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24th WORLD CONGRESS OF SVU

CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIETY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

**Celebrating SVU: 50 Years of Promoting Czech and
Slovak Culture and Science Worldwide**

**September 8th - 14th
of 2008**

at the

**CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
Ruzomberok, Slovakia**

Co-Sponsors of the congress are:

The Catholic University, Ruzomberok and
The City of Ruzomberok

Please **SAVE THE DATES**
for this Festive Event in the Beautiful Slovak Mountains!!

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM OF THE 24TH WORLD CONGRESS

Sept. 7th, 2008	Registration and Welcome Party
Sept. 8th, 2008	Formal Opening, Reception and Plenary Session
Sept. 9th-12th, 2008	Academic Sessions and Exhibits
Sept. 12th, 2008	General Assembly Meeting, Closing Ceremonies and Banquet
Sept. 13th, 2008	Visit to Unesco Registry Village of Vlkolinec with Music and Barbecue (Optional)
Sept. 14th, 2008	Visit to High Tatras or Bešeňová Thermal Spa (Optional)
Sept. 14th-19th, 2008	6 Day Tour of the Treasures of Slovakia (Optional)

There will be several cultural events during the meeting.

Lodging: Rooms have been reserved in several hotels and pensions in Ružomberok. Prices are expected to be in the range of \$21-69 per person/night.

The number of available hotel rooms is limited.

Unlimited number of rooms will be available at the University dormitories priced at approximately \$14 per person/night. Regularly scheduled transportation to the meeting will be available.

Deadline for Abstract submission (by e-mail) and registration will be May 31, 2008. Detailed Congress bulletin with registration forms, information on lodging, meals, cultural events and side trips with prices and reservation forms are expected to be available no later than December 15, 2007.



Zprávy SVU (SVU News) (ISSN 0036-2050)

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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Representatives of the Catholic University (Dr. Dalibor Mikuláš and Ing. Pavol Budaj) and the City of Ružomberok (Dr. Jan Pavlík) came to the United States to discuss logistics of the upcoming 24th World Congress. The proposals were prepared in meetings with the SVU President, Dr. Karel Raška. The Executive Board of SVU approved the proposal after discussion at a meeting on September 29, 2007 in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Up to date information on the Congress is summarized in this issue of ZPRÁVY.

Our visitors toured both Rutgers and Princeton Universities and encountered crowds of avid football fans on their way to the Rutgers - Maryland football game which was won by Maryland to the delight of Annapolis Board Member Dr. Heller! On Friday our guests were escorted by Dr. Cecelia Rokusek on a brief visit of New York City. On Sunday, September 30th, they visited the Slovak Catholic Church in Linden, New Jersey.

Your Board has already received a number of commitments to the Congress from scholars on both sides of the Atlantic. We are looking forward to a Congress that will be a festive celebration of the 50th anniversary of our organization.

We are pleased to report that several volumes of SVU publications are making a good progress towards publication: the proceedings of the 23rd Congress in České Budějovice, proceedings of the Bethlehem meeting and two new monographs are all either in the hands of the publisher or completing final phases of the editorial process.

Before the end of the year you will have registration forms and abstract submission form for the meeting. The deadline for submission of abstracts and registration is May 31, 2008. We urge you to register early, so that you have your first choice of lodging in Ružomberok. Reservations will be handled on the first come, first serve basis. The registration and payments will also be available on line.

With best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving,

Karel Raška, Jr

FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board of SVU convened on Saturday, September 29th in New Brunswick, New Jersey. The Board met with representatives of the Catholic University and the Mayor's office, Ružomberok, Slovakia to discuss logistics of the 24th Congress and the division of future tasks between the hosts of the meeting and the SVU. A proposal governing the responsibilities of the two parties was reviewed, modified and adopted. The deadline for registration and abstract submission will be 31 May 2008. The detailed Congress bulletin with registration and abstract submission forms will be published in December 2007.



From Left: Dr. C. Heller, Dr. M. Rechcigl, Dr. P. Hausner, Dr. C. Rokusek, Dr. Mikulas



From Left: Dr. C. Rokusek, Dr. D. Mikulas, Ing. P. Budaj, Dr. J. Pavlik, Dr. P. Filip

In the executive session Dr. V. Šimko presented report of Publication Committee. Publication of meeting proceedings and of two monographs were discussed and approved.

The Board discussed the request of the General Assembly to determine the limit of term for the President of Executive Board and Chairmen of SVU Chapters. After a lengthy discussion the Board unanimously resolved that the term of office of the President and Chairmen should be limited to two, two year terms, with the possibility of re-election after a two year hiatus. Dr. Raška was instructed to inform the Chapters.

