

## 2004 SVU World Congress

Palacky University, Olomouc, Czech Republic  
26 June - 2 July, 2004

### *Call for Papers*

Palacky University in Olomouc will be hosting the 22nd SVU World Congress. As agreed by the representatives of the Philosophical Faculty of Palacky University and the SVU President during the SVU Conference held in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in 2003, the Congress will take place from June 26 through July 2, 2004, with the main theme "Moravia in the World Context." As has been customary in previous Congresses of the Society, the Congress will be attended by the scholarly members of the host country as well by the student community of the local university, in addition to the participants from abroad.

The City of Olomouc, center of the Olomouc region, was the capital of Moravia until the middle of the 17th century, when it relinquished this position to Brno. Palacky University in Olomouc is the second oldest university of the Czech Republic, having been founded by the Jesuits in the latter part the 16th century. It exists in its renovated state since 1946 and was named after Frantisek Palacky, "the Father of the Nation," the most remarkable personality of Czech scholarly, political and cultural life of the 19th century. Today the University has seven faculties (philosophy, theology, natural sciences, education, medicine, physical education, and law) and has an enrollment of more than 7,000 students. The University campus in the historical center of the City of Olomouc is unique in the Czech Republic. The preparations for the SVU Congress in Olomouc are supported by the cooperative efforts of the University, the City of Olomouc and the Olomouc regional government, with the sponsorship of the Czech institutions which are dedicated to working with Czechs living abroad.

The Philosophical Faculty of Palacky University (UP) in Olomouc includes the Center for Czechoslovak Exile Studies which will take part in the organization of the congress. Other units which will cooperate in the organization of the 2004 SVU Congress are the departments of history, political science, Czech studies, musicology and others.

The City of Olomouc itself is the Czech Republic's most important site of historical monuments, second only to Prague. The foundations of the city are early Gothic and its present look is mostly Renaissance and Baroque. Olomouc has been the traditional seat of the bishops; in the 18th century it was raised to the title of archbishopric. It was in the year 1848 that the Austrian Emperor Franz Josef was crowned in the building of the Olomouc archbishopric. The city of Olomouc has been traditionally considered the spiritual and cultural center of Moravia. The baroque column of the Holy Trinity is on UNESCO's list of the most important monuments of cultural heritage.

Besides the scholarly program and visits to the historical monuments in the city, the Congress organizers are also planning excursions to other important Moravian cities and places such as Roznov pod Radhostem

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(open air museum), Novy Jicin and Hodslavice (birthplace of Frantisek Palacky), Fulnek (where Jan Amos Komensky worked), Kromeriz (baroque castle and gardens), Bouzov and Sovinec (castles from the Middle Ages), Pustevny (Beskydy, architecture), Stramberk and Koprivnice (TATRA automobile manufacture plant) and others. There will also be an accompanying program to acquaint the participants with the local theatre (Moravske divadlo), music (concerts) and art (exhibits). The main Congress activities will take place in the lecture halls of the old University, in the City Hall and in the Commerce and Social Center of the City of Olomouc, all with the local and state media in attendance. According to the Rector of the Palacky University and the Lord Mayor

# Preregistration and Speaker's Form

SVU World Congress, Olomouc, 26 June - 2 July 2004

Name:.....

Address:.....

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Institutional affiliation (if any):.....

E-mail:..... Phone:.....

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

.....

.....

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

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Additional comments regarding the program, additional speakers, etc.: .....

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Send to: SVU President, preferably by e-mail: SVU1@comcast.net; or by postal mail: 1703 Mark Lane, Rockville, MD 20852.

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## SVU FELLOWS

Many members of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences, those of long standing as well as the newest, have reached levels of professional excellence in their respective fields as scholars, scientists, educators, technologists, writers, artists, and in other creative vocations.

To recognize those of outstanding achievement by electing them Fellows of the Society, SVU has opened its Fellowship program as envisaged in the SVU By-Laws.

The award of Fellowship honors the elected individuals. However, the College of Fellows is also to become yet another source of a continuing critical appraisal of the conduct of the Society's affairs, its effective governance, its adherence to professional standards, and of the maintenance of its democratic and non-partisan character.

The award of the stabs of a Fellow is not conceived as a recognition of only those who have reached the zenith of their creative, life-long work. Many men and women, with much fruitful work still lying ahead of them, may have already attained levels of professional achievement warranting their nomination for SVU Fellowship.

The SVU By-Laws charge the Society's Council with administering the Fellows program and, following a professional scrutiny of the proposed candidates for the status of a Fellow, with their election by a simple majority of the voting members of the Council.

*MILOSLAV RECHCIGL, SVU President*

### Newly Elected SVU Fellows – 2003

For the first time in SVU history, SVU Council has elected 40 SVU Fellows. This is a great distinction which is bestowed on selected SVU members for their professional achievements in the area of the arts, the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, medicine and engineering. Congratulations!

