

**CZECHOSLOVAK
STUDIES
ASSOCIATION**

**Newsletter of the Czechoslovak Studies
Association**

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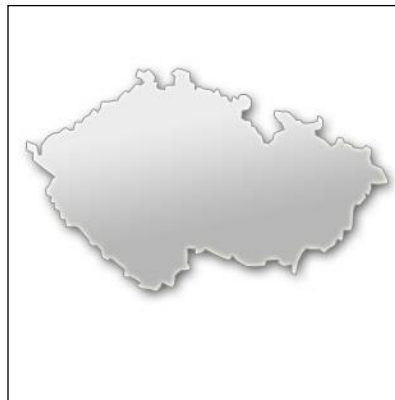
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“The Newsletter of the Czechoslovak Studies Association exists to express interests in the history of Czechoslovakia, its predecessor and successor states, and all its peoples within and without its historic boundaries.”

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Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting of the Czechoslovak Studies Association

The annual meeting of the Czechoslovak Studies Association occurred, following our usual practice, at the ASEES convention. Due to the pandemic, the convention was not in Washington, DC, as originally planned, but online. Our meeting took place on Sunday, November 15, from noon to 1:30 pm.

The meeting was called to order after a short delay by the President, Karla Huebner. The plenum approved the minutes from the 2019 meeting and Karla Huebner introduced Thomas Ort, who is serving as Interim Secretary-Treasurer and presented the financial report. The finances of the association continue to be in reasonably good shape. By suggestion of former Secretary-Treasurer Gregory Ference, a dues holiday was taken for 2020 consequent to the pandemic. Currently the operating fund is some \$17,024 with nearly \$4873 in the Pech Prize fund. Nevertheless, prize funding remains relatively weak and could use financial strengthening. (For full details of the year ending November 6, 2020, see the complete statement printed in this newsletter.)

After the financial report, the next order of business was a report from interim newsletter editor Hugh Agnew on the recent issues of the newsletter. Hugh is stepping down and he was thanked for his years as editor. Discussion followed on possibly transitioning from a paper/electronic version of the newsletter to an all-online format, perhaps fed by social media. Some members, such as our institutional members, still prefer to receive the newsletter in paper hardcopy form, and it was agreed to

maintain this option for now. In 2019, Karla Huebner and Daniel Miller, President of the Slovak Studies Association, had discussed the possibility of producing a joint newsletter, but the membership of the Slovak Studies Association has decided not to pursue this and Karla Huebner volunteered to be interim newsletter editor.

Vice President Jacob Labendz has been working with Anna Herran to create a new website for the CSA and to update its online presence (<https://czechoslovakstudies.com/>). The website is intended to help foster community among CSA members and attract new members through the collection and dissemination of valuable information. The website will not replace our Facebook pages, which will continue to function as presently. Pages will include:

- Blog with announcements (some drawn from the FB pages)
- Calendar of upcoming events
- List of new publications
- List of conferences and CFPs
- Membership-dues payment portal
- Submission portal for members to share information and announcements
- Book review page
- Featured interviews with scholars (something like a communal podcast)
- Newsletter archive

The website will be designed using WordPress tools. We will pay for a service package that will include plugins to facilitate disseminating information to the membership through MailChimp and widgets that make it possible to read the Facebook and Twitter feeds. The goal is to establish a system for producing the newsletter using information posted to website. The Executive Committee is currently reviewing various service plans

and will choose an appropriate and affordable one as soon as possible. We thank Anna Herran for her ongoing work towards building a website, and have agreed to offer her modest remuneration.

It was announced that due to the pandemic, the annual Czech and Slovak Studies workshop originally scheduled for 2020 at the University of Pittsburgh was postponed to 2021. Thirteen presenters accepted into the 2020 workshop agreed to present in 2021, leaving room for additional presenters, so a CFP was circulated (see below for a report on the Workshop).

Karen Uslin announced the formation of the Jewish Studies & Music study-group of the American Musicological Society (<https://jewishstudies.ams-net.org/>).

Thomas Ort presented a proposal to increase our prizes (Pech Prize to \$300 and Book Prize to \$500 plus adding an annual graduate student essay prize). While it was agreed to increase the prize amounts, depending on the costs for the new website, the increases may need to be adjusted.

