

ZPRÁVY

SPOLEČNOSTI PRO VĚDY A UMĚNÍ

CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIETY OF

ARTS AND SCIENCES, INC.

ISSN 0036-2050

SVU

Volume LIII.

May-June, 2011

No.3

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26th WORLD CONGRESS OF SVU

CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIETY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

June 30th – July 5th, 2012

Žilina
Slovak Republic



Source: (www.slovakia.travel)



Zprávy SVU (SVU News) (ISSN 0036-2050)
Editor - Eugene Martin, 53 South Drive, East Brunswick, NJ 08816-1134,
Tel. (732) 545-5670.

Date of issue: June 20, 2011. Volume 53, No. 3. Published bi-monthly by
Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences, Inc. at 317 Cleveland Ave.,
Suite 205, Highland Park, NJ 08904-1825

Typesetting by: PJ Printing, 605 N. Eastern Ave., Allegan, Michigan
49010

Periodical Postage Paid at Vienna, VA and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER. Send address changes to:

ZPRAVY SVU, PO Box 1285, Highland Park, NJ 08904-1825

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

In May I visited several academic institutions in the Czech Republic.

Most notably, it was a pleasure to attend the XVIIth General Assembly of the Learned Society of the Czech Republic and to have a productive meeting with the President of the Academy of Sciences Professor Drahoš as well as the Vice-President of the Academy, Professor Jaroslav Pánek. As a result, Professor Drahoš agreed to give the keynote address at our 2011 SVU meeting in New York; while Professor Pánek agreed to present a paper on the training of young scientists in the humanities in the Czech Republic.

It was a pleasure to attend the unveiling of the memorial to prominent Czech historian Josef Pekař at Castle Kost. At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, details were finalized for participation by Minister Karel Schwarzenberg at our June Conference in New York. At the invitation of President Václav Klaus, I met briefly with the Ambassador of the United States to Czech Republic, Hon. Norman L. Eisen, who kindly agreed to address SVU members at our meeting in New York. Attendance at our congress was also arranged with the new Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United States, H.E. Petr Gandalovič.

In his interview with the Czech radio, reported in its entirety in this issue of Zprávy, Minister Schwarzenberg had kind words about the role and significance of the SVU.

Our May trip was not completely pre-occupied with work, I had the distinct pleasure to listen to a concert of the Symphony Orchestra of the Czech Radio conducted by Maestro Vladimír Válek at Rudolfinum and to a wonderful jazz concert by a mix of American and Czech jazzmen at Prague Castle.

Planning for next year's SVU World Congress is formally under way. During this same May trip, I discussed preliminary hosting offers by several universities to co-sponsor the 26th World Congress of SVU in 2012. At its June meeting, the Executive Board of SVU selected the University of Žilina as the site for the 2012 World Congress. The local organizer will be Dr. Dalibor Mikuláš, Associate Dean for Foreign Relations at the University. We all know Dalibor from our highly successful 2008 meeting in Ružomberok and appreciate the infrastructure for the congress he put together there.

The published proceedings from the 25th Congress of SVU in Tábor *Contributions of Czechs and Slovaks to Science and Technology in the 21st Century* edited by Zdeněk V. David, Eugene G. Martin and Karel F. Raška, Jr. were unveiled during the NYC Congress and will be available for purchase through our website.

The opening Welcome Reception of our 2011 SVU Conference was attended by H.E. Karel Schwarzenberg, Vice-Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs who addressed the participants and met with them for friendly discussions. The reception was also addressed by H.E. Petr Gandalovič and Hon. Norman L. Eisen. Both ambassadors spent the evening with attendees of the conference. At the welcome reception I also introduced a young Czech painter, Jonáš Czesany. His paintings were well received and appreciated by the participants.

I opened the formal program of the Conference and introduced Consul General of the Slovak Republic in New York, Mr. Igor Pokojný and Czech Ambassador Petr Gandalovič who gave their salutations to the assembled. Professor Jiří Drahoš of the Czech Academy of Sciences presented a keynote address – *The Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic – A Key Player in Czech Science*. He introduced history of the Academy, sources of finance, the methods of evaluation of all scientific teams. He presented several of the ambitious projects in natural sciences. His address stimulated a lively discussion. Saturday's morning session was concluded by panels on *Young Scholars* and on *Czech Immigration*. We particularly welcomed presentations by young historians from both sides of the Atlantic. Both panels were very well attended.