The newly elected SVU Fellows are listed alphabetically below:

BAZANT, Zdenek Pavel - Engineering  
BEKEY, George - Engineering  
BUDIL, Ivo - Social Sciences  
BUTOROVA, Zora - Social Sciences  
CERNY, Petr - Natural Sciences  
CERYCH, Ladislav - Social Sciences  
DEMETZ, Peter - The Humanities  
EBRINGER, Libor - Natural Sciences

FORMAN, Milos - The Arts  
HAVEL, Ivan - Natural Sciences  
HRUBAN, Zdenek - Medicine  
HUDLICKY, Tomas - Natural Sciences  
HUSA, Karel - The Arts  
JARAB, Josef - The Humanities  
KOMENDA, Stanislav - Natural Sciences  
KVAPIL, Radoslav - The Arts  
LOCHMAN, Jan Milic - The Humanities  
LOJDA, Zdenek - Medicine  
LUSTIG, Arnost - The Arts  
MACHAC, Josef - Medicine  
MACHO, Ladislav - Medicine  
NOVOTNY, Vladimir - Engineering  
PACES, Vaclav - Natural Sciences  
PALOUS, Radim - The Humanities  
PELIKAN, Jaroslav Jan - The Humanities  
POVOLNY, Mojmir - Social Sciences  
POSPISIL, Leopold Jaroslav - Social Sciences  
RECHCICL, Jack - Natural Sciences  
SEGERT, Stanislav - The Humanities  
SEHNAL, Frantisek - Natural Sciences  
SIS, Peter Alexander - The Arts  
SKAMENE, Emil - Medicine  
SKVORECKY, Josef Vaclav - The Arts  
SOKOL, Koloman - The Arts (in memoriam)  
SVEJNAR, Jan - Social Sciences  
VALENTA, Jaroslav - Engineering  
VANICEK, Petr - Engineering  
VIEST, Ivan M. - Engineering  
VITEK, Vaclav - Engineering  
WANDYCZ, Piotr S. - The Humanities

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## From New SVU Rolls

**WENCE JOHN SEDLAK** is retired from Ford Motor Co. in Twin Cities, where he worked as a quality control inspector. He is a native of Ceske Budejovice with education from Charles University in Prague (Dipl. 1961) and Technische Hochschule in Munich, Germany (Dipl. 1970). He lives in St. Paul, MN and is interested in history, technology, photography and politics.

**GUY FRANK KUNCIR** is a senior project engineer, now retired, and lives in Arroyo Grande, CA. He is a native of Astoria, NY with education from California State Polytechnic University (B.S. in Mathematics, 1957) and University of Southern California (M.P.L in Planning, 1975; M.S. in Environmental Engineering, 1976). He is interested in computing and system engineering.

**LUCIE MARUSIN** is employed as Marketing Communications Man-ager at Hammel, Green and Abrahamson, Inc., Architecture, Engineering and Planning in Minneapolis, MN. She is a native of Prague, Czecho-slovakia and has education from Minneapolis College of Art and Design (BFA, 1987). Her main interest is in architecture.

**FRANTISEK HANZLIK** is Docent and teaches at Vysoka vojenska skola pozemniho vojska at Vyskov, Czech Republic. He is a native of Olomouc and has education from VVPS in Bratislava (Dr., 1983) and Masaryk University in Brno (Csc., 1992) His interests are in human studies, law and contemporary Czech history (after 1939). He authored some 60 papers and several monographs.

**KAREL KONECNY** is a Lecturer in History at the Philosophical Faculty, Palacky University in Olomouc. He is a native of Zabreh na Morave and has education from Palacky University (Mgr. in History, 1983) and Historical Institute, Academy of Sciences of CR (CSc., 1994). His interests include contemporary history of East Central Europe and regional history. He has authored some 20 articles, 2 book chapters and one monograph.

**MILOS TRAPL** is Professor of History at the Philosophical Faculty, Palacky University in Olomouc. He is a native of Hustopece u Brna and has education from Palacky University-Olomouc (CSc., 1966) and Masaryk University-Brno (Docent 1976, Professor 1996). His interests are in Czech history, contemporary and regional. He is the author of some 80 articles and studies and 30 monographs, in addition to co-authoring 15 books.

**MICHAEL OLEJAR** is a physician and has a private practice in Tacoma, WA. He is a native of Czechoslovakia and has academic degrees form Youngstown University (B.Eng., 1956; B.A., 1958) and the Ohio State University (M.S., 1963; M.D., 1963). His interests are in internal medicine.

**FILIP CHEPELAK** is a student at the University of Minnesota with a major in economics. He expects his degree in 2004. He is a native of Prague, Czech Republic.

**KAROLINA SYROVATKOVA** is a student at University of Maryland, College Park, MD. She is a native of Prague, Czechoslovakia with a degree from Prague Conservatory of Music (Dipl. 2000). She is a piano performer and has interests in Czech classical music as well as classical music, in general.