The Pech Prize—given every other year to the best article in the areas of its interest for the preceding two years—was delayed until 2021 but will still cover articles published in 2018 and 2019. Hugh Agnew and Todd Huebner have agreed to serve on the Pech Prize Committee; a third committee member was requested (Thomas Ort has since agreed to join the committee). Volunteers were solicited for the 2021 Book Prize Committee (subsequently Cate Giustino, James Krapfl, and Mark Cornwall agreed to serve). A new prize for Emerging Scholars was brought up as new business. The committee will be chaired by Kimberly Zarecor (additional

members Molly Pucci and Kieran Williams have agreed to serve). The calls for submissions to the three prizes are given below.

Since Thomas Ort has taken on the role of Interim Secretary-Treasurer, we need to replace him as an at-large board member. Hugh Agnew volunteered for the interim position.

The question was raised as to whether we need to create a position on the board for someone to manage our web presence. Jacob Labendz has assumed this responsibility in his capacity as vice president. We need to establish an alternative plan should future vice presidents lack either the interest or skills to do so. Jacob Labendz proposed creating a communications position on the board, the holder of which would oversee the website and newsletter.

Further items of discussion included the need to review the bylaws in light of the suggestion to split the office of Secretary-Treasurer into its two functions. This would necessitate a bylaws change and it would be a good opportunity to review the entire bylaws to see if other amendments are needed. The meeting left it to the CSA executive to discuss and determine what, if any, bylaw revisions are needed at this time.

Kateřina Čapková, with wide support, called for the internationalization of the ČSA. There was a lively discussion regarding ways in which the CSA can be a more international and less North America-centric organization, and Kateřina proposed that we hold events in Prague and Bratislava, such as the Czech and Slovak Studies Workshop. Meetings could be held there every third year, alternating between the two capitals. Some concerns included:

- Ensuring that students had sufficient funds to travel overseas to the workshops;
- Establishing partnerships with institutions (in Slovakia and perhaps Germany).

Proposals were made to offer lifetime memberships (an appropriate cost will need to be calculated, so that we do not lose revenue in the future) and to create a

mentorship program for graduate students or a less-formal means for students to meet and enter into discussion with established scholars.

The productive and lively meeting lasted over 90 minutes, after which a motion to adjourn was presented and approved. We thank everyone who participated and look forward to meeting in person in the future.



CSA Prizes

Stanley Z. Pech Prize Competition for 2020 Extended

The Czechoslovak Studies Association (CSA) is pleased to announce that, due to the disruption wrought by the Covid-19 pandemic, it is extending the competition for the Stanley Z. Pech Prize for 2020. The Pech prize honors a peer-reviewed article or book chapter dealing with the history of Czechoslovakia, its predecessor and

successor states or provinces, or any of its peoples within and without its historic boundaries. To be eligible for consideration in this cycle, the publication must have appeared in English in print or online in calendar years 2018 or 2019.

The Pech Prize Committee accepts submissions from all academic disciplines, if they contain a substantial historical component. Authors should be members of the Czechoslovak Studies Association when they submit their publications.

To submit an article for consideration for the Pech Prize, please email an electronic copy of your own work or that of a colleague no later than May 1, 2021 to any member of the Pech Prize Committee:

Hugh L. Agnew
agnew@gwu.edu

Todd Huebner
thuebner@verizon.net

Thomas W. Ort
Thomas.Ort@qc.cuny.edu

The prize-winner will receive an award in the amount of \$200. The prize, as well as an honorable mention citation if awarded, will be formally announced at the 2021 ASEES Convention, during the annual meeting of the Czechoslovak Studies Association.

CSA Book Prize

Please share with authors of eligible books: The Czechoslovak Studies Association is pleased to announce the opening of submissions for the biennial Czechoslovak Studies Association Prize for the Best Book in the Field of Czechoslovak Historical Studies.

****In this cycle we are considering books published in the years 2019 and 2020****

To be eligible for consideration for the 2021 Prize, books must be primarily concerned with the history of Czechoslovakia, its predecessor and successor states, or any of its peoples within and without its historical boundaries. The field of historical studies will be broadly construed, with books in all fields considered for the prize if they are substantially historical in nature. The prize committee will decide whether a book

matches these criteria. Books under consideration must be new works by a single author written originally in the English language with eligibility being the author's membership in the Czechoslovak Studies Association.

****Books for consideration should be submitted in hard copy to the book review committee at the following addresses as soon as possible and not later than 25 June 2021.****

Prof. Mark Cornwall
60 Northlands Road
Southampton
SO152LH
UK

Prof. Cathleen Giustino
1203 Hickory Lane
Auburn, AL 36830
U.S.A.