The afternoon panel on *History* combined contributions of both senior and young scholars and was very well attended. The presentations evoked long discussion. The panels on *Czech-United States Relations* and on *Medicine* were lively and also well attended.

On Saturday, at the General Assembly meeting, attendees were informed of the current state of SVU. The evening banquet was arranged in the ballroom of the Bohemian National Hall and was catered by Restaurant Zlatá Praha. Society members expressed their satisfaction with the event to Mr. Suchánek and his wife.

Sunday morning meeting combined the two originally proposed panels to one devoted to *Economy* and *Art*. The Sunday morning session had about thirty participants. The session ended with *Farewell to Americké listy*. In the afternoon there was a puppet show by Czechoslovak-American Marionette Theatre, *Johannes Doktor Faust, 'The Petrifying Puppet Comedy'*.

The 2011 Conference had a good academic program which brought together scholars from both America and Europe who presented well researched and interesting papers. Relevance of our activities was confirmed by attendance of high representatives and diplomats of both republics and the United States at our Conference. Personal aegis of Presidents Klaus and Gašparovič are recognition of the quality of contributions of SVU members.

I want to thank former Director of the Bohemian National Hall Mr. Petr Fejk, Ms. Pavla Niklova, Director of the Czech Center, Consul General Dr. Eliška Žigová, Mr. Joseph Balaz and Tomáš Hadl of the Bohemian Benevolent and Literary Association for making the meeting at Bohemian National Hall possible. We acknowledge the generous gift of the Czech and Slovak Solidarity Council which helped to defray the cost of the meeting. Our thanks go to Dr. Jana Rašková, Ms. Milena Šimko, Dr. Brigita Krompholz and Ms. Lenka Nováková for organizing and operating the registration desk at the meeting. I personally want to acknowledge the help of Dr. Eugene Martin, Dr. Zdeněk David and Dr. Vlado Šimko in the organization of the meeting and editing the abstracts. I also thank Mr. Jan Žahour of the Czech Center for taking the photographs.

Have a nice summer!

Karel Raška, Jr.
SVU President



Minister Schwarzenberg Meets Meeting Participants
(Courtesy: Jan Žahour)

Ministr Schwarzenberg navštíví české krajany v USA

27-05-2011 17:31 | Milena Štráfěldová

Ministr zahraničí Karel Schwarzenberg je na cestě do Spojených států. Několikrát se během ní setká i s českými krajany. Důležitou zastávkou bude letošní konference Společnosti pro vědy a umění v New Yorku, která se bude věnovat mladým vědcům a jejich podílu na činnosti SVU. Ministr Schwarzenberg pro Radio Praha řekl, v čem je česká krajanská komunita v Americe výjimečná:

Nesmíme zapomenout, že krajané hráli ohromnou roli v našich dějinách. Masarykovo úsilí za první světové války by asi bez podpory krajanů ve Spojených státech bylo naprosto marné. Také za druhé světové války hráli ohromnou podpůrnou roli a i teď, v posledních letech. Já se právě teď v New Yorku chystám navštívit sjezd SVU. Tato společnost hrála mnohem větší roli, než se tady tuší. Já o tom náhodou něco vím, protože u jejího založení byl strýček František, který byl profesorem v Chicagu. V emigraci to byla vlastně nejzajímavější organizace. Shromažďovala spoustu intelektuálů a vědců, kteří žili ve Spojených státech a kteří na starou vlast nezapomněli."

Letošní setkání SVU je věnováno právě mladým, protože SVU je trochu stárnoucí organizace...

"Samozřejmě, protože byla založena lidmi, kteří byli v Americe po r. 1948. Teď ovšem bohudíky lidé mohou volně cestovat a od nás je v Americe spousta mladých lidí. Doufám, že neztratí spojení s domovem a snad také někdy něco pro nás udělají."

To je úplně nová komunita. Vedle starokrajanů, kteří tam přicházeli v 19. století, a exulantů to je vlastně úplně nová skupina...

"Ano, ale vždycky byly takové vlny. Naše dějiny, které nebyly někdy moc příjemné, se odrazily i v emigraci do Spojených států. Důležité ale je, aby taková společnost, jako je například SVU, tyto rozdíly překlenula. Bohužel máme tu slabost, že se rádi mezi sebou pereme. Doufám, že konečně ty spory mezi sebou zapomeneme."