**RAYMOND JUNE** is a graduate student at University of California-Berkeley, pursuing his studies toward Ph.D., residing in San Francisco, CA. He is a native of Hong Kong and had academic education from Loyola University (B.A. 1990), University of Wisconsin-Madison (M.A. 1992) and University of Chicago (M.A. 1993). His interest lies in cul-tural anthropology, sciences studies and East-Central Europe.

**STANISLAV BOHONEK** is a dentist with private practice in Westlake, OH. He is a native of Prague, Czechoslovakia and has academic education from University of Toronto (B.Sc., 1976), Cleveland State University (M.S., 1982) and Case Western University (D.S.S., 1987). His specialty is restorative and esthetic dentistry. He is a member of the organizing committee of SVU Cleveland Chapter and its President.

**STANISLAV JOSEPH PECHAN** is a dentist in Lakewood, Ohio. He is a native of Michalovce, Slovakia and has academic degrees from P. J. Safarik University in Kosice (MUDr. 1974) and Case Western Reserve University (D.D.S. 1982). He is VP of of the newly established Cleveland SVU Chapter.

**VLADIMIR MORAVEC LISKA** is a manager with the First Data Corporation in Omaha, NE. He is a native of Havlickuv Brod and holds academic degrees from Simpson College, Indianola, IA (B.A., 1996) and Creighton University, Omaha, (M.S., 1998). His speciality is in computer general controls, information security, change management, and opera-tions with focus on application development and project management.

**MIROSLAV WLACHOVSKY** holds the position of Political Counselor at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic, Washington, DC. He is a native of Bratislava and holds an academic degree from Comenius University in Bratislava (Mgr. in Philosophy & Sociology, 1994). He specializes in international relations.

**ZDENEK LYCKA** holds the position of Director of Cultural Relations and the Relations with Czechs Abroad, Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Prague, Czech Republic. He is a native of Mistek-Frydek and holds academic degrees from Ostrava Technical University (Ing., 1981) and Charles University (Ph.D., 1989). His interests are in literature and culture, in general.

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## Activities of SVU Members

**JULIA SVOBODA** recently graduated from Princeton University (2003) with Highest Honors from the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Julia received a departmental award for her thesis presentation and has been inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Chi Honor Societies. Julia has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and will do research with the Czech Academy of Sciences, Division of Vertebrate Biology in the coming year (2003-2004).

**MILAN HAUNER** is preparing the first volume of the critical edition of Benes' wartime Memoirs for publication in 2004. It will include the controversial chapter on Munich. He succeeded this summer to interview Sir William Deakin (90), the last surviving research assistant of Winston Churchill. On Churchill's behalf Deakin visited secretly President Benes in April 1938. A brief account has been printed in *Americke Listy*, a fuller version will follow in the next issue of *Dejiny a soucasnost*.

**BLANKA JIRAK** recently released her newest book of poems entitled *Strepiny*. Published in Prague, Czech Republic, this handsome soft-bound volume contains sixty Czech poems expressing hope, sorrow, nostalgia and mankind's yearning for love and happiness. Blanka Jirak writes poems both in Czech and English. They were published in *The Doings, Ride the Wind, A Celebration of Poets, The Sound of Poetry* (CD) and in the recent SVU publication *The Taste of a Lost Homeland*.

**DR. MILA SASKOVA-PIERCE**, Minor Languages Section Head, Department of Modern Languages at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, received the prestigious American Council of Teachers of Russian (ACTR) Faculty Fellowship for a professional development stay in Russia for the Summer 2003. During her stay she has established professional relationship with Moscow State University faculty.

**PETER A. RAFAELI**, Honorary Consul of Czech Republic was honored by Gratias Agit Award which was presented to him by Minister of Foreign Affairs, JUDr. Cyril Svoboda, at the Cernin Palace in Prague.

**VERA BORKOVEC**, SVU Vice President, during her recent visit to Prague, was awarded by Minister of Culture Pavel Dostal a bronze medal, ARTIS BOHEMIAE AMICIS, for her work "in spreading the good name of Czech culture abroad." The presentation took place in the Nostic Palace where the Ministry is located.

**ZDENEK V. DAVID**, a former librarian of the Woodrow Wilson Inter-national Center for Scholars from 1974 to 2002, is the author of the new monograph, *Finding the Middle Way*. The Utraquist Liberal Challenge to Rome and Luther. Washington, DC.: Woodrow Wilson Center Press, 2003, 579 pp. This is a history of the Utraquist church of fifteenth and sixteenth century Bohemia which declared its autonomy from the Roman church in 1415, after the Bohemian preacher Jan Hus, who has decried clerical abuses and opposed the pope's doctrinal and juridical

authority. David's book focuses on the middle course steered by the Utraquist church after the onset of the Protestant Reformation. Educated as a historian (Ph.D., Harvard 1960), Zdenek David has published numerous articles on the history of Utraquism and on Jews in Czech historiography. He is co-author of *The Peoples of the Eastern Habsburg Lands, 1526-1918*.