Prof. James Krapfl
21326 Hwy. 136
Cascade, IA 52033
U.S.A.

New! Emerging Scholar Prize

The Czechoslovak Studies Association will be debuting a new prize Emerging Scholars Essay Prize. This prize will be awarded to the author of a distinguished article, essay, or chapter on a topic related to the history and culture of Czechoslovakia, its predecessor and successor states, and its peoples. Papers that place these topics in a comparative or transnational context are welcome. Submissions should be an essay, journal article, book chapter, or chapter of a recently completed dissertation or master's thesis from 2018, 2019, or 2020 (they may *not* also be submitted for the Pech Prize).

They must be no more than 10,000 words in length inclusive of references/footnotes, and written originally in English. Dissertation or thesis chapters can be edited to meet the maximum word count. Applicants must be current Ph.D. students or have earned a Ph.D. or master's degree in or after 2018.

The submissions should be sent as electronic attachments to the committee members as listed below by June 1, 2021.

Kimberly E. Zarecor (Chair)
Department of Architecture
Iowa State University
zarecor@iastate.edu

Molly Pucci
Department of History
Trinity College Dublin
puccim@tcd.ie

Kieran Williams
Department of Political Science
Drake University
kieran.williams@drake.edu

Please send questions to Kimberly E. Zarecor, zarecor@iastate.edu.



Report on the Twentieth Annual Czech and Slovak Studies Workshop, March 18-21, 2021

Michael J. Kopanic, Jr.,
University of Maryland Global Campus

In 2021, the University of Pittsburgh's Russian and East European Studies Program held its Annual Czech and Slovak Studies Workshop online due to Covid-19 concerns for safety. Co-sponsored by the Czechoslovak Studies Association and the Slovak Studies Association, the conference covered a variety of topics on Czech, Slovak, and Rusyn culture and history. Participants were given twenty minutes for their presentations, followed by twenty minutes of questions and exchanges. The format proved quite effective in stimulating scholarly exchanges.

Following opening remarks by REES Director Nancy Condee and Marcela Micháľková, Director of the Slovak Studies Program, the first sessions discussed the Slovak Language and Dialects. Alexander Maxwell challenged definitions of dialects which Štúr, Šafárik, and their contemporaries used and called on for historians and linguists to examine more closely the meanings which the writer originally intended. Other talks on dialects showed Slovak perceptions of regional dialects and the impact of globalization in changing language. In response, Sonia Rešovská and a team at the University of Prešov is working on a dictionary of Slovak neologisms.

Another group focused on Czech music ranging from Czech Reformation Masses to the difficulties of work during the Normalization censorship after 1968. The day concluded with Michael Walter's

illustrative tour of the history of the University of Pittsburgh's Nationality Rooms.

Friday morning sessions dealt with the Bohemian Habsburg lands. Armin Langer discussed Herz Homberg's role in schools to assimilate Jews after Joseph II's reforms and Marco James looked at how the cult of Franz Joseph attempted to use his position to serve as a symbol of stability and unity. Jana Hunter concluded by demonstrating the tremendous impact of Prague's Rodin Exposition in Prague in 1902, which served to mesh modernism and traditional folk culture.

In the afternoon, I presented a personality sketch of Milan Štefánik, stressing his charisma, Slovak patriotism, and a relentless will to succeed despite many obstacles, including his ongoing gastroenterological ailments. Lucian George followed with a comparison of Agrarian parties in Interwar Poland and Czechoslovakia and the rural rhetoric used in both countries. Jesse Siegel followed with an explanation of the 1931 Sudeten German Art Exhibition in Nuremberg and how Otto Kletzl attempted to promote a Sudeten culture without political affiliation. Finally, Anna Herran discussed the recent depiction in museums of interwar Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. The lighter evening presentations featured Rev. Marek Vinsnovsky's demonstration of how he creates icons, and Donald Warhola, the nephew of Pop Art phenomenon Andy Warhol, offered a close-up picture of his uncle's spiritual and family life.

Saturday's session opened with speech of Pavol Demeš on "Transatlantic Cooperation in Pandemic Times." Demeš provided a European view of the Covid-19 pandemic. During the crisis, internationalist views

disappeared and borders between states became real again. While Slovakia and Czechia handled the crisis effectively in the first phase in the spring of 2020, initial success led to an overconfidence, which resulted from not heeding epidemiologists' warnings about the continual dangers. Thus the countries are both reeling from a disastrous second wave which has pushed public opinion to question their governments' mishandled responses to the pandemic.