Treasurer's Report showing SVU finances to be in the positive was submitted and approved. The Finance Subcommittee reported on fiscal responsibilities of the U.S. Chapters. The reports on the yearly activities and the fiscal reports should be submitted by January 31 of the year following the end of the fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted,
Eugene G. Martin, Ph.D.

VISIT TO SVU CHAPTER DEUTSCHLAND IN MUNICH

Drs. Zdeněk David and Karel Raška visited Munich Chapter of SVU on October 9, 2007. At a productive meeting with the local Committee, they discussed mutually interesting matters and preparations for the 24th World Congress in Ružomberok and festive celebration of the 50th Anniversary of SVU. At the general meeting Dr. Karel Raška spoke on *My Experiences in American Medicine*. A long and stimulating discussion followed on differences between American and European Medicine, on alternative medicine and healthcare in the Czech Republic. At the end, differences between American and German basic science were also debated. Dr. Zdeněk David informed the members about the immediate publication plans of the Society. Both board members gratefully accepted publications of the Munich SVU Chapter.

After the meeting the American guests with some participants adjourned to a nearby pub for a beer. “There is no better time to visit Munich than OCTOBERFEST!”

“BUDĚJOVICKÁ ANABAZE”

On October 10, 2007 Drs. David and Raška visited the autumn meeting of *Akademický Klub* – a new SVU Chapter in České Budějovice. They informed their hosts about the status of the Ružomberok Congress and publication plans of the SVU, including the proceedings of the congress in České Budějovice. Both guests participated in a brief discussion of the AK resolution on the American anti-missile radar in the Czech Republic.

They expressed their appreciation of the high academic standard of the *Academic Club* and progress achieved since the last fall.

NEW PUBLICATIONS BY SVU MEMBERS

Ivan Margolius: *Praha za zrcadlem*, 342 pages, Argo, Prague 298 Kč, October 2007

Josef Škvorecký wrote: “Archetypal story of the twentieth century is intertwined with descriptions of Czechs, of Prague”... almost as a stream of consciousness. Dispersed in it are brilliant examples from works of the best poets of the 20th century. The story flows like Elliot’s Thames, carrying fragments of tragic lives, horrors, and flickers of beauty and love – all that in the background of human inhumanity.

MEETING WITH THE PRAGUE SVU CHAPTER

On October 11, 2007 Drs. David and Raška met with the leadership of Prague SVU Chapter and discussed the Ružomberok Congress. They expressed their appreciation of the SVU activities in Prague and the enthusiasm for the SVU Congress next year. Particularly encouraging were also reports on active recruitment of *young* members to the Prague Chapter.

“ON THE WAY TO VELEHRAD”



Ing. Pavlik and Dr. David



Ing. Pavlik and Dr. Raska

MEDAL “FOR MERIT” AWARDED TO DR. TOMÁŠ KLÍMA

Dr. Tomáš Klíma of Houston, Texas was awarded medal “Za Zasluby” by President Václav Klaus. The citation applauded Dr. Klíma’s efforts to arrange visits by Czech physicians to American medical institutions beginning in 1991. SVU members heard about Dr. Klíma’s description of these activities in České Budejovice. Congratulations!

OBITUARIES— APPEAL TO MEMBERS

In my new archivist's role, I have assumed a weighty responsibility for compiling a listing of SVU deceased members and also keep track of the obituaries that have been published in Zpravy SVU. It is an arduous task, since the families of the deceased, generally, don't inform us about the person's death. Inasmuch as I have to depend primarily on my own resources or on what other people may send me, the listing may not be complete. I am therefore, making an appeal to SVU members to please let me know if any of their family members, who belonged to our Society, passed away. Naturally, I welcome information on other SVU members, about whom you know, or heard that they died.

Inasmuch as we are keeping a separate database on SVU Obituaries for eventual publishing, we would be grateful to you, if you would also send us obituaries of the deceased SVU members. This would be a nice way to honor the memory of your loved ones. Otherwise, their names will disappear into oblivion and the world will never know that they existed.

Please send the information via e-mail to: SVU1@comcast.net Be sure, to also include the individual's years of birth and death.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Mila Rechcigl
SVU Archivist

OBITUARIES

Jeronym Zajicek (1926-2007)

Jeronym Zajicek, a long-time member of SVU, passed away on October 5, 1007. He was born in Krasne Brezno, Czechoslovakia on November 10, 1926. After finishing classical gymnasium in 1946, he began musicology studies at Charles University in Prague. In 1949 he left Czechoslovakia and accepted the post of Music Director of the Czech Section of Radio Free Europe in Munich, Germany. In 1952 he emigrated to the United States and continued his studies at the Roosevelt University in Chicago where he obtained his Master's degree. He worked as a professor of musical theory, composition and conducting at Loop College, Chicago. He received his Ph.D. from Charles University, Prague in 1990. Zajicek composed a number of sonatas for clarinet, violin, cello, a string quartet, piano trio and others. He also arranged a set of 16 Christmas carols "Krkonoske Koledy" and composed a cappella choir work "Pater Noster". For SVU he presented several lectures on the life of Smetana, Janacek, Martinu, pianist Rudolf Firkusny and his teacher and mentor in Chicago, Professor Karel Boleslav Jirak.