**EVA KUSHNER**, Professor Emeritus of French and Comparative Literature at Victoria College, University of Toronto, has published since 2000 the following monographs: *Pontus de Tyard et son oeuvre poetique* (Paris: Champion, 2001), and *The Living Prism: Itineraries in Comparative Literature* (Montreal: McGill-Queen's Press, 2001) and the third monograph *Etudes sur le dialogue a la Renaissance* is in press (Geneva: Droz, expected in 2004).

**KATHERINE DAVID-FOX** presented a paper entitled, "Czech Femi-nists Encounter The West," at the conference Educating for the Future: Crossing Borders, Building Coalitions In Graduate Women's Studies Around the World, held June 29-July 3, 2003, in Towson, Maryland, and sponsored by the University of Maryland. She also presented the paper "Czech Modernists in an Age of Nationalism" at the Bard Music Festival, the theme of which this year was "Leos Janacek and His World," at Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY, in August 2003. Her article, "Prague-Vienna, Prague-Berlin: The Hidden Geography of Czech Modernism," *Slavic Review* (Winter 2000) was the winner of the Stanley Z. Pech Prize in 2002. She continues to serve as president of the Czechoslovak History Conference for the 2001-2004 term.

**DR. CECILIA ROKUSEK** of Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers, Florida is completing the third year of a federally funded grant to develop a post-graduate curriculum in Behavioral Health. The web-based curriculum will be the only one of its kind in the country and will be disseminated nationally. The focus of the curriculum is on individual lifestyle changes and the impacts on overall health status and longevity. She was recently elected President-Elect of the Southwest Florida Healthy Start Coalition. This board serves at-risk mothers, children and families throughout the southern half of Southwest Florida. She was also elected national co-chairman of the Health Group for the American Association of Mental Retardation.

Together with **Dr. Robert Petrick** of Lauderhill, Florida, she is co-chairing the second annual Miss Czech and Slovak Florida Pageant to be held in March 2004. The contestants, age 16-26, are judged on their talent, personal interviews, kroj, and spirit to maintain the Czech and Slovak heritage. The State winner is awarded scholarship to Florida Gulf Coast University and is eligible to participate in the national Miss Czech and Slovak USA Pageant held each year in Wilber, NE.

**Dr. JACK REHCIGL** is Building a New Research Center. The University of Florida/IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center will be breaking ground for a new 18 million dollar state-of-the-art research facility in Hillsborough County, Florida. Scientists at this center will conduct research on ornamentals, turf and pasture grasses, landscape plants, vegetables and strawberry production. In addition to the Gulf Coast Research and Education Center, Jack Rechcigl will administer research operation at the Aquaculture Research Center in Ruskin and the Cattle Research Center In Ona, Florida as well as a teaching program at the Hillsborough Community College.

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## **SVU Student Awards For The Year 2004**

### **Dr. JOSEPH HASEK AWARD**

The Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU) is announc-ing a competition for the year 2004 Dr. Joseph Hasek student awards. The names of the winners will be announced in the Society's newsletters.

The main purpose of the Society's awards is to generate and encourage scholarly interest in Czech and Slovak affairs among university students living outside the Czech and Slovak Republics. There will be one prize for the best undergraduate and one for the best graduate study dealing with some aspect of Czech and/or Slovak history, politics, or culture. The winners will receive the \$250 Dr. Joseph Hasek award, a year's membership in the Society, which includes a year's subscription to the Society's newsletter, and a certificate of merit.

The following rules apply:

- 1) The paper must be submitted by the professor in whose class it was presented and should be accompanied by his recommendation.
- 2) The study must have been written for an undergraduate or graduate course during the academic year 2003-2004. Chapters of theses or dissertations are not admissible.
- 3) The deadline for submission is May 15, 2004.
- 4) The study essay should be submitted in triplicate to professor Vera Borkovec, 12013 Kemp Mill Road, Silver Spring, MD 20902. It must be typewritten, double-spaced and submitted in Czech, Slovak, or any of the major Western languages (English, French or German).
- 5) The Student Awards Committee which will judge the quality of the submitted essays consists of Prof. Ivo Feierabend (San Diego State University), Prof. Milan Hauner (University of Wisconsin), and Chair, Prof. Vera Borkovec (American University).
- 6) Submitted papers are not returned.

