

Rechcigl Reelected SVU President

As was announced at the last SVU General Assembly meeting, Miloslav Rechcigl was again reelected SVU President for the upcoming 2004-2006 administrative period. The meeting was held at the conclusion of the SVU World Congress, held at Palacky University on 27 June - 2 July 2004.

Other elected Executive Board members are Dr. Jan P. Skalny, Executive Vice President; Prof. Vera Zanda Borkovec, Dr. Zdenek David, Prof. Milan Fryscak, Prof. Joseph J. Kohn, Margaret Hermanek Peaslee, Rev. Michael Rokos, and Dr. Dagmar Hasalova White, Vice Presidents; Frank Safertal, Secretary General; and Frank Mucha, Treasurer. The complete list of the new officers is given below.

The General Assembly meeting was well attended. After a brief introduction, Mila Rechcigl, who chaired the meeting, asked Secretary General Frank Safertal to take the minutes. He then appointed the Resolution Committee, consisting of Zdenek David, Karel Konecny and Stanislav Komenda. Layne Pierce who drafted the minutes of the previous General Assembly meeting in Iowa was asked to summarize the key points of the minutes, following which the last year's minutes were approved. General Assembly was then asked to rise to honor the deceased members.

The next point of the agenda were individual reports of various SVU chapters who were represented at meeting, i.e., Bratislava, Brno, Prague, Plzen, New York, Washington (DC), Texas, Nebraska, Spillville (IA), and Cleveland (OH). It was also announced that a new chapter will soon be established in Olomouc.

SVU President then presented his traditional State of the SVU Report covering the 2002-2004 period, the text of which appears elsewhere. The report was subsequently approved by the Assembly.

This was followed by the Report of SVU Treasurer Frank Mucha. Upon the recommendation of the Auditors of Accounts, whose Report was presented to the Assembly, the General Assembly voted to accept both Reports and discharge the current retiring Executive Board of liability.

By this time the Resolution Committee announced that they are ready with their resolution.

Zdenek David read the draft to the Assembly which unanimously approved it.

Having completed the agenda, SVU President thanked the outgoing Executive Board for their work and cooperation during the two year period and, before stepping down from the podium, he appointed Ivo Feierabend, who served on the Nominations Committee, Chairman pro tempore.

SVU Website: www.svu2000.org

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Based on the Report of the Committee of Election Inspectors (consisting of Zdenek Vich, Zdenka Horakova, Eva Vichova and Vaclav Horak), which Ivo Feierabend read to the General Assembly, the slate of candidates proposed by the Nominations Committee was elected in its entirety.

Ivo Feierabend then called upon Mila Rechcigl, the newly elected SVU President, to take over the meeting. Rechcigl thanked the members for their confidence and introduced to the Assembly the other newly elected members present at the meeting. He pledged that the newly elected Board will make every effort to bring SVU to new heights in the spirit of the Society's founders.

Newly Elected SVU Officers 2004-2006

SVU EXECUTIVE BOARD

President

Miloslav Rechcigl, Jr., Rockville, MD

Executive Vice President

Jan P. Skalny, Holmes Beech, FL

Vice Presidents

Vera Z. Borkovec, American University, Washington, DC
Zdenek David, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars,
Washington, DC

Milan Fryscak, New York University, New York, NY
Joseph J. Kohn, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ
Margaret Hermanek Peaslee, University of Pittsburgh, Titusville, PA
Karel F. Raska, Wood Johnson Medical School, New Brunswick, NJ
Michael Rokos, Baltimore, MD
Dagmar H. White, Northern Virginia Community College,
Annandale, VA

Secretary-General

Frank J. Safertal, Bethesda, MD

Treasurer

Frank Mucha, Columbia University, New York, NY

SVU Council

Marie Nemcova Banerjee, Smith College, Northampton, MA
Zdenek P. Bazant, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
Petr Bisek, Glen Cove, NY
Ivo Budil, University of West Bohemia, Plzen, CR
Zora Butorova, Institute of Public Affairs, Bratislava, SR
Josef Cermak, Toronto, Ont., Canada
Lubomir Durovic, Lund Universitet, Lund, Sweden
Libor Ebringer, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, SR
Andrew Elias, Fairfax, VA
Ivo K. Feierabend, San Diego University, San Diego, CA
Jaroslav Folta, National Technical Museum, Prague
Thomas G. Gibian, Sandy Spring, MD
Milan Hauner, Madison, WI
Zdenek Hruban, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Josef Jarab, Palacky University, Olomouc, CR
Eva Dubska Kushner, Victoria University, Canada
Josef Machac, Mt. Sinai Medical Center, New York, NY
Ladislav Macho, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava
Victor S. Mamatey, University of Georgia, Athens, GA
Josef Mestenhauser, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
Zlatica Plasienkova, Comenius University, Bratislava, SR
Miroslav Plavec, University of California, Los Angeles, CA
Vlado Simko, State University of New York
Peter Sis, New York, NY
Zdenek Suda, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
Jan Svejnar, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Alexander Tkac, Slovak Technical University, Bratislava, SR
Piotr Wandycz, Yale University, CA
Rudolf Zahradnik, Academy of Sciences of Czech Rep., Prague, CR
Petr Zuman, Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY

Auditors of the Accounts

Eva Marikova Leeds, Bethlehem, PA
Milos Halouzka, Laguna Hills, CA
Ivan Furda, Minneapolis, MN
Carol H. Hochman, Pittsburgh, PA

Conciliation and Arbitration Committee

George Glos, Library of Congress, Washington, DC
Radomir Luza, Blue Bell, PA
Vladimir Kabes, Bethesda, MD

State of the SVU in the Year 2004

Report of SVU President Dr. Miloslav Rechcigl Presented to SVU General Assembly Meeting, Olomouc, Czech Republic, July 2, 2004

I am pleased to present to you my traditional State of the SVU Report, covering our two-year administrative period. I shall be brief and to the point as everybody is anxious to get ready for the evening feast, hosted by the Lord Mayor of the City of Olomouc.