Řada mladých Čechů, kteří jsou dnes v Americe, jsou nadále občany České republiky. A český stát má vůči nim i určité povinnosti a měl by je i podpořit. V čem vy vidíte hlavní směr, jak by mohl podporovat tyto mladé Čechy, jejich rodiny a jejich děti?

"Bohužel je to trošku slabá podpora. Může to být jen škola na dálku /tj. Česká škola bez hranic/ a podobné věci. Dnešní Česká republika na rozdíl od prvorepublikového Československa neoplývá zrovna prostředky. Myslím, že je ale důležité, abychom udrželi alespoň jistou výuku jazyka, protože to nás přeci jenom silně spojuje. To je pro ně, ale i pro nás, strašně důležité."

Uvidíte se pouze s krajany v New Yorku, nebo pocestujete i jinam?

"Doufám, že uvidím starou komunitu v Texasu. A pak jsou samozřejmě někteří v Kalifornii, s těmi se také uvidíme."

Sám jste prožil mnoho let v exilu. Exil a krajany jste poznal hodně zblízka, v dobrém i v tom horším. Liší se nějak podstatně od tuzemské české veřejnosti?

"Ale ano. Zprvč jsme v emigraci, a to byla svého času moje trpká zkušenost, ještě nesnášenlivější, než jsme tady. To ale teď snad už pominulo. Myslím, že teď už vyrostla úplně jiná generace a já jsem na ni zvědavý."

Myslíte si, že česká veřejnost už překonala určitý odstup, který po r. 1989 měla vůči emigraci a exilu? Někteří emigranti tu nebyli přijímáni úplně vřele...

"To je naprostá pravda. Emigrant je málokdy přijímán vřele. Všichni mu vytýkají, že doma trpěli a jemu se dařilo. Někteří to ale měli na začátku velice, velice těžké. Emigrace není vtip! Je něco jiného, když dnes vycestují na dlouhodobý pobyt v Americe, vím ale, že se můžu vrátit. To je něco úplně jiného, než když jste venku s pocitem, že se už domů nikdy nepodíváte. To je blbý pocit, věřte mi..."

Všechny okolní státy mají určitou podobu krajanského zákona. Podporují tak své krajany. Do tohoto zákona jsou zabudovány třeba i volební záležitosti, občanství atd. Neuvažuje Česká republika do budoucna o vzniku podobného zákona?

"Já nevím, jestli o tom uvažuje Česká republika, ale my tady trochu o tom uvažujeme. Je nám ale povědomé, že to bude poměrně těžké prosadit. Hlavně proto, že to vyžaduje jisté prostředky, a my všude šetříme. Ale bylo by to potřebné. Tady opravdu silně zaostáváme za svými sousedy."

Zdroj: Český Rozhlas 7, Radio Praha

URL: <http://www.radio.cz/cz/rubrika/udalosti/ministr-schwarzenberg-navstivi-ceske-krajany-v-usa>

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Všechna práva vyhrazena



Drs. Vlado Simko and Petr Hausner Enjoy the Opening of the Meeting
(Courtesy: Jan Žahour)

Minutes of the SVU 2011 General Assembly Meeting

June 6, 2011

The General Assembly Meeting took place on June 4, 2010 at the in the Bohemian National Hall in New York City, on the occasion of the 2011 Regional SVU Conference in New York City.

President Karel Raska opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m.
Secretary-General, Zdenek David took Minutes.

1. President Raska discussed plans for the coming SVU World Congress in June 2012 to be held in Zilina, Slovakia.
2. Editor of SVU journal, Kosmas, Clinton Machann, announced his retirement from the position by the end of the calendar year. The SVU Executive Board has appointed a Search Committee to identify a replacement for Prof. Machann, consisting of Zdenek David, Karel Raska, and Vlado Simko.
3. President Raska and Zdenek David announced the publication of the collection of articles from the 2010 SVU Congress in Tabor; and urged participants in the 2011 Regional Conference to submit copies of their presentations to Zdenek David to be considered for inclusion in the forthcoming collection of papers from the Conference.
4. President Raska announced that a Nomination Committee will be appointed to identify candidates for membership on the SVU Executive Board and for elective office (President, Secretary-General, Treasurer).
5. President Raska announced that the processing of membership fees for 2011 was proceeding smoothly.
6. The meeting was adjourned by President Raska at 5:30 p.m.