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## SVU President Mila Rechcigl's Comments at the Andera Crosses Dedication

Spillville, June 28, 2003

*Dear Friends:*

*I am delighted to participate in this important event. My wife and I had the opportunity to see a large series of Andera Crosses in the Spillville Cemetery during our visit here last fall and were very impressed by this "Czech-American Treasure" as Loren N. Horton calls it. They do indeed deserve to be preserved for future generations and what you are doing here is highly commendable.*

*The Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences, which I represent here, considers the preservation of Czech cultural heritage among its highest priorities. Some six years ago, we established the Cultural Heritage Commission which was later joined by all the major Czech ethnic organizations throughout the US, as well as several important institutions in the Czech Republic. As elaborated in our original proclamation in 1997, the Commission would aid already existing organizations in gathering and disseminating information, coordinating and publicizing their efforts to preserve Czech heritage, and suggesting strategies. The continuing neglect and destruction of historical sites bearing on the Czech presence in America, as well as their invaluable archival records, the gradual decline of the Czech language in America, and disappearance of some of the traditional Czech-American organizations makes this an urgent mission.*

*In this connection, and in this spirit, our Society has had the pleasure of conducting two nation-wide surveys, under the aegis of the Cultural Heritage Commission, with the assistance of the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cultural Department of which the next speaker, Zdenek Lycka, is Director. Results of these surveys were two reports, one entitled "Czech-American Historic Sites, Monuments, and Memorials," and the other, "Czechoslovak American Archivalia. US-Based Archival Material Relating to Emigres and Exiles from the Territory of former Czechoslovakia and Relevant Holdings Bearing on their Ancestral Land." These are very valuable documents because, for the first time, they set a firm foundation or a baseline, to which more information can be added, when it becomes available. Frankly, one cannot but be impressed with the information that has already been gathered. As the editor of both documents, I am delighted to report that they received a tremendous reception, here as well as in the Czech Republic and there is an effort afoot to get the reports published so that they are available to scholars and other interested people.*

*Once we have mapped all the relevant historic sites and monuments, as well as archival material, the next step will be to assure that they are saved and preserved for future generations. This will, of course, be more difficult and will require a joint effort by community leaders, government representatives, NGOs, historians, archivists, and others. What you are doing here in Spillville belongs to this category and serves as an example of how it should be done.*

*In conclusion, let me congratulate you on your efforts, with the hope that we will maintain contact in the future and that we will be able to draw on your experience and expertise in our continued quest toward preserving Czech cultural heritage in America.*

*Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to participate in this important event.*

MILA REHCIGL

### SVU Member Appointed Czech Honorary Consul

H.E. Martin Palous, the Czech Ambassador to the US announced the appointment of **SHARON K. VALASEK** as honorary consul for the Midwestern States. Official installation, marking the opening of the Czech consulate office in Kansas City, took place September 24-26, 2003, in the presence of Ambassador Palous and other dignitaries. Her primary role is to facilitate and support local relationship-building initiatives between the Czech Republic and the US to further cultural, educational, political and business exchanges. She also provides advice and assistance for Czech nationals in the US.

Sharon Valasek, a second-generation American and SVU member, is a business executive and consultant for Black & Veatch Solutions Groups, Inc. She is proud of her heritage and pleased to represent the Czech Republic's interests and serve the people in the states of Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska.

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## *Rechcigls Are Celebrating Their Fiftieth Anniversary*

Always busy and always present in just about everything that deals with SVU, or any other Czech or Slovak related activities in the Washington Czechoslovak community, who would have guessed that the Rech-cigls have just celebrated their fiftieth anniversary of being together. We understand that their children arranged for them a surprise family reunion of the Rechcigl clan at the Outer Banks of South Carolina.

To be sure, Mila is always busy but everybody knows that whatever he does would not get done without Eva's blessing or, for that matter, without her participation. They have worked together from the very first time they met in 1950, after Mila's arrival in New York City. They were both active in Masaryk Club which was already an existing institution in New York those days, but they were instrumental with several other young folks in establishing Club's Section for the Young People. The Section remained quite active until Mila's departure to Ithaca, NY, after he was granted a scholarship to attend Cornell University there. He, of course, maintained contact with Eva, and married her in August 1953. She then joined him at Cornell and helped in numerous ways to make his studying easier.

After Mila completed his three academic degrees, B.S., M.N.S. and Ph.D., they moved to Washington area where they have been living ever since. Mila carried out research at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, MD, first as a Postdoctoral Fellow, but in the midst of his second year he was offered a staff position by the National Cancer Institute as a Research Biochemist. He stayed in the position until 1969 when he had the opportunity to enter a year-long executive training in science administration and science policy. During this period he had on-the-job training in various branches of US Government, including Executive Office's Bureau of Budget, US Department of State, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, US Public Health Service, National Science Foundation, National Academy of Sciences, etc.

After a year of intensive training, he had the opportunity to select his own future position from several offers. He chose the position of Special Assistant for Nutrition and Health in the Health Services and Mental Health Administration. When he received top government clearance, he subsequently joined US Department of State, first as a Nutrition Advisor and soon after was put in charge of research at the Agency of the Inter-national Development, where he remained until his retirement in 1996.