It will be a very positive and the most optimistic report I have ever presented at any of our General Assembly meetings. Our Executive Board worked hard and the results show it.

At the outset of our current term, we decided on our priorities and set the course following our action plan which became the blue print of all our actions.

Accent on youth became our number one priority and I am pleased to say that we have succeeded in recruiting a large number of young people, mostly students, both here and abroad. Some of our young people have become an integral part of the SVU apparatus of which our diligent SVU Webmaster Jiri Eichler is a prime example.

Assisting with the reestablishment of civil society in the Czech Republic and Slovakia has been another high priority for us. Here too, we have made head-ways, thanks to our agile leader Lois Herman who set in motion the SVU Women's Issues Group. For those of you who are not familiar with this SVU effort I invite you to view the frequent announcements of this Group on our SVU Website. You will be amazed what this group has been doing and what they have accomplished to date. In respect to the reestablishment of the civil society on the territory of former Czechoslovakia, SVU has also continued to award its symbolic annual Andrew Elias Humanitarian Award and this year is no exception.

Another SVU priority has been our continuing efforts to preserve the Czech and Slovak heritage abroad. Toward this end we held an impressive SVU Conference in Cedar Rapids, Iowa last year with the general theme "The Czech and Slovak Presence in North America: A Retrospective Look and Future Perspectives". It was an unqualified success, thanks to the superb cooperation of SVU Nebraska Chapter and its dynamic President Kacenska Oslzly. Some of you may still recall my glowing report in the SVU newsletter which I appropriately entitled "Reliving the New World Symphony".

In the fall of last year we had another important event bearing on our priority to preserve the Czech and Slovak Heritage Abroad. In cooperation both with the Czech and Slovak Embassies in Washington, DC, we convened a special Working Conference on Czech and Slovak American Archival Materials and their Preservation, held on the premises of the two Embassies. It was an extraordinary event, attended by archivists of the major archival institutions in America and the Czech and Slovak Republics that had collections of such materials, as well as the representatives of the three respective governments. *Proceedings* of this remarkable Conference have been published in record time, thanks to the courtesy of the Prague Edition Ltd. and their director David Kraft. You should purchase a copy if you haven't done so already.

In this connection I would also like to mention two other important publications which I had the pleasure of compiling and editing, namely that of the *Czech-American Historic Sites, Monuments, and Memorials*, and the *Czechoslovak American Archivalia*. They are the results of comprehensive surveys the SVU undertook, in cooperation with the National Heritage Commission, comprised of the major Czech ethnic organizations in the US. These important documents have just been published through the courtesy of Palacky University, thanks to the efforts of Docent Ivo Bartecek, Dean of the Philosophical Faculty.

You may recall that in my acceptance speech at the General Assembly in Plzen I pledged to carry out two specific tasks. One dealt with the activation of the SVU Fellows program and the other was related to finding a suitable repository for SVU archival material. Faithful to these commitments I am pleased to report that we have accomplished both. After overcoming initial impasse, the SVU Council approved the first group of SVU Fellows some of whom are here today and I would like them to stand up. To be selected SVU Fellow is a distinct honor and we congratulate them on their professional achievements which is the basis for their selection.

One of the unresolved SVU problems for years was the question as to what to do with the Society's archival materials which in years have grown into geometric proportions. Some of the documents were kept in people's cellars or attics where they collected dust and invited pests, with the imminent danger of being destroyed and forever lost. As you will remember from my last year's report, after some looking around and negotiations, we successfully deposited most of SVU early records at the University of Minnesota, s Immigration History Research Center (IHRC) where they are well taken care of and preserved for the future and will be available to scholars for research. In this connection, I would like to express my appreciation to another young member of SVU, Daniel Necas, assistant curator of the Center for assisting us with this important endeavor.

Publication program has always been the Society's imperative. Here too, we have achieved success. After overcoming a series of technical difficulties, we succeeded in publishing our popular *SVU Biographical Directory* last year. This is a vade-mecum of information about our members, as well as our Society. You had an opportunity to see it here at the meetings and purchase it. This indispensable source of information should not be missing in your libraries.

You also have had the opportunity at these meetings to see and purchase selected papers from our last SVU World Congress, published by the University of West Bohemia Press, thanks to the efforts of Docent Ivo Budil, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities. Under the rubric of publications belong also the three other publications I discussed earlier in connection with our activities relating to the preservation of our cultural heritage abroad.

Among the planned publications, Vera Borkovec is working hard on a monograph relating to *Czech and Slovak Theatre Abroad* and Dagmar White on another monograph on *Czech Opera Abroad*.

With reference to our periodicals, both *Kosmas* and *Zpravy SVU* newsletter have continued their excellent coverage, under the editorship of Clinton Machann and Andrew Elias, respectively. As for the visibility and external contact, the SVU Website, thanks to the diligence of our Webmaster, Jiri Eichler, is the most effective means of communication we have, at least with those who have access to computers.

