroque fountains and majestic churches. The visitors will get to see the beautiful St. Wenceslaus Cathedral, the site where the last Premyslide King Vaclav III perished, the Archbishop's Palace and the place where Emperor Franz Josef ascended to the throne. They will visit the Hradisko Monastery which played an important role in the Medieval and modern history of the Czech Lands and see a number of beautiful churches and palaces in the City, as well as gardens that form an ecological belt around the City.

In the afternoon, from Tuesday through Thursday there will be film showings in the Konvikt building where the attendees will get an over-view of Czech cinema, past and present. On Tuesday afternoon there will be showing of Miloslav Rechcigl's new books, Czech American Historical Sites, Monuments and Memorabilia and Czechoslovak American Archivalia. Both monographs are being published, on the occasion of the SVU World Congress, through the courtesy of the Philosophical Faculty of Palacky University and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. Later on, in the afternoon, there will be an opening of the exhibit "Czechs in Venezuela," followed by the showing of the newly released re-edition of Vlastimil Kybal's monograph, Po ceskoslovenskych stopach Latinske Ameriky.

On Wednesday afternoon there will be an opening of the exhibit "Music in Olomouc," followed by showing Jan Vicar's new book Dodecahedron. Several music programs are scheduled throughout the duration of the Congress, including concerts in the Baroque Chapel of "Bozi Telo" in the Old University and the Organ music in Church of St. Maurice, and, of course, the performance by the Moravian Philharmonic.

Wednesday evening is reserved for the SVU Banquet which will be held in conjunction with the Garden Party in the Courts and Gardens of the Old University. It will be concluded by an evening performance of a Baroque Opera, especially performed for the Congress participants.

On Thursday, besides the guided tour of the historic Olomouc, there will again be film showings and a special Organ Concert in the after-noon. The latter will take place in the Church of St. Maurice. The organ is a masterpiece of its kind, used by world famous musicians, when they visit the City.

Friday afternoon is reserved for the SVU Plenary Session followed by the SVU General Assembly Meeting. The Congress will officially close with a festive meal, hosted by the Lord Mayor of the City.

On Saturday, July 3rd, the Congress participants will have a choice of two bus excursions. The first excursion will go to Northeastern Moravia, while the second excursion will travel in northwesterly direction. Both tours are exceptionally planned to give the participants a good feel for cultural history from medieval times to the present, unique industry for which Moravia is famous, beautiful landscapes, a traditional cuisine, taste of Moravian wine and more. Above all, everybody will have a good time.

On Sunday, July 4th, the Congress attendees will start departing. The bus will be provided for those interested in going to the Prague airport.

The 22nd World Congress belongs among priorities and prestigious activities of Palacky University, the Olomouc Region and the City of Olomouc. We believe that we can offer our visitors an excellent overview of our cultural heritage and also get them acquainted with the current life in Moravia. You will get the feel for the cultural and social wealth and splendor of the former Capital City of Moravia - the City of Olomouc. The University itself bears the name after Frantisek Palacky, the foremost figure of social, political and cultural life of the nineteenth century, who stood at the cradle of the Czech emancipation.

The Congress participants will receive detailed information and various Congress materials at the Registration Desk. During the Congress, in addition to the University Conference Service, there will be operating a Press Club 22, especially established for the Congress, a Congress newsletter will be published and a special Congress Website has been created. Newspapers, radio and TV of the Czech Republic will also cover the events, as will the periodicals Listy, Cesky Dialog and Americke Listy.

Further information about the Congress, including the academic program, cultural and social events, can be accessed on the Congress Website and in the Program brochure which the attendees will receive at the Registration Desk.

SVU Nominations Committee

SVU Executive Board appointed a new Nomination Committee consisting of Andrew Elias (chair), Ivo Feierabend, Zdenek Hruban, Clinton Machann and Daniel Necas. The purpose of the committee is to select nominees for all the elective bodies in the Society for the term 2004-2006. Members in good standing are requested to send their suggestions, within a month, to the Committee Chairman Andrew Elias, 10713 Howerton Ave, Fairfax, VA 22030; e-mail: A_Elias@webtv.net

Every recommendation should be accompanied by supporting statement concerning the candidate's qualifications, experience and suitability for the relevant function/office.

SVU GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Dr. Miloslav Rehcigl, SVU President
and Frank Safertal, Secretary General of SVU
convoke

A Meeting of the General Assembly of SVU

to be held on Friday, July 2, 2004 at 3:00 PM.
Umelecke centrum, Konvikt, Palacky University,
Univerzitni 3, 772 00 Olomouc, Czech Republic

According to the SVU Bylaws (Article 10), regular meetings of the General Assembly shall be called annually. In the event a sufficient number of members entitled to vote are not present (at least 100) at the time for which the meeting has been called, the general membership meeting will be held one hour later.