While attending to all his official responsibilities, Mila was also very busy writing and editing scientific and technical books, periodicals and handbooks. His CV indicates that their number exceeded thirty, a respectable achievement by any standard.

Our members, however, know Mila primarily from his involvement in SVU, where he got his start at the very beginning, as one of the youngest Society members. Already in 1960, he held the position of Secretary of the Washington, DC Chapter under the Presidency of Dr. Ladislav Feierabend.

He was responsible for the first two Society's World Congresses, both of which were a great success and which put the Society on the world map. He also edited the Congress lectures and arranged for their publication, under the title *The Czechoslovak Contribution to World Culture* (1964, 682 pp.) and *Czechoslovakia Past and Present* (1968, 2 volumes, 1900 pp.). The publications received acclaim in the American academic circles and greatly contributed to the growing prestige of the Society worldwide. Dr. Rechcigl was also involved, one way or another, with most of the subsequent SVU World Congresses, including the recent SVU Congresses in Prague, Brno, Bratislava, Washington, D.C., and Plzen, Czech Republic.

Prior to his current term (2002-04) as SVU President, he held similar posts during 1974-76, 1976-78, and again in 1994-96, 1996-98, and 1998-00. In 1999, in conjunction with President Havel's visit to Minnesota, he co-organized a memorable conference at the University of Minnesota on "Czech and Slovak America: Quo Vadis?". Together with his wife, Eva, he published eight editions of the *SVU Biographical Directory*, the last of which has just been published in Prague. He was instrumental in launching a new English periodical *Kosmas – Czechoslovak and Central European Journal*. It was also initially his idea to establish the SVU Research Institute and to create the SVU Commission for Cooperation with Czechoslovakia and its Succession States, which played an important role in the first years after the Velvet Revolution of 1989. He was also instrumental in establishing the National Heritage Commission with the aim of preserving Czech and Slovak cultural heritage in America. Under its aegis, he has undertaken a comprehensive survey of Czech-related historic sites and archival material in the US. Toward this end, he has completed two extensive reports, one on "Czech-American Historic Sites, Monuments, and Memorials" and the other on "Czechoslovak American Archivalia."

Among historians, Dr. Rechcigl is well known for his studies on history, genealogy, and bibliography of American Czechs and Slovaks. A number of his publications deal with the early immigrants from the Czechlands and Slovakia, including the migration of Moravian Brethren to America. In the last few years he has been working on the cultural contributions of American Czechs and Slovaks. A selection of his biographical portraits of prominent Czech-Americans from the 17th century to date was published in Prague, under the title *Postavy naší Ameriky* (Personalities of Our America; 2000; 350 pp.). In 1991, on occasion of its 100th Anniversary, the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences awarded him the Hlavka Memorial Medal. In 1997 he received a newly established prize "Gratias Agit" from the Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs. In 1999, on the occasion of

President Vaclav Havel's visit to the US, President Havel presented him on behalf of SVU his Presidential Commemorative Medal.

He and Eva have two children, Jack and Karen, and five grand-children. We wish our hard-working SVU couple many more happy anniversaries. (AE)

## **SVU Archival Material – URGENT Message for SVU Local Chapters and Past SVU Officers**

Dear Colleagues:

As you know, SVU has deposited its official Archive in the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. It is in our interest to have the archive as complete as possible.

If you have any material relating to SVU activities, you are requested to send it over there a.s.a.p. This includes materials of all past officers of SVU, as well as any material relating to the activities of SVU Local Chapters worldwide. This material has historic value and we cannot afford to have it lost.

If you have any such material or if you have question about the material's suitability for saving, please, let me know. I would like to know beforehand what kind of material you have. Thanks for your understanding.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

With personal regards,

*MILA RECHCIGL  
SVU President*

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## **From SVU Local Chapters**

### **Chicago Chapter Receives Award**

On September 10, 2003, the CZECH DAY was celebrated in Chicago under the auspices of Cook County, Illinois Treasurer, Maria Pappas. On this occasion the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences was recognized and received an award for its lasting contributions to the Chicago Czech community. On behalf of the Chicago SVU Chapter, the award was accepted by Secretary, Vera Roknic.

### **New SVU Chapter**

Through the efforts of Michael Klimesh, an informational organization meeting to establish the "**Spillville-Iowa-Midwest Chapter**" of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences was held in Spillville on Saturday, September 27, 2004. A core of enthusiastic supporters attended, with many unable to attend expressing support. Issues pertaining to the establishment and operation of the chapter were discussed, as were preliminary thoughts on activities, projects and collaborations for the chapter. The next organizational meeting is set for Saturday, Nov. 15 at 10 am at the Spillville Library and Community Center. The inauguration of the chapter is targeted for January, 2004. A web site should be operational at that time. We are happy to hear from any SVU members interested in affiliating with this new regional and virtual chapter.