I would be amiss not to say a few words about our Local Chapters. Generally speaking, we have witnessed considerable increase and improvement in their activities. You will be pleased to hear that we have established a new chapter in Spillville, IA, under the leadership of Michael Klimesh, who is here with us, and that the Cleveland Chapter in Ohio has been reactivated..

Last but not least, I am pleased to report that our finances are in the black and that we have been operating with a balanced budget. To be a Treasurer is a difficult and thankless job, and I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Frank Mucha for doing the impossible.

Since this is also the last administrative day of the current Executive Board I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all Board members for their indispensable work and close cooperation.

RESOLUTION

**of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU)
on the occasion of its Forty-sixth Annual Meeting
Olomouc, July 2, 2004**

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIETY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

HOLDING its Twenty-second World Congress in the year 2004 in the ancient city of Olomouc in the land that long had been closed to freedom and now belongs to free men and women, is open to them, and welcomes them, as it now enters on a new phase of international cooperation in the European Union

REAFFIRMING its founding principles, articulated almost half-a-century ago in times so dark for many, and reiterated anew in its Resolution of the year 2002 at the time of the Twenty-first World Congress in Plzen.

MINDFUL of its obligation — the unceasing obligation of all free people everywhere — to safeguard, foster and cultivate those cultural and ethical values that make life worth living, among them, and above them all, the value of human tolerance, for without tolerance culture is warped, civil society becomes uncivilized, and democracy itself decays.

COGNIZANT of the fact that this Society itself with its friends is but one in the gamut of social, cultural and human forces seeking, in unison and in their daily deeds, to drive the third millennium along the path of humaneness and decency,

RESOLVES

TO CONTINUE meeting the challenges of these disquieting times around the globe by finding and perfecting peaceful means of human communication across all boundaries, ideological, racial and religious.

TO REMAIN TRUE to its non-political character that in no way mitigates the Society's firm adherence to fundamental values and principles of a democratic political culture.

To accept that in this rapidly changing world, of which we are but a part undergoing its own evolutionary transformations, our own contribution to the betterment of global life may be very modest indeed yet absolutely essential, since every great good consists of many small good deeds.

TO MAINTAIN living links between Czech and Slovak communities and their friends abroad, and to seek to resurrect and conserve all historical evidences and records of Czech and Slovak contributions to the cultural life of other communities, and to make them visible and accessible to all. To welcome assistance from the Czech and Slovak governments in this work of preservation, particularly by funding students and young scholars in helping to survey, register and catalog these records of Czech and Slovak activities and accomplishment.

TO FORGE ever new bonds, social, cultural, human, between those of us in the homelands and those of us in new homes far away, for the distances between people are to be measured not in miles but in the values they share and cherish.

TO MAKE better known Czech and Slovak contributions to culture and civilization in arts, humanities, and sciences by sponsorship and encouragement of issuing surveys and outstanding works in the English language, which in the era of globalization is rapidly becoming a world-wide medium for communication and dissemination of knowledge. We feel that it is in the interest of the Czech and Slovak governments to provide full support for this activity so as to remedy the paucity of information and thus to enhance the visibility of the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic in the English-speaking and other parts of the world.

NEVER TO FORGET: that ties of friendship between men and nations are also strengthened by mutual readiness to offer a helping hand in times of need — that the United States and other countries have done so when our people were in bondage in our own lands and some of us abroad in need of a haven, and — that they are with us still — and above all, that we too have hands capable of helping others.

TO STIMULATE active participation in the work of the Society by younger generation with Czech and Slovak roots or affinities.

TO STRIVE, so as to convert words into deeds, toward better understanding of our own human failings in tolerance and compassion for without that understanding we shall fail evermore.

TO EMPLOY all available means of communication within the Society's ranks and between the Society and others, including printed and other media, periodic and ad hoc gatherings of Local Chapters as well as of Specialized Sections in various disciplines of learning and arts, Society-wide annual meetings and biannual World Congresses, as well as joint undertakings with other like-minded organizations and groups.

The Society is fully aware that while in the previous forty-six years it had to overcome many obstacles, the future will be no less challenging.

Approved by the SVU General Assembly at its annual meeting in Olomouc, Czech Republic, July 2, 2004.

MILOSLAV RECHCIGL, Jr., SVU President

New Faces on Executive Board

ZDENEK V. DAVID, Vice President

Zdenek David, Senior Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars since February 2002, was born in Blatná, Bohemia, Czech Republic, in 1931. After coming to the United States in September 1947 he studied at the Putney School in Vermont in 1947-48, then at Wesleyan University (politics and philosophy, B.A. 1952), and did graduate work at Harvard (Russian area studies, M.A. 1954; history, Ph.D. 1960). He taught historiography, and Russian and East European history at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor from 1960 to 1965. From 1966 to 1974, he served as Slavic bibliographer and history lecturer in Russian and East European history at Princeton University, and from 1974 to 2002 as Librarian at the Woodrow Wilson Center.