A moving eulogy was given by SVU vice-president Anthony J. Jandacek at Svec Funeral Home in Cicero, Illinois

Vera Roknic - SVU Chicago

OBITUARIES

Felix Gross (1906-2006)

Felix Gross, one-time member of SVU, professor emeritus of sociology of Brooklyn College, CUNY, New York died on November 9, 2006 at the age of 100 - the oldest SVU member ever! After his retirement he became President of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences (PIASA), where he remained practically until he died. He was born Cracow, Poland on June 17, 1906 and was a graduate of M. J. Jagiellonian University of Cracow. For many years he was a politician and an activist of the Central and East European federalism. As a member of a prominent Jewish Polish family, Gross became a courageous and respected social and political activist as well as a scholar. He was the founder and Director of the Labor Social Science School in Krakow (1934-38), a committed and energetic labor lawyer, and a member of the prewar Polish Socialist Party.

He was a prolific writer. His *Ideologies Goals and Values* (1985) is an important synthesis of his work. During the last decade, he published *The Civic and the Tribal State* (1998), *Citizenship and Ethnicity* (1999). I had the pleasure of introducing him to SVU in 1964 when I invited him to be part of the panel "Czechoslovakia and its Neighbors: Nationalism vs. Federalism," and give an introductory talk 'Nationalism vs. Federalism - Retrospect.'

I like to end this obituary with the statement he made about people who are different from each other to live in peace, i.e., "Such an association of different peoples, ethnic groups with equal rights for all, free of discrimination by public authorities, necessitates the need for a common bond that would embrace all, a broad bond, and in the hierarchy of accepted standards, one that rises above ethnic or racial identification; in a word, a common denominator for all. Citizenship is such a bond; it is also a vital common denominator."

Peter Brock (1920-2006)

Peter Brock, one-time member of SVU, Professor Emeritus of History, University of Toronto, died on May 28, 2006. Born on the Island of Guernsey, UK, Peter Brock was a conscientious objector in Britain during the Second World War. He was briefly imprisoned, served out the rest of the war on alternative service, and worked as a volunteer in the Anglo-American Quaker Relief Mission in postwar Poland. He obtained

OBITUARIES

Peter Brock Continued

doctoral degrees in history from the Jagiellonian University of Cracow, Poland, and Oxford University. He taught in history departments at the University of Alberta, Smith College, Columbia University, and the University of Toronto, the latter since 1966. Fluent in many languages and the author of thirty books and numerous articles, Brock was an authority on Polish and East European history and the world's foremost scholar of pacifist history. He was the recipient of many honours and awards, including the degree of Doctor of Letters honoris causa from the University of Toronto in 1991.

Hilda S. Sturc (1917-2002)

From time to time, by chance, we learn about some of our members who passed away several years back. Even with the passage of years, we feel obligated to honor their memory. Hilda Sturc belongs to this category. She was a French Canadian by birth, who was married to Dr. Ernest Sturc, a former SVU Vice President who served with me on our Executive Board, during my first presidency in 1974-78. She was an ardent supporter of her husband in his work for SVU. She was, however, her own person, as well, being a Democratic Party activist who worked in the political campaigns of John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson. In 1981, she established, in memory of her husband, the Ernest Sturc Memorial Lectures and later a fellowship in international economic studies at Johns Hopkins University's Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies.

Oskar Morawetz (1917-2007)

Oskar Morawetz, a prominent Czech Canadian composer, one of Canada's most frequently performed, as well as a noted pianist, and a long-time member of SVU, died unexpectedly on June 13, 2007. He was a native of Svetla nad Sazavou, Czechoslovakia. Morawetz studied music with Karel Hoffmeister (piano) and Jaroslav Kricka (theory) in Prague and Julius Isserlis (piano) in Vienna. Oskar Morawetz developed at an early age an ability to sight-read orchestral scores at the piano, and at 19 was recommended by George Szell for the assistant conductor's post with the Prague Opera, a post he turned down.

OBITUARIES

Oskar Morawetz Continued

After the Nazi invasion, he fled Europe and in 1940 arrived Toronto. There he continued his studies in music, but he was essentially self-taught. He later enrolled at the University of Toronto, which awarded him his B.Mus. and the doctorate.

Morawetz taught music theory and composition 1946-52 at the Royal Conservatory of Music and from 1952 until his retirement in 1982 as professor emeritus at the University of Toronto.