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## **In Memoriam**

### **PAVEL TIGRID (1917-2003)**

The former Czech Minister of Culture, writer, journalist and dissident in exile Pavel Tigrid died in Paris at the age of 85. He was a native of Prague. The former Czech president Vaclav Havel said he had received the news with a heavy heart, describing Mr. Tigrid as a good and brave man who had left behind a precious legacy. Culture minister Pavel Dostal described him as a legend of Czech journalism.

Pavel Tigrid emigrated from his homeland twice: once during the Nazi occupation and again after the communists took power in 1948. During the war he worked as a journalist for the London based Czechoslovak government in exile, and in later years he worked for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. He returned to Czechoslovakia after the fall of communism in 1989.

Pavel Tigrid was an active member of our Society from the very beginning. He will be greatly missed.



## **JIRÍ HORÁK (1924-2003)**

Jiří Horák, 78, the first leader of the Czech Social Democratic Party after the fall of communism, died July 25 at his home in Florida of brain cancer.

He headed the Social Democrats from 1990 to 1992 after the Velvet Revolution, led by playwright and democracy activist Vaclav Havel, peacefully toppled communist rule. In 1993, Dr. Horák moved back to the United States, where he had immigrated in 1951, three years after the Communist Party took power in what was then Czechoslovakia.

From 1961 to 1971, Jiří Horák was chairman of the Council of Free Czechoslovakia. He was a 2000 recipient of one of the Czech Republic's highest state honors, the Tomas Garrigue Masaryk Order for outstanding contributions to democracy.

Jiří Horák was an active member of SVU for many years.

## **MARY T. SIMKO (1932-2003)**

A physician and an enthusiastic advocate of democratic Czecho-slovakia died on August 23 at the Mount Sinai Hospital, NY after years of a heroic struggle with an incurable bone marrow disease. Born in Bratislava in the Gabura family, she was the youngest of four siblings. After graduation from the Comenius University Medical School in 1957 she worked in public health until she emigrated to the United States in 1969 after the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia. After years of transition at Cornell University in Ithaca and Syracuse, NY she went through rigorous medical internship and residency in Cincinnati, Ohio and became a director of the emergency department at the Brooklyn VA Medical Center in New York.

She was always proud of Czechoslovakia as her native land and considered the Slovak and Czech cultures to be interconnected and indivisible. During communism she vigorously fought for democratic liberation of her country as a long time member of the Council for Free Czecho-slovakia (later Czech and Slovak Solidarity Council). Right after the Velvet Revolution in 1989 she chaired the Sokol NY Coordinating Committee for assistance to the liberated country. This Committee organized shipments of medications, instruments and scientific books to Czech and Slovak centers. Realizing that the best investment is in gifted young people she arranged for eighteen excellent medical students (half of them Czech, half Slovak) to come to New York for a summer medical residency program, with no cost to air travel, lodging, food and tuition.

She was an active member of the SVU. In 1991, shortly after discharge from the hospital, she organized a concert of the classic Slovak composer Eugen Suchon at the prestigious Dag Hammarskjold Library at the UN, a Suchon program for the selective Deer Lodge music audience, performances of a Slovak regional theater in New York and an SVU program of poetry where both the Czech and Slovak UN ambassadors' wives participated in reading. She was a close family friend of the Slovak painter Koloman Sokol and had many personal contacts with prominent Slovak artists and influential Slovak politicians.

Mary is survived by husband Vlado and son Svetozar Daniel, both in New York City. Memorial service was at Staten Island and the interment at Bratislava, Slavicie udolie in October.

## **GEORGE W. RUBAŘ (1923-2003)**

Founder of Marathon Marine Co., George W. Rubař, died March 18 at his Greenwich, CT home. Born on Feb 1, 1923 in Frenstat pod Radhostem, Czechoslovakia, he attended Charles University in Prague. During WW2 he was a journalist and political cartoonist. After the war he lived and wrote in Germany, where he met and married his wife Luise P. Karlshof. In the 1950s he and Luise set out to the United States, living briefly in New Haven, then settling in Manhattan. There Mr. Rubař was a volunteer commentator for Radio Free Europe.

In the 1960s, Mr. Rubař founded and was president of Marathon Marine Co., a ship engineering firm in New York City. The company had exclusive contracts with shipping lines such as the German Hansa Line, the Norwegian and Swedish Ocean Lines, the Greek Shipping Lines and the Polish Ocean Lines. He was a familiar figure at the New York, New Jersey, Brooklyn, and Miami shipyards.

Mr. Rubař was a member of the Master Singing Society of New York City as well as a member of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences. He and his family moved permanently to their Greenwich home in the early 80s. He was known for his unbridled energy in all his pursuits. In his later years he devoted a good part of his time towards helping immigrants get established in this country. In September 2001 he traveled to Prague, Czech Republic where he received an honorary doctorate from Charles University. In his birthplace Frenstat pod Radhostem, they celebrated his life with a television show called "Citizen Rubař." He was a devoted and proud Czech patriot.