SVOLÁNÍ VALNÉ HROMADY SVU

Předseda SVU Dr. Miloslav Rechcigl
a generální tajemník Frank Safertal
svolávají tímto

Valnou hromadu SVU

na pátek 2. července 2004 ve tři hodiny odpoledne.
Umělecké centrum, Konvikt, Univerzita Palackého,
Univerzitní 3, 772 00 Olomouc, Česká republika

Podle stanov Společnosti (článek 10), svolává se valná hromada každý rok na určitou dobu a místo. Jestliže není v určenou dobu přítomno alespoň 100 volících členů, je valná hromada odložena o jednu hodinu.

From Executive Board Meeting

Executive Board had its last meeting of the year 2003 on Wednesday December 17, after two previous postponements because of the snow storm. The Board met at SVU President Mila Rechcigl's residence in Rockville at 10 AM. Although the attendance was understandably small, enough board members were present to meet the quorum requirements.

After the initial approval of the minutes from the previous meeting, Mila Rechcigl informed the members that their colleague VP Ivo Budil is a candidate for President of the University of West Bohemia and the former Ambassador Martin Butora is running for the post of Slovak President.

In his absence, Treasurer Frank Mucha sent his report on the finances. The members noted that the expenditure for the newsletter *Zpravy SVU* seemed rather high and the question was raised whether it would not suffice to replace it with the electronic version which already exists and is accessible by members who have access to a computer. Treasurer indicated that he would send out reminder letters to all members regarding their payments of the dues. The members will have the option of also paying for their subscription to *Kosmas*, and of ordering the new *SVU Directory*.

John Fiala, who served as Treasurer for the recent SVU conference in Iowa and who could not attend the Board meeting, sent in his financial report. There was mention in his report of an attachment that pre-sumably contained expenditure details. Based on the wording of the report it appeared that some \$ 7,000 profit was deposited in the account of the Nebraska Chapter. The Board requested that the money be returned to the central treasury where it belongs.

Editor Clinton Machann submitted a progress report on the periodical *Kosmas*, including the contents of the new issue. Secretary General Frank Safertal informed the Board that he received response to his recent letter from Bruce Garver indicating that he is sending the promised articles by mail. At the time of the Board meeting no material was received. Secretary General was instructed to send another reminder letter to Garver if the articles are not received by January 17, 2004. Jiri Eichler informed Rechcigl that he is ready to send out *Kosmas* promotional package to the potential subscribers in the Czech and Slovak Republics.

Next item on the agenda were SVU monographic publications. *SVU Biographical Directory*, as noted earlier, was published in Prague where the bulk of the copies are stored. Most of the copies that were previously ordered by members have been distributed. Future orders will be handled individually and the copies will be sent by mail directly from Prague, because their mass transport to the US would be unduly expensive.

The editing of selected English papers from the Plzen Congress has been completed and the manuscript is ready to be sent to the University of West Bohemia for printing. Rechcigl also reported that selected papers from the Iowa Conference are currently being edited for publication by Charles Townsend.

VP Vera Borkovec gave a brief report on the planned monograph on *Czech and Slovak Theatre Abroad* which she is editing. Several chapters are still outstanding. Rechcigl promised to use his influence to prompt some of the authors to send in their chapters. VP Dagmar White followed with a progress report on her monograph relating to *Czech Opera Abroad* and distributed a tentative outline. With reference to the third monograph relating to Czech and Slovak art abroad, as proposed at the last Executive Board meeting, it will be necessary find a suitable editor.

VP Dagmar White informed the Board that she sent in the recommendation and application to the State of Maryland to place a suitable historic marker for Augustine Herman and his son to commemorate their contributions toward erecting the first State House in Annapolis, MD.

A major part of the Board meeting was devoted to the discussion of the forthcoming SVU World Congress to be held at Palacky University in Olomouc, Czech Republic, June 2004. Rechcigl made a special trip to Olomouc at the end of October to have a look at the University facilities and resources and discuss logistics and local arrangements. He had the opportunity to meet with the key players, including University Rector Prof. Jana Macalova and Dean of the Philosophical Faculty, Docent Ivo Barteczek. He was gratified that he was able to negotiate very agreeable terms regarding the latter to make the congress pleasurable and affordable to SVU members. He also had a productive meeting with the Deputy mayor of the City of Plzen who promised, on behalf of the Lord Mayor, to assist us with the congress organization and provide sponsorship.

The Executive Board will now need to focus most of its energies on the preparation of the Congress program. Mila Rechcigl will coordinate the English lectures prepared by the participants from America while Dr. Karel Konecny of the Department of History at Palacky University will have the responsibility for coordinating the lectures by the participants from the Czech and Slovak Republics. The latter can be in Czech, Slovak or English.