His book, *Finding the Middle Way: The Utraquists' Liberal Challenge to Rome and Luther* (Washington, D.C.: Woodrow Wilson Center Press; Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press) was published in August 2003. A Czech translation is now under preparation. With the late Robert Kann he is coauthor of the *Peoples of the*

Eastern Habsburg Lands, 1526-1918 (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1984). He compiled the *Bibliography of Works in the Philosophy of History for 1978-82* (with Robert Strassfeld), and for 1983-87 (Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan University, 1984-89). His contributions have appeared in *Austrian History Yearbook*, *Bohemia*, *Bohemian Reformation and Religious Practice*, *Church History*, *âeský časopis historický*, *Communio Viatorum*, *EEPS: East European Politics and Societies*, *East European Jewish Affairs*, *Folia Historica Bohemica*, *Journal of Ecclesiastical History*, *Kosmas*, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, *Slavic Review*, and *Slavonic and East European Review*.

In the early 1990s, David joined David R. Holeton and Vilém Herold in organizing symposia on “The Bohemian Reformation and Religious Practice,” the first three of which were held during the World Congresses of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (Prague 1994, Brno 1996, Bratislava 1998), and the next three under the auspices of the Philosophy Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences (Prague in 2000, 2002, and 2004). He co-edited the symposia papers for biennial volumes of which so far five have appeared (1996-2004). In November 2002, he was invited to address the Historical Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences on the subject of the Bohemian Reformation. He serves as a Member at Large of the Executive Committee of the Czechoslovak History Conference for 2004-2006. David is currently preparing a book on *Shaping the Political Culture of Central Europe: Enlightenment and Romanticism*.

JOSEPH J. KOHN, Vice President

I was born in Prague in 1932. My father, Otto Kohn, was a prominent architect who, together with his brother Karel Kohn, designed many buildings in Prague including a number of villas in the Bauhaus style.

We emigrated to Ecuador in June 1939. My parents were convinced that after the war we would return to Czechoslovakia so they brought the elementary school textbooks used in Czech schools and my mother taught me from them throughout the war. In 1945 we moved to New York City. I went to Brooklyn Tech High School and then did my under-graduate work at MIT, and graduate work in Princeton where I received a PhD in mathematics in 1956. After my PhD I spent one year as instructor at Princeton and one year doing research at the Institute for Advanced Study. In 1958 I was appointed to the faculty of Brandeis University and in 1968 I was appointed to the faculty of Princeton University.

Both at Brandeis and at Princeton I served as chairman of the Department of Mathematics at various times. Over the years I received various honors including: the Guggenheim, Sloan, and NSF fellowships; election to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and to the US National Academy of Sciences; recognition of my research work: by the American Mathematics Society’s Steele Prize (1978), by the Union of Czechoslovak Mathematicians and Physicists with the Bolzano Medal awarded in 1990, and by the American Mathematics Society’s Bergman Prize (2004); honorary doctorate from the University of Bologna in 1988. Starting in 1961 I have visited Prague frequently making contact with the mathematicians there and with our old friends. After the Velvet Revolution I was active in the Czech and Slovak Education Fund which helped university libraries and arranged the visit of several scholars from Czechoslovakia to the US.

MARGARET MAE HERMÁNEK PEASLEE, Vice President

Her four grandparents were born in Bohemia, from towns in the vicinity of Plzen. The grandparents all settled in Chicago, where both her parents were born. Her paternal grandparents had passed on before she was born, but she developed an appreciation for the Czech language from her maternal grandmother, who taught her Czech songs. Her father entered the dry goods business and eventually owned his own general merchandise stores in Chicago suburbs. Her mother worked with him in the business.

She was born in Chicago and attended elementary school in the Chicago suburbs. She finished junior high, high school, and under-graduate college in Florida, earning a B.S. in biology from Florida Southern College. She met her future husband at Florida Southern, and they spent the first nine years of their married life back in the Chicago area. Their daughter was born in Chicago and Margaret began her graduate work when the daughter was three years of age. She completed M.S. and Ph.D. degrees at Northwestern University. Her first faculty position was in the Biology Department at Florida Southern College. After two years the family moved to Vermillion, South Dakota, where she spent eight years on the faculty of the Biology Department at the University of South Dakota. They moved to Ruston, Louisiana, when Margaret was offered a position as Head of the Department of Zoology at Louisiana Tech University. After seventeen years there, having moved into the position of Associate Dean of the College of Life Sciences, the family relocated to Titusville, Pennsylvania, where Margaret assumed the position of Vice President for Academic Affairs for the University of Pittsburgh at Titusville. She is in her eleventh year in this position. Her husband has been very supportive of her career moves throughout their married life.

The major focus of her past research activity has been endo-crinology and pigment cells, and she has more than 25 published papers in this area. As a biologist she had an interest in Gregor Mendel, the father of genetics. When she began to trace her roots in 1991, she visited the Augustinian Monastery and Mendel Museum in Brno. She is

now working in the history of science with special emphasis on F.M. Klácel. She has had the good fortune of developing a professional relationship with Professor Vítězslav Orel, Mendel historian and Emeritus Head of the Mendel Museum. One of their joint publications is F. M. (Ladimír) Klácel: Teacher of Gregor Mendel, *Kosmas* 15(1):31-54, Fall 2001.

KAREL RASKA, *Vice President*

Karel Raska, Jr., M.D., Ph.D., F.C.A.P., was born in Prague in the family of physicians. He attended schools in Prague. In 1956 he started his studies at the Charles University Medical School and graduated with distinction in 1962. After compulsory military service in the Czechoslovak Air Force he entered graduate studies in Biochemistry at the Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry of Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. In 1965 he defended his dissertation "The Mechanism of Biological Activity of 5-azacytidine" and was awarded Ph.D. in Biochemistry.