Some of his shorter compositions have become standard repertoire internationally. In 1983 the CBC issued a recorded anthology of his music, and subsequent recordings of his music have been released by Marquis, Centrediscs and EMI. In 1987 he became the first composer to be awarded the Order of Ontario. More than 130 orchestras, led by such conductors as Vladimir Ashkenazy, Kurt Masur, Andrew Davis, Charles Dutoit, Rafael Kubelik, Charles Mackerras and William Steinberg have performed his works. Morawetz received the Order of Canada in 1989 for his outstanding contribution to Canadian music. In 1998 he received an honorary diploma from the Royal Conservatory of Music and four years later the Queen's Jubilee Medal.

Oskar Morawetz's passing is a great loss to SVU, especially to those of us who knew him personally.

Irma Anna (Freeouf) Ourecky (1912-2007)

With regret we report the passing of our probably the oldest living SVU member, Irma Ourecky. She died in Wilber, Nebraska on July 21, 2007, after several weeks of declining health at the age of 95.

She was a teacher by profession and for many years President of the Wilber Czech Museum, as well as President of the Nebraska Czechs at Wilber. She made the Wilber Czech Festival a tourist attraction to help keep the community vibrant.

Those who knew her, could tell you how she was weaving rugs on the loom in the Wilber Czech Museum and embroidering aprons and tea towels with Czech sayings, which were sold there. She baked kolaches and ran the Queen Pageant (for years, the Queen candidates stayed at Irma's house, sleeping on bunk beds) and generally made sure everything got done. She invited children and teenagers to the Hotel Wilber to help bake kolaches, and she told the older, experienced bakers not to criticize them. She encouraged kids to learn the traditional Czech dances.

OBITUARIES

Irma Anna (Freeouf) Ourecky Continued

She was 100 percent Czech, and as a child she spoke the language at home until she started school. Years later, she taught Czech in the Wilber school system.

Over the years, Irma was involved in just about every organization in town. She wrote two books about Wilber. Her collection of awards, from local and state organizations, fills an entire table at the Wilber Czech Museum, and the Nebraska Department of Tourism named an award after her that has been given to dedicated volunteers in communities across the state.

On behalf of SVU, we wish to express our deepest condolences to her family.

Inka Smutna (1922-2006)

Inadvertently we forgot to report on the untimely death of our SVU member of many years, Inka Smutna last year. Our sincere apologies.

Inka Smutna was her pen name as a poet, her real name being Jirina Steinska (nee Kohoutova). She was a native of Vysoke Myto and a graduate of Commercial Academy in Hradec Kralove. After marrying her husband Jan Steinsky, the family escaped to Germany and eventually moved to Canada.

She was a prolific poet who expressed her sadness through her verse. She wrote in Czech and her poetry was both romantic and personal and ranged from dark to whimsical, as her daughter characterized it. She published some of her poems in the volume, entitled *Basne*, published in Toronto in the year 2000. Two of her poems were included in the SVU anthology, *Taste of a Lost Homeland*, edited by Vera Borkovec.

She lived in Canada since 1950. Apart from her poetry, she edited Canada's Czech newspaper, *Novy Domov*. I fondly remember listening to the recital of her poems in the Toronto Library, on the occasion of the SVU annual meeting in Toronto in September 1963. She was an active SVU member and a frequent contributor to the SVU periodical *Promeny*.

She was also an outstanding athlete in Czechoslovakia, being named to the country's national swimming team. Just before the World War II, she enrolled in the Prague Medical School but the Nazis changed all that. Her untimely death was a great loss to SVU which sincerely mourns her passing.

OBITUARIES

Eva Folke (1935-2006)

SVU Chicago mourns the death of their board member EVA FOLKE (nee Simackova 1935-2006), a long-time SVU member, who died on November 15, 2006. Energetic, multi-talented and persevering, Eva was always ready to help, guide and encourage. She had a MA degree in Russian and Slavic languages and for a time she taught at the Defense Language Institute in California. In Chicago she worked among other as a "paralegal translator". For our chapter, she prepared a number of lectures. She loved classical music (just as her husband Patrick who passed away several years ago) and was instrumental in organizing programs on the lives of Antonin Dvorak and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Memorial service was conducted by Father Dusan Hladik of the Czech Mission in Cicero, Illinois and attended by Eva's son, Dr. Richard P. Folke, his wife Ellen and grandchildren Madeline and Thomas as well as a large number of SVU members and friends. Eulogies were delivered by Chicago SVU president Vlada Williams. Secretary Vera Roknic concluded the service saying "V retezu nasi cesko-americke spolecnosti cas opet zlomil jeden clanek a srdce nas vsech boli a place nad ztratou milovane Evy. Her passing is a great loss to our chapter - she will be grossly missed."

Vera Roknic - SVU Chicago

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