Late morning talks covered avant-garde artists and literature, ranging from Jiří Voskovec's and the Russian Mayakovsky's views of America to Karel Teige's ideas on modern art, as well as the skeptical Sub-Carpathian communist writer Andrii Karabales, who incorporated his forests in his poetry. Afternoon presentations continued with theme of contemporary literature and Czech animation. Charles Sabatos looked at Transnational Writing by modern Slovak Women writing abroad in languages of their adopted countries, and made special note of the contribution of Julia Sherwood in promoting translations (<https://www.wordswithoutborders.org>). Marcin Filipowicz summarized some contemporary Czech prose, and Alexandra Shubina concluded showing how Czech Women's Animation has questioned dominant gender norms. The evening concluded with Mirek Konvalina introducing the architect Adolf Loos exhibition at the Czech Center in New York followed by an hour-long swing concert from a room in Plzeň designed by Loos.

Unfortunately, I could not attend the Sunday sessions, as I had to attend the baptism of my new granddaughter. Alena Mikulášová spoke on the wartime Slovak Republic, Lisa Peschel on survivor testimony about life in

the Terezin ghetto, Owen Johnson on the mass media during the communist regime, Joel Fetzer on the impact of religion on anti-corruption efforts in post-1989 Slovakia, and Carol Hochman on youth engagement in Czech culture and philanthropy. Without a doubt, attendees found the Workshop to be most stimulating and we owe a standing ovation to the University of Pittsburgh for hosting these engaging meetings of minds.

An Interview with Marcela Micháľková

Welcome to your no-longer-so-new position leading the Slovak program at University of Pittsburgh! First, could you say a little bit about the program and its history?

The beginnings of the Slovak Studies program are connected with Dr. Verona Chorvátová, who came to the University of Pittsburgh as a Fulbright scholar in the mid 1980s from the the Department of Slovak Literature and Literary Studies at Comenius University in Bratislava.

At about the same time the Slovak Endowment was established with the generous and vital support of the following fraternal organizations in the United States: The First Catholic Slovak Union, the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, the Slovak Catholic Sokol, and the First Slovak Wreath of the American Eagle (which in 1997 joined the National Slovak Society). The Slovak Endowment became the University of Pittsburgh's primary resource to support educational and research missions in the field of Slovak language and culture studies.

In 1990, the Slovak Studies Program acquired its first director, Dr. Martin Votruba, who remained affiliated with the Slovak Studies Program until November, 2018.

The University of Pittsburgh is the only university in the United States and Canada where students can take Slovak language and culture classes and opt to receive a minor in Slovak studies. This program is particularly useful for students majoring in anthropology, political science, and history, many of whom focus their work on Slovakia or Central Europe and see Slovak language and culture as a gateway to the study of the area. Most program applicants are eligible for scholarship funding.

Many of our members knew Dr. Martin Votruba and/or studied with him—how would you describe his legacy for North American Slovak studies, particularly in terms of the program at Pitt?

I wish I had known Martin better. I only met him once, briefly, during one of the Slovak Heritage Festivals when I was invited to give a talk. I remember his excitement when he discovered I was a “highlander,” too. We both came from the High Tatras region and loved our mountains.

As an educator and scholar, Martin specialized in Slovak language, literature, and film, and Slovakia's history. He taught Slovak language at all levels as well as courses on Slovakia and Central Europe. During his appointment, he built a large collection of Slovak films and books. He was a co-founder and a co-organizer of the Slovak Heritage Festival which has been around for thirty years now. Martin assisted in sending many of his students to study Slovak at Studia Academica Slovaca at

Comenius University in Bratislava. He gave scholarly lectures for the general public interested in various aspects of Slovak culture.

And now a bit about your own background?

Back in early 1990s, when the Internet and “electronic mail exchange” were just about to make a massive public debut, I became a student of Slovak and English at a small provincial university in a post-socialist country, and dared to dream big. One day, sitting in a university library and randomly browsing the Internet, AltaVista unexpectedly returned two hits: “Martin Votruba” and “University of Pittsburgh”. I had never heard these two names before, but right then and there I realized that this kind of job - teaching Slovak to adult students in an English-speaking country - would be my dream job. Little did I suspect that a quarter of a century later I would be blessed not only to have this kind of job, but this very job.

My road to the University of Pittsburgh’s Slovak Studies Program began with earning degrees in Linguistics, Teaching Slovak Language and Literature, Teaching English Language and Literature, and Slavic Languages and Cultures from universities in Slovakia, Norway, and the US.