After receiving a Commonwealth Fund Fellowship he came in 1965 to the Department of Pharmacology at Yale University School of Medicine where he continued studies of anti-cancer nucleoside analogs. In late 1967 he returned to Prague. After August 21, 1968 he emigrated to the U.S.A. and joined the faculty of Rutgers Medical School in New Brunswick, N.J. (now Robert Wood Johnson Medical School). He rose in the ranks to a Professor in 1976. Between 1989 and 1992 he was the Professor and Chairman of the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at New Jersey Medical School in Newark, N.J. Since 1992 he is the Professor and Chairman of the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at Saint Peter's University Hospital and Director of the Institute of Molecular Diagnostics and Pathology. His research focused on the molecular biology of DNA tumor viruses, clinical immunology and immunopathology. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Pathology in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology with special competence in Immunopathology. Fourteen students got a Ph.D. degree in his laboratory and he trained dozens of postdoctoral fellows. He is a member of many scientific societies in the U.S.A. and also an honorary member of the Learned Society of the Czech Republic. He has been repeatedly elected to "The Best Doctors in America". He published over 250 articles and reports. He is married to Jana Raskova, M.D., Professor and Division Chief at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

VLADO SIMKO, *Vice President*

Vlado Simko, M.D. Professor of Clinical Medicine at State University New York, Downstate Medical Center at Brooklyn was born in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia in 1931. He graduated Cum Laude from the Comenius University Medical School in Bratislava in 1956. After medical and research training and after obtaining boards in internal medicine and clinical chemistry he became research investigator and Head, Laboratory Department at the Research Institute for Human Nutrition in Bratislava. Here he earned a C.Sc. (Ph.D.) for research on metabolic effects of heated fat in food. Subsequently his work in this subject and on metabolic effect of physical exercise on lipid metabolism was published in major medical journals in Bratislava, Prague, Switzerland, Scandinavia, Germany, Hungary and the Soviet Union. These publication activities earned him an invitation to Cornell University in the United States where he became an assistant professor at the Graduate School of Nutrition in 1969. In addition to teaching the graduate students he participated in research on diets for man in space. In 1972-74 he was a clinical fellow in gastroenterology at the Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, NY and then became an associate professor of medicine at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. Since 1982 Dr. Simko is the Chief, Section of Gastroenterology at the Veterans Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY. He actively joined several Czechoslovak exile organizations, publishing numerous socio-political essays in Slovak democratic exile periodical "Nase snahy" and in other journals.

Dr. Simko published over one hundred original full medical papers in various medical journals, one book chapter and over 250 medical abstracts, translations and letters to the editor. Over seventy socio-political articles were published in exile journals and over sixty popular reports in popular press on nutrition for the general readers. Dr. Simko serves on the Board of the American Fund for Czechoslovak Relief and on a committee of the Bohemian Benevolent and Literary Association for reconstruction of the Bohemian National Hall in New York City. He is the past Vice President of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences and regularly organizes the biomedical symposia at the SVU World Congresses where he regularly reports on his research. Dr. Simko was married to the late Mary T. Simko, M.D., an internist who he acquainted as a medical student. His late son Daniel S. Simko was a recognized American poet who also wrote exile poetry.

Dr. Simko replaced Milan Fryscak when the latter resigned for personal reasons.

From the First Executive Board Meeting

The newly elected SVU Executive Board had its first meeting on Saturday, August 14. The meeting took place in SVU President Mila Rechcigl's house in Rockville, MD. Seven members were present — more than enough for the quorum.

In the initial part of the meeting SVU President welcomed the new members and acquainted them with the *modus operandi* of the Board. As customary, each Board member will be assigned a specific area of responsibility, including a concrete project. Vera Borkovec and Dagmar White will continue their work on the monograph relating to *Czech and Slovak Theatre Abroad*, and another on *Czech Opera Abroad*, respectively, with the aim of having them published in the next two years. They are also considering other projects. Zdenek David has been given the responsibility of developing a program leading to publishing of English books on Czech and Slovak subjects, e.g., history, literature, the arts and culture, generally. There was a consensus of the Board that there is a paucity of English titles relating the Czech and Slovak matters. This will entail searching for suitable authors and dialoguing with the relevant government and other institutions to get them involved in sponsoring the effort. Michael Rokos assumed responsibility for developing projects bearing on the involvement of young people in SVU, in addition to handling legislative issues and contact with the US Congress. Margaret Peaslee expressed interest in getting involved in some projects bearing on the use of a computer. It was recommended that she focus on the following areas: 1) sub-website for focus on young people; 2) collaborative arrangements/projects between US universities and those in the Czech and Slovak Republics; and 3) grants and aid programs. Responsibilities of other officers will be assigned before the next Board meeting.

Part of the time was spent on the discussion of the recent SVU Congress in Olomouc which all Board members attended. The consensus was that the Congress was an unqualified success, everybody commenting, not only on the smoothness of the logistics and outstanding social and cultural program, but also on the friendly reception by and the hospitality of the Olomouc people. Dean Ivo Bartecek, Prof. Karel Konecny and Mrs. Ludmila Vaskova have really outdone themselves.

Favorable comments were also made concerning several publications that Palacky University published on behalf of SVU, i.e., *Czech-American Historic Sites, Monuments and Memorabilia and Czechoslovak American Archivalia*, under Dr. Rechcigl's editorship. The Board was also gratified by the publication of the English papers from the SVU World Congress in Plzen in 2002, and of the Proceedings of the Working Conference on Czech and Slovak Materials, by the University of West Bohemia and Prazska edice (Prague Edition), respectively.