Among possible panels to be organized in America the following were mentioned: Notable Moravians Abroad, Moravian Brethren (Rechcigl), History panels (Z. David), Civil Society (Marc Weiss), The American Presence in Czech & Slovak Republics, US Relations with Czech and Slovak Republics, The Czech & Slovak Presence in America, Role of Czech & Slovak Republics in EU, Music (Dagmar Hasalova White), Military History (Jack and Dagmar White), Genealogy, Czech & Slovak Archival Materials Worldwide and their Preservation, Czech and Slovak Science & Scholarship in Exile, Philately (Hahn), Business panel (Safertal), etc.

Rechcigl then gave a brief report on the conference on "Veda v exilu" (Science in Exile) which he attended in Prague at the invitation of the Czech Academy of Sciences' Center for Study of Science in November 2003 and on the various discussions he held in Prague. Furthermore, he reported on the outcome of the Working Conference on Czech & Slovak American Archival Materials and their Preservation which he organized with the Czech & Slovak Embassies in Washington, DC where the conference was held. The details about the Conference have been reported separately.

With reference to Local Chapters, the Cleveland Chapter has been reestablished and a new chapter formed in Spillville, IA. There is also a possibility of reactivating the Toronto Chapter.

The next Board meeting was set for Saturday, February 7, 2004 at Mila Rechcigl's residence in Rockville at 9 AM. In case of bad weather the meeting would be held on February 14 or 21.

Activities of SVU Members

PREMYSL VACLAV PEL-NAR, Professor Emeritus of McGill University and Scientific Secretary of the Institute of Occupational Health of Quebec, has been honored by his University by the creation of the new Dr. Pre-mysl "Mike" Pelnar Academic Enrichment Award. The award is the result of an anonymous \$10,000 donation to the department in 1994 to mark the 80th birthday of Dr. Pelnar, who had a long and distinguished career as a member of the department.

Dr. Pelnar was born on January 15, 1914 in Prague. He received his MUDr. degree at Charles University in 1937 and CSc. in 1961. After World War II, he was selected, by the Ministry of Education, to study occupational medicine in the US. Following his return to Czechoslovakia, he presented to the government a proposal for the development of occupational health standards in the country's recently nationalized chemical industry. He was engaged to implement this proposal and served for 12 years as chief medical officer at the Ministry of Chemical Industry. In 1964 he decided to leave Czechoslovakia and went to Helsinki, Finland. Subsequently he applied for asylum in the US and moved to Cleveland. Here he became Head of the research department at St. Luke's Hospital and also served as clinical instructor at the medical school of Western Reserve University. Soon after he was appointed Head of the new Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health in Montreal. After moving to Canada, he was appointed adjunct professor at the Department of Epidemiology and Health at McGill University and later at the University's School of Occupational Medicine. In 1991, in the wake of the collapse of the communist regime in Czechoslovakia, Charles University bestowed on him the professorial title.

MICHAEL J. FLACK, Professor Emeritus and one of the first faculty members of the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh, was honored by the launching of a special fund bearing his name. The Michael Flack Fund will provide financial support to students studying international affairs or international development.

JAROSLAV FOLTA, Head of the Department of History of Science and Technology, National Technical Museum in Prague, on the occasion of his 70th birthday, has been honored by his colleagues and friends by a just

released Festschrift, which came out as a special issue of the series “Acta historiae rerum naturalium necnon technicarum.” The volume, which bears the title *1933 Circuli 2003*, is the joint product of the National Technical Museum in Prague and the Society for History of Science and Technology. Among contribution to the volume is also Mila Rechcigl’s paper, “Czech and Slo-vak Physicians, Natural Scientists, and Engineers on the American Continent.”

PAUL G. SKALNY, Attorney and Partner with Davis, Agnor, Rapaport and Skalny, has been named the Managing Partner of the firm. A graduate of Leadership Howard County Class 1998, Paul Skalny spends countless hours contributing to nonprofit causes. These include serving on the boards of the Howard County Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Howard County, the Superintendent’s Advisory Council on Business Education Partnership (SACBEP), The Jim Rouse Entrepreneurial Fund and the American Heart Association. Paul G. Skalny is the son of our Executive Vice President Jan P. Skalny.

New Publications and Other Works of SVU Members

MADELEINE KORBELOVA ALBRIGHT, the past Secretary of State, has written her autobiography, entitled *Madame Secretary. A Memoir* (New York: Miramax Books, 2003, 562 p).

For eight years, during Bill Clinton’s two presidential terms, Made-leine Albright was an active participant in the most dramatic events of recent times — from the pursuit of peace in the Middle East to NATO’s intervention in Kosovo. As she states in the Preface, “*We all have our stories. This is mine. It reflects the turbulence of the past century, the expanding and changing roles of women, and the clash between those around the world with faith in freedom and those who place power above human values . . .*”.