I’ve gradually gained almost twenty years direct experience in teaching three foreign languages and cultures, and English as a Second Language, at four American universities. At the Ohio State University, I worked as the Czech Program coordinator, Russian Individualized Instruction supervisor, and an assistant to the director of Language Programs. I also developed collaborative programming between the OSU Foreign Language Center and the NHL

Columbus Blue Jackets Foundation. At Indiana and John Carroll Universities I taught Slovak. In Slovakia, I worked for four years as an Assistant Professor at the Institute of British and American Studies at Prešov University.

I’ve also served as Slovakia’s Deputy Prime Minister’s National Coordinator of Professional and Language Training in Central State Administration. Prior to my current appointment at Pitt, I was a Chief Communications Strategist for an international humanitarian organization based in Germany.

Given that Dr. Votruba’s death came unexpectedly, what was the situation with the Slovak program when you came aboard? Members of the University community helped maintain the program in the interim months, but all the same it must have been a challenge to arrive when you did, especially given that the University had just agreed to host the annual Workshop for the first time. What were your first priorities when you arrived in Pittsburgh?

I have been devoted to building an exceptional and robust Slovak Studies Program from the very beginning of my appointment. Some of the first questions I asked myself were “What can I bring to Pitt’s Slovak Studies Program? How can my expertise add extra value to my department and the university?”

With the sudden passing of my predecessor, Dr. Martin Votruba, in November 2018, and with major changes in the leadership and administration of Pitt’s Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, I was left with limited resources and guidance regarding the Slovak Studies Program. The Program that I began coordinating in August

2019 required the strengthening, the re-establishment, or the creation of new working relationships with numerous academic and cultural organizations and with the Slovak-American community.

I've gradually reestablished and increased the Slovak Studies Program's visibility and reputation through media, nationally and internationally. Currently, the Program has very close working relationships with academics and professionals in Slovakia and the US, with the representatives of the Slovak-American communities in the US, and with Slovak government officials and diplomats.

One of my major goals was improving the academic quality of the Program and increasing the enrollment. While amid a pandemic the enrollments at US universities and colleges continue to suffer large declines, the Slovak Studies Program exhibits a 40% increase this academic year, not counting Lifelong Learning Institute students.

In 2020, Pitt's Slovak Studies Program and REEES were entrusted to organize the annual Czech and Slovak Studies Workshop, in cooperation with the Slovak Studies Association and the Czechoslovak Studies Association. We brought together scholars from many disciplines all over the world for four days of academic presentations and rich cultural programming. The Workshop had a strong impact on the Slovak Studies Program. It inspired them to do their own research projects and present them at their own Slovak Studies Program conferences.

The uniqueness of the Slovak Studies Program stems from its mutual interdependence with the Slovak-American community in Western Pennsylvania and

Northeast Ohio—the largest Slovak community outside of Slovakia. This special kind of symbiosis has always been very enriching. Since the beginning of my appointment with Pitt, with the help of the Student Slovak Club and community volunteers, the Slovak Studies Program organized two Annual Slovak Heritage Festivals, in 2019 and 2020. We were excited and humbled to see that the estimated attendance in November 2019 was three to four times higher than the attendance of previous Annual Slovak Heritage Festivals. The Slovak Studies Program and its students have also organized an array of other academia-community joint projects, general public talks and events, and extracurricular activities.

Now that you have been in the position for over a year, what are some thoughts about what you hope to continue and what you would like to develop for the future in terms of Slovak Studies at Pittsburgh?

While treasuring the past and traditions, it is essential to continue offering students and community members a transformed image of Slovakia. In the twenty-first century, it is a developed industrial country fully incorporated in European and global structures, speaking the language of democracy and internalizing democratic values.

Young people strive for complex experiences, continuous, deep immersion in the target language, culture and history, and acquisition of skills that will help them to succeed for the rest of their lives. Many wish to travel and get in touch with their roots while having the authentic experience of a lifetime. It is my mission to teach them how to open that door. I will continue

working with the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic, and the Slovak Embassy in the USA. And I will collaborate with Slovak-American fraternal organizations, and professional and cultural organizations in both countries to strengthen the bonds which friendship and history have joined our two nations together.



An Interview with Members of CRAACE and the Editors of the New Journal *Art East Central*

First, can you say a bit about CRAACE to acquaint our members with its history and goals? Naturally we're particularly interested in how it relates to Czechoslovakia and its precursor/successor states, but many of our members also study the region more broadly.