The Board then reviewed the financial report, submitted by Treasurer Frank Mucha, and briefly discussed various ongoing SVU activities, including the periodical publications *Kosmas* and *Zpravy SVU*. The need to enhance the activities of current chapters was stressed, as was the desire for increasing the number of existing SVU Chapters.

Next item on the agenda was discussion of the next SVU Conference, to be held in 2005, and SVU World Congress in 2006. There was general feeling that the Conference be convened either in the US or Canada, and the SVU World Congress be held in Europe. Under consideration for the conference are the following sites: Houston, TX, Austin, TX, Milwaukee, WI, South Dakota, Princeton, NJ or Florida. The decision for the site selection was postponed, pending the receipt of specific proposal(s). Everybody favored the idea of holding the conference in an academic setting comparable to that in Cedar Rapids in 2003. In addition to this Conference the Board favored the notion of having another smaller, one-day, Conference at the Czech Embassy in Washington, DC, devoted to the personality of Augustine Herman and his accomplishments. Mila Rechcigl should coordinate it and the Washington, DC Chapter would provide logistical assistance.

As far as the next SVU World Congress is concerned, a proposal was received from the University of South Bohemia in Ceske Budejovice for holding the Congress on their campus. President Rechcigl has been in touch with the University representatives who assured him that they would accept the terms comparable to those that existed between SVU and the Palacky University. After some discussion, the Executive Board gave their general approval to the idea, pending the receipt of further details from the University regarding the logistics, accommodations and academic, cultural and social programs.

The meeting was adjourned with the understanding that the Board would meet again on Saturday, October 9.

New SVU Publications

On the occasion of SVU World Congress in Olomouc, a number of new SVU monographs have been released which we would like to bring to the attention of SVU members.

1. Miloslav Rechcigl, Jr., *Czech-American Historic Sites, Monuments, and Memorabilia*. Olomouc-Ostrava: Centrum pro ces-koslovenska studia pri Katedre historie Filozoficke fakulty Uni-verzity Palackeho v Olomouci, 2004. 142 p.

A tentative listing of historic sites and monuments in the US that have some bearing on Czech emigrants, their life and activities in their new homeland. Based on a comprehensive survey undertaken by SVU, in cooperation with major Czech-American organizations, associated with the National Heritage Commission, in their efforts to preserve the Czech cultural heritage in the US. An important resource for scholars and students.

2. Miloslav Rechcigl, Jr. *Czechoslovak Archivalia. Vol. 1*. Olo-mouc-Ostrava: Centrum pro ceskoslovenska studia pri Katedre historie Filozoficke fakulty Univerzity Palackeho v Olomouci, 2004. 206 p.

A tentative listing of US-based archival material and library holdings relating to emigres and exiles from the territory of former Cze-choslovakia and relevant holdings bearing on their ancestral land. Based on a comprehensive survey undertaken by SVU in cooperation with the National Heritage Commission. This volume includes US government re-positories, university-based collections, collections maintained by public museums and libraries, collections of ethnic and other related orga-nizations. An indispensable resource for scholars and students.

3. Miloslav Rechcigl, Jr., *Czechoslovak American Archivalia. Vol. 2*. Olomouc-Ostrava: Centrum pro ceskoslovenska studia pri Katedre historie Filozoficke fakulty Univerzity Palackeho v Olo-mouci, 2004. 368 p.

The second volume covers personal papers and collections, and re-positories abroad. Included are notable personalities, as well as lesser known individuals, emigrants and exiles, who have distinguished them-selves in public life and in professions. An indispensable resource for scholars and students.

4. *Czech and Slovak American Archival Materials and their Preservation*. Conference Proceedings. Edited by Miloslav Rech-cigl, Jr. Prague: Prague Edition Ltd., 2004. 166 p.

This volume comprises the papers presented at the working Conference on Czech and Slovak American Archival Materials and their Preser-vation, held at the Czech and Slovak Embassies in Washington, DC, under the auspices of the US Commission for the Preservation of America Heritage Abroad. This unique conference was prompted by the general concern about the status of Czech and Slovak American archival materials, most of which are still in private hands and in real danger of being destroyed or lost. This was the first time that most important "players", on both sides of the Atlantic, archivists and scholars, government representatives and community leaders were able to meet, exchange information and debate the problem. As a result of the conference, specific ways to deal with the problems were proposed and concrete steps have been outlined for future cooperation.

5. *The Transformation of Czech and Slovak Societies on the Threshold of the New Millennium and their Role in the Global World*. Selected Papers from the 21st World Congress, June 23-30, 2002. Edited by Jan P. Skalny and Miloslav Rechcigl, Jr. Plzen: Ales Cenek, 2004. 640 p.

This publication is based on selected papers that have been presented by mostly American authors who participated at the SVU World Congress, held at the University of West Bohemia in Plzen. As the title, which was the Congress theme, implies, the aim of the Congress was to look at the Czech and Slovak society from various aspects with the perspective of the future in the new Millennium. In addition to the main theme, there were other sessions relating to Czech and Slovak matters, including the Czechs and Slovaks abroad. Various facets of the programs encom-passed history, politics, law and economics, business, civil society, women's issues, religion, environment, information, technology, inter-national relations, media and journalism, etc., which is reflected in the papers included in this volume.