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# Working Conference on CZ & SL American Archival Materials and their Preservation

organized by  
Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences  
Embassy of the Czech Republic in Washington  
Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Washington  
U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad  
**Washington, DC, November 22-23, 2003**

## TENTATIVE PROGRAM

### **Saturday, November 22 – Czech Embassy**

9:00 AM INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Words of Welcome by Ambassador of CR,  
H.E. Martin Palous

Remarks by Chairman, U.S. Commission for Preservation of America's Heritage  
Abroad, The Honorable Warren L. Miller

Introductory Comments by Conference Coordinator,  
Dr. Miloslav Rechcigl, SVU President

9:30 AM U.S. FEDERAL GOVERNMENTAL REPOSITORIES

Miloslav Rechcigl, *Chair*  
The National Archives  
Dr. Amy Schmidt, Archivist

National Library of Congress  
Helen Fedor, Area Specialist, European Division

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum  
Henry L. Mayer, Chief Archivist

10:50 AM COFFEE BREAK

11:00 AM ARCHIVAL MATERIALS in CZECH & SLOVAK REPUBLICS

Ivo Broskevic, *Chair*  
Czech American Archival Materials in Czech Republic  
The Honorable Petr Mares, Vice Premier of the Czech Republic  
Slovak American Archival Materials in Slovak Republic  
Speaker to be announced

The Archive of the Czech and Slovak Exile at Palacky University, Olomouc  
Prof. Karel Konecny

12:30 PM LUNCH

1:30 PM STATE & PRIVATE REPOSITORIES IN THE U.S.  
Miloslav Rechcigl, *Chair*

New York Public Library  
Wojciech Siemaszkiewicz, Curator  
National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library  
David Muhlena, Librarian  
Leo Baeck Institute  
Dr. Frank Mecklenburg, Director of Research

3:00 PM COFFEE BREAK

3:15 PM U.S. UNIVERSITY-BASED REPOSITORIES

Miroslav Wlachovsky, *Chair*  
Hoover Institution, Stanford University  
Blanka Pasternak, Archival Specialist  
Immigration History Research Center, University of Minnesota  
Daniel Necas, Assistant Curator  
University of Nebraska  
Katherine L. Walter, Chair, Serials Dept.  
Texas A&M University and Other Repositories in TX  
Prof. Clinton Machann

6:00 PM RECEPTION at the CZECH EMBASSY

## **Sunday, November 23 – Slovak Embassy**

9:00 AM INTRODUCTION

Words of Welcome by the Slovak Ambassador to the U.S.

H.E. Rastislav Kacer

A Few Words by Conference Coordinator

Dr. Miloslav Rechcigl, SVU President

9:15 AM WORKING WITH CZ & SL ARCHIVAL MATERIALS

Miroslav Wlachovsky, *Chair*

Historical Archival Resources in the U.S. – How Can American Archives Help

Reconstructing President Benes' Memoirs

Prof. Milan Hauner, University of Wisconsin

Slovak Archives in the U.S.A. and Canada

Prof. Mark Stolarik, University of Ottawa

Juraj Slavik's Archival Material

Mr. Juraj Slavik Jr.

Czechoslovak-American Relations – the 20th Century – Research in Czech & Slovak Archives

Dr. Slavomir Michalek, Historic Institute, Slovak Academy of Sciences

11:00 AM COFFEE BREAK

11:15 PM SUMMING UP

Problems and Solutions: A Discussion Panel

Clinton Machann, *Moderator*

*Panelists* (tentative):

The Honorable Petr Mares, Vice Premier of CR

Slovak Government Representative

Amy Schmidt, NARA

Helen Fodor, East European Specialist, LC

Radu Ioanid, Director, International Program, U.S. HMM

Joel Wurl, Curator, IHRC

Gail Naughton, Executive Director, NCSML

Frank Mecklenburg, Director of Research, Leo Baeck Institute

M. Mark Stolarik, U. Ottawa

Oldrich Tuma, Director, Institute of Contemporary History, AS CR

Pavol Lukac, Editor-in-Chief, Slovak Foreign Policy Affairs

*Issues to Be Discussed:*

Status of archival materials in existing depositories and their inventory

Status of other archival materials, including those in private hands, and their inventory

Placement and standards for preservation of documents held in private collections

Inventorying and cataloging of the archival materials in existing archives

Setting up information system about these archival materials and depositories

Fostering cooperation between professionals and archival institutions

Concrete steps for the future

1:15 PM BUFFET LUNCH

2:00 PM GENERAL DISCUSSION

Miloslav Rechcigl, *Moderator*

3:00 PM CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS & CONCLUSIONS

H.E. Rastislav Kacer, H.E. Martin Palous

Possibly others