Minuted by: Zdenek V. David



Minister Karel Schwarzenberg and President of the Academy of Sciences Jiri Drahos
at the Opening Reception
(Courtesy: Jan Žahour)



Minister Karel Schwarzenberg receives a copy of SVU Publication
from Francis D. Raska
(Courtesy: Jan Žahour)



Minister Karel Schwarzenberg and SVU Members
(Front Row from Left: C. Rokusek, E. Hausner, J. Raskova, Minister Schwarzenberg, M. Povolny, E. Martin)
at the Opening Reception
(Courtesy: Jan Žahour)



Minister Karel Schwarzenberg Addresses SVU Opening Reception
(Courtesy: Jan Žahour)



United States Ambassador to the Czech Republic,
Hon. Norman L. Eisen,
at Opening Reception with SVU Members
(Courtesy: Jan Žahour)

Žilina – Host of Our Next SVU World Congress

Located in northwest Slovakia, Žilina is a city with nearly 90,000 inhabitants. Located in the valley of the river Váh near the confluence of three rivers the Vah, the Kysuca and the Rajčianka, the city has historically had strategic importance. Surrounded by beautiful mountains, the first writing about the area dates from 1208.

Žilina has been an important center of craftsmen, commerce and education. The construction of railroads at the end of the XIX century had great significance in the development of the city.

ŽILINA has undergone dynamic growth since the establishment of the Slovak Republic in 1993. Of particular note is the investment of KIA Motors Slovakia. It is important to note that the town is not only an automobile production centre, but together with the Horné Považie region, it is also an interesting place for tourists. It is the seat of the **University of Žilina**, and since 2008 of the **Žilina Bishopric**. The popularity of the town as a centre of workshop and conference tourism has been growing too.



Žilina - nám. A. Hlinku square and the Parish church

Photographer: Dominik Bugár
Source: (www.slovakia.travel)

OBITUARIES

Michael Olejar, MD (1934-2011)

MICHAEL OLEJAR, M.D. (Mar. 17, 1934 -Feb. 5, 2011)

Michael Olejar was born in the village of Dubova, Czechoslovakia, one of four children. The farming community at that time was in the path of the World War II troops passing through - -going east toward Russia, then west toward Germany. Education in the town was suspended so that the school could function as a hospital. During one period the village was evacuated, and families had to move in with other families in neighboring villages. In 1947, Michael, his mother, and two sisters traveled on the Swedish ship Gripsholm to the United States, and were reunited with his father, who had been working in Youngstown, OH during the war, along with his eldest sister. With no English language skills when he arrived in the United States at age 13, Michael became a diligent and accomplished student, and earned a Chemical Engineering degree at Youngstown University in 1956, and a B.A. in Mathematics in 1958. In 1956 he worked as a chemical engineer in a galvanizing plant at Republic Steel and later entered Ohio State University, receiving a Master of Science in Biophysics and a Doctor of Medicine in 1963. As part of his research while working on his biophysics degree, he split atoms at a cyclotron. Dr. Olejar interned in the U.S. Public Health Service in Staten Island, NY, with a rank of Senior Assistant Surgeon. This was followed by a residency in internal medicine at the University of California at San Diego. He then completed a fellowship at Seattle's Swedish Hospital Tumor Institute. In Seattle, he met and married his wife, Janet (nee Marckx), to whom he was married for 42 years. Dr. Olejar's medical practice was located in West Seattle for 17 years; in 1987, he moved the family to Tacoma and continued his medical practice until retiring in 1997. Dr. Olejar's childhood memories became stories his children loved to hear at bedtime. Over the years, he returned to his little village of Dubova, visiting relatives, attending the church, picking mushrooms, and inviting relatives and former friends to the local tavern, where they sang throughout the night. Michael is survived by his wife Janet; his children Cindy, Michael (Maria), and Sonya; his sisters Sue Boyer (Lamar) in Youngstown, OH and Ann Kiddon (Steve) in Austintown, OH; and his brothers-in-law Joseph Marckx in Endwell, NY and Don Marckx (Judy) in Kansas City, MO. His oldest sister and her husband, Mary and Joe Kurty, and his parents, Anna (nee Kekelik) and Michael Olejar, predeceased him.

Originally Published in News Tribune (Tacoma) on February 9, 2011