Activities of SVU Members

CLINTON MACHANN, jointly with Lawrence Konecny, edited a new monograph, entitled *Perilous Voyages*. Czech and English Immigrants to Texas in the 1870s. It was published by Texas A&M University Press, College Station, TX. The book can be ordered from the University Press by calling (800) 826-8911.

GERALD CERNY informed us of his donation of 45 miniature Czech prints to the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids, IA which were displayed in the Museum this spring.

In Memoriam

SVETOZAR DANIEL SIMKO (1959-2004)

Svetozar Daniel Simko, poet, translator and librarian, died in New York City on July 8, 2004. A native of Bratislava, Slovakia, he was born on February 20, 1959 and emigrated to the United States with his parents, Vlado and Mary Simko, in the aftermath of the invasion of Czecho-slovakia in 1968. Mr. Simko was educated at Oberlin College, and earned a Master of Fine Arts in Poetry at Columbia University in 1983, and a Master of Library Science at the Pratt Institute in 1995.

As a poet, he received fellowships from the New York Foundation for the Arts and the Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center, and in 1988, his translation, *Autumn Sonata: Selected poems of Georg Trakl*, was chosen to receive the Poet's House Translation Award, and was published by Asphodel Press/Moyer Bell, Ltd. in 1989. Former Poet Laureate of the United States, Stanley Kunitz, wrote that "Daniel Simko's eloquently sensitive translations rediscover for a new generation of readers Trakl's dark and haunted imagination." Mr. Simko's own poetry has appeared in *Ahoj Europa*, *Artist's Pulp*, *Anthology of East European Poetry*, *The Boundaries of Twilight: An Anthology of Czechoslovak-American Writing*, *Ceskoslovensky Tydenik*, *The Cincinnati Poetry Review*, *The Graham House Review*, *Lettres*, *Open Places: American Writers Abroad*, *Ploughshares*, *Shankpainter*, and *Provincetown Arts*. His poem, "Mythology Fragment," is forthcoming in *Salmagundi*. At the time of his death, a collection entitled *The World Within a Lost Glove*, was being prepared for publication in Slovakia and the United States.

For the past fourteen years, Mr. Simko worked as a professional librarian at the New York Public Library in Manhattan. According to the Library, "Mr. Simko began his career at the Research Libraries in 1990 as a Library Technical Assistant in the Acquisitions Division. Fluent in Czech, Slovak, and German, Mr. Simko specialized in the acquisition of Eastern European materials. Over the past fourteen years he rose to a variety of positions of increasing importance, including Head of Gifts and Exchange, Special Assistant to the Director for Programs, Chief of Cooperative Services, and Administrative Services Coordinator."

Funeral services were held on Staten Island on July 17, 2004. He is survived by his father, Dr. Vlado Simko.

CAROLYN FORCHE

Odešel mladý slovenský básník Daniel Šimko (1959-2004)

Departures

I'm already changing the address.

*The one hung, pinned, or crucified against the wall,
the one broken over a shrub.*

But I am not afraid.

I am entering this room for the last time.

I am entering you the way an angel enters a scythe.

D.Š.

Odchody

Už zase mením adresu.

*Tú vyvesenú, pripichnutú, alebo ukrižovanú proti stene,
tabuľku, prerazenú trnmi.*

Ale já sa nebojím.

Vstupujem do tejto izby posledný raz.

Vstupujem do teba tak, ako anjel vstupuje do kosy.

D.Š.

Toto jsou verše mladého básníka Daniela Šimko, který nečekaně zemřel v New Yorku 8. července t.r. Zpráva o jeho náhlé smrti bolestně zasáhla všechny přátele jeho rodiny a všechny členy SVU, kteří ho poznali.

Verše jsou psány anglicky, protože Svetozár Daniel Šimko, narozený v Bratislavě, přišel s rodiči (Drs. Vlado a Mary Šimko) do USA jako devítiletý chlapec. V Americe studoval, žil a pracoval a angličtina se stala jazykem jeho tvorby. Daniel působil mnoho let jako jeden z vedoucích knihovníků v New York Public Library a při tom psal básně a překládal. Jeho básně a básnické překlady byly uveřejněny v mnoha časopisech a antologiích, v USA i v Evropě. Známé jsou jeho sbírky básní *Between Sleep and Endymion* (1981), *Silen Harvest* (1981), a *Common Ground* (1983). V roce 1988 obdržel cenu za své překlady od newyorského lite-rárního klubu Poet House. V slovenském překladu jeho přítele Ľubo-míra Feldeka lze si výše uvedené verše a jiné básně Daniela Šimko přečíst

v dvojazyčné antologii českých a slovenských exilových básníků *Chut' ztraceného domova*, kterou vydala SVU v roce 2002.

Seznámila jsem se s Danielem Šimko jako editorka této antologie. (S jeho rodiči jsem se znala dávno.) Chtěla jsem dát do této antologie verše zesnulého českého básníka Františka Klátily. Jeho manželka Dr. Milada Klátilová byla kolegyní Daniela Šimko a ten jí slíbil, že s překlady do angličtiny pomůže. Při tom jsem se dozvěděla, že on sám píše básně. Tak vznikla naše značně dlouhá korespondence a zařazení jeho básní *Proti nášmu zabúdaníu* (Against our Forgetting) věnovaná Václavu Havlovi, *Zátišie* (*Still Life*) a *Odchody* (*Departures*) do naší exilové antologie.