LINDA STEINER, Associate Professor at School of Communication, Information and Library Science, Rutgers University, edited (with Cynthia Carter), a new book, *Critical Readings: Media and Gender*, which has been published by Open University Press (2004), as a part of a series “Issues in Cultural and Media Studies.” In addition, she co-authored with Deborah Chambers and Carole Fleming a book on *Women and Journalism*, published by Routledge Press. She has also just begun a three year term as editor of *Critical Studies in Media Communication*.

VICTOR M. FIC, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, Brock University, is the author of a new monograph, *The Tantra. Its Origin, Theories, Art and Diffusion from India to Nepal, Tibet, Mongolia, China, Japan and Indonesia* (New Delhi: Abhinav Publications, 2003, 108 p.). “The Tantras are a union of the human, the cosmic and the divine.”

BENJAMIN KURAS, britsko-ãeský spisovatel, novináři a dramatik, je autorem knižky *Sekl se Orwell o dvacet let? Svoboda a totalita v 21. století* (Praha: Baronet, 2002), 156 p. Je to jeho jedenáctá ãesky vydaná publikace, vzniklá roz%ífením textu priedne%oeného na orwellovském sym-pozíu 2002. S tradiãním kurasovským humorem a sarkasmem popisuje události a stav evropské politiky, ekonomiky a kultury hrozící sklouz-nout do nového totalitního systému.

DUSAN SIMKO: *Exil in Basel, Gespräche mit Flüchtlingen aus der Tschechoslowakei*, Edition Memory, Pressprint Kosice, Slovak Republic 2003, 180 p., 20 photographs, 25.- CHF. Kniha rozhovorov s dvad-siatimi exulantami, ktorí opustili Československo po okupácii v auguste 1968. 12 krajanov/krajaniek z Ciech a Moravy a zo Slovenska. Vsetci ziju v Bazileji a na blizkom okoli tohoto mesta. Rozhovory objasnuju príčiny odchodu, životne osudy, politicke názory a postoje, spolkovu činnosť a v značnej miere otázku akulturáciu vo Svajciarsku. V knihe je okrem iného aj rozhovor s profesorom J. M. Lochmanom, bývalým rektorom Univerzity Bazilej, alebo s Dr. Karlom Hrubým, dlhoročným predsedom Čs. socialnodemokratickej strany a predsedom svajciarskej sekcie SVU. Objednavky: Jiri Zadrobilek, Rixheimerstr. 35, 4055 Basel, Switzerland.

SLAVOMIR MICHALEK, a historian at the Historical Institute, Slovak Academy of Sciences, jointly with Natalia Krajcovicova et al., edited a book, *Do pamati naroda. Osobnosti slovenskych dejin prvej polovice 20. storocia* (Bratislava: Veda — Vydavatelstvo slovenskej akademie vied, 2003, 696 p.). This book *Into the Memory of the Nation* is partly based on articles published in *Pravda* daily throughout 1990s, which has been enriched by the inclusion of a wide spectrum of in-fluential figures in society — diplomats, politicians, military, and clergy.

JAROSLAVA MOSEROVA-DAVIDOVA, a politician, translator, author of radio scripts, illustrator, pianist, scientist and physician, and now Senator of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, has authored a fascinating slender monograph, based on her experiences and memories, *Historiky. Na koho se nezapomina*. (Praha: Olympia, 2003, 231 p.)

MARGIT MEISSNER of Bethesda has written a personal mono-graph, *Margit’s Story: An Autobiography of Margit Meissner* (Rockville, MD: Schreiber Publishing, 2003). Margit Meissner, who retired nearly 11 years ago from Montgomery County Public Schools received the Montgomery County’s Individual Pioneer Award for Distinguished Service to Public Education last November.

JAN VICAR, a noted teacher, musicologist, critic and composer at Palacky University in Olomouc, has two important CD-ROM releases. The first, entitled: “Zpivame si — We Sing” includes two live recordings (Zpivame

The SVU finances are sound. For a number of years now, the Society has been operating in black. The reasons for it are that we have been operating with balanced budget, cut down on expenditures and reduced our overhead to minimum. Executive Board members pay their own travel expenses to Board meetings, even though some have to travel long distances. As a rule, all work for SVU is done by volunteers free of charge and no money is spent without a previous authorization by the Executive Board. Most SVU income comes from the membership dues which are used for current expenses. The largest expenditures is for our newsletter *Zpravy SVU* and for the periodical *Kosmas* which the Society subsidizes. In case of other activities SVU undertakes, we make an effort to have them pay for themselves, by charging fees or by obtaining an external grant or using the interest from our savings. As a rule, we don't like to touch our "Corpus" (savings)!

By paying your dues promptly you will save us precious time and effort because we won't have to send you reminder letters. As always, we welcome your comments, and volunteers to assist us with our agenda.

MILOSLAV REHCIGL
SVU President

FRANK MUCHA
SVU Treasurer