Naše první skutečné setkání a bohužel také poslední se uskutečnilo 29. března 2003 na Slovenském velvyslanectví ve Washingtonu. Vel-vyslanec Martin Bútor a jeho paní Zora mne požádali, abych u nich uspořádala večer čtení z básní exilové antologie. Daniel Šimko byl jediný z básníků v antologii, který se mohl osobně zúčastnit, a proto byl hvězdou večera. Když vešel do síně, kde se čtení pořádalo, poznala jsem ho okamžitě. Byl velice podobný svému otci. Jeho básně v slovenském překladu Ľubomíra Feldeka četla Zuzana Andreanská. Daniel četl své básně v anglickém originále a četl je krásně, tak jak se básně mají číst: s citem, ale bez pathosu, aby vynikla hudba jejich slov.

Když jsem tuto báseň zde zmínila úvodem, napadlo mne, že si vlastně v ní Daniel Šimko předpověděl svůj vlastní odchod — změnu adresy — do Království nebeského.

Chci těmito řádky vyjádřit naši hlubokou soustrast jeho otci Dr. Vlado Šimkovi a přeji mu, aby našel útěchu v čtení krásných veršů svého syna.

VĚRA BOŘKOVCOVÁ, Washington, DC

Redaktor Zpráv sa pripojuje k preciténym slovám profesorky Bořkovcovej a vyslovuje svoju hlbokú sústrast MUDr. Vladovi Šimkovi nad stratou jeho literárne nadaného jedineho syna.

VLADIMIR FENCL (1923-2002)

Vladimir Fencl, Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, and a member of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Science since 1980, died of cancer on January 14, 2002 at the Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston.

Dr. Fencl was born in Kryry, Czechoslovakia. He graduated from the Gymnasium in Plzen in 1941. He studied at Charles University where he received his medical degree in 1949, and his C.Sc. (Ph.D.) in 1961 from the Czechoslovak Academy of Science in Prague. Dr. Fencl received postgraduate training in Frydek Hospital (1949-1951), Thomayer Hospital in Prague (1951-1954), and Harvard Medical School in Boston (1962-1964). He worked in the Cardiovascular Institute of Prague until he left Czechoslovakia in 1966. After he left Czechoslovakia, Dr. Fencl worked for one year as researcher at the Cancer and Heart Associations at the University of Oslo, Norway. In 1967, he was invited to join the Department of Physiology of the Harvard Medical School in Boston (1967-1974). Later he had appointments at Harvard Medical School as Associate Professor of Anesthesia at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital (1974-1980), and as Associate Professor of Medicine and Medical Director of Respiratory Care at the Brigham & Women's Hospital.

Dr. Fencl was an expert in regulation of breathing, body fluids, and acid-base balance. He retired as physician in 1990, and continued with his research activities on acid-base disturbances in critical care medicine (1990-2001). One of his colleagues wrote, "He was one of the most erudite, insightful, and gentlemanly physician-teacher I have ever met, and he endowed each of his trainees and colleagues with his finest qualities. His legacy will live on."

Dr. Fencl is survived by his wife Montserrat.

Contenders for US Presidency Carry Genes of the Kings of Bohemia

That **Senator John Kerry** has Czech ancestors is now generally known. His grandfather Frederick Kerry, whose original name was Fritz Kohn, was a native of Horni Benesov in Moravia, Czech Republic. His grandmother Ida Loewe was also of Moravian ancestry, originally from the village of Boskovice.

What has not been known, however, is the fact that Senator Kerry is also a descendant of the Kings of Bohemia, as was recently ascertained by SVU President Mila Rechcigl, known for his historical studies of American Czechs and genealogy of notable personalities of Czech descent. Based on his research, he was able to construct a detailed Senator Kerry's family tree which led him all the way to Duke Borivoj I (852/3 – ca 888/89) and his wife Saint Ludmila (860–921), the founders of the Premyslide dynasty of the Kings of Bohemia.

This connection occurs on the side of Senator Kerry's mother Rose-mary Isabel Forbes. She was the direct descendant of John Winthrop, the first governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, who arrived in America in 1630. His ancestors are related to the Royal family of England and through this relationship the family is connected with the Czech Premyslides. Interestingly, John Winthrop's son, also named John Winthrop, invited John Amos Comenius to become President of Harvard College.

Czech Komensky Club Celebrated its 100th Anniversary

The Czech Komensky club is 100 years old this year. To mark this anniversary the officers of the Czech Komensky Club organized Czech Days at UNL. Nebraska Governor, Mike Johannes issued an official proclamation naming February 12 th through the 25th Czech Days at UNL. The program started with the visit of the Czech Ambassador, Martin Palouš, to UNL on February 12th and presented lecture entitled "*Integration of the Czech Republic into the European Union*".

The ambassador also met with UNL professors and adminis-trators, and presided over a banquet organized by the Czech Lan-guage Foundation that was attended by 157 people. The Czech Days at UNL ended with the *Czech Culture Night*, during which the UNL community had a chance to sample Czech food prepared by the Czech language students, learn Czech folk dances, and listen to "authentic Czech rock" music. Throughout Czech Days every-body had a chance to attend lectures by Matyaš Zrno and Amy Swoboda. Matyaš Zrno lectured about the political history of beer, and the post-Velvet Revolution politics in the Czech Republic, attended by more than eighty people.