Continuity/Rupture: Art and Architecture in Central Europe 1918-1939 (CRAACE) is a research project funded by the European Research Council and led by Matthew Rampley at Masaryk University, Brno. It is based there since 1 April 2019, having originally started at the University of Birmingham in the UK. The research team consists of the Principal Investigator and three research fellows, and is supported by an advisory committee.

The project emerged out of discussions we had with a number of colleagues in Birmingham about the long afterlife of the Habsburg Empire between the wars. We all agreed on the key role of the memory of Habsburg rule in shaping a shared transnational culture across the former states of the Empire. Much of this is well known – authors such as Joseph Roth, Robert Musil and Stefan Zweig virtually created a literary genre of their own. But this has been less discussed in the visual arts. In the history of art there has been much selective attention on certain themes, such as the architecture of Red Vienna, the Czechoslovak avant-gardes, the avant-garde in exile in interwar Hungary. However, we felt this was often – consciously or unconsciously – linked to wider ideological visions of post-Habsburg history that sought to emphasise the distance from what went before. In fact, shortly after we submitted our application to the ERC Pieter Judson's book on the Habsburg Empire was published stressing how much the history of central Europe after 1918 was shaped by the interests of nationalist historians. We felt that an element of that has also shaped the interests of art historians.

Our project examines the avant-gardes – of course – but it includes practices that were a continuation of ideas from earlier. So we look at the contradictory ways in which artists and architects in Central Europe adapted to the new socio-political circumstances in the light of the past, including, for example, the continuing interest in vernacular cultures and religion. The latter have usually been dismissed as conservative and anti-modern, and while that was undoubtedly so in many cases, the

story was more complicated. We decided to examine how the complex relation to the past was played out not only in the work of individual artists, designers and architects, but also through institutions and events that were a product of state and church patronage. That's why we also are looking at world fairs, for example, or religious pageants.

In order to make our project more manageable, we decided to focus on three states: Austria, Czechoslovakia and Hungary. The logic behind this lay in the fact that of the successor states to the Habsburg Empire, these three were wholly contained within the territories of Austria-Hungary and their historical experience was defined by a significant degree by their relation to the Empire and the legacy of Habsburg rule.

Who are the researchers involved in CRAACE?

The team consists of Dr Marta Filipová, Dr. Julia Secklehner, Dr. Nóra Veszprémi and the PI Prof. Matthew Rampley. Marta Filipová's work until now has focused on nationalism and regionalism in Czech art, design and art criticism, and she is now overseeing the examination of World Fairs and Exhibitionary Cultures. Julia Secklehner previously worked on satirical magazines in interwar Prague and Vienna, as well as on photography in Slovakia. She is responsible for the theme: Vernacular modernisms, nostalgia and the avant-garde. Nóra Veszprémi is a specialist in nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century Hungarian art and museology, and is examining the topic of representations of the historical past in visual culture. Matthew Rampley, having

previously worked with Nóra on a project on the development of museums in Austria-Hungary, is primarily a specialist in Austrian art and architecture. Within the CRAACE project he is examining the role of the Catholic Church and Catholic revivalism in interwar central Europe.

Thanks to the generosity of Masaryk University, the project was been bolstered by the addition of another researcher, Dr Christian Drobe, whose research focuses on interwar painting. He is examining the topics of youth in central European art as an adjunct to the main themes of the project.

What are some ways CRAACE can be a resource for scholars of the region who are not specialists in the history of art, architecture, design, or visual culture?

While we are all trained art historians, our project addresses the wider cultural politics of central Europe, so our research will be of interest not only to art historians. While we all have individual strengths related to individual countries, our project is also transnational one, in which points of similarity and difference between the three states are also explored.

We have a number of scholarly publications already in progress, published or planned, and each theme will lead to a monograph. In addition we set up a project website to share our research with wider audiences. It includes reviews of relevant books and exhibitions as well as articles on topics that relate to the project. Every month we have an "artwork of the month" article online, featuring a specific work of art, design or architecture from the period and region we are studying. We write these in an accessible way for general readers, and the aim of these

articles is always to identify and explore the wider questions and issues that discussion of individual artworks might prompt.

Can you say a bit about the new journal Art East Central? What are its overall goals, how often will it be published, and what prompted you to expand its coverage to a much broader historical period, as well as to expand geographically to include the Baltic states and southerly countries such as Greece?

The journal is not part of the CRAACE project, and has a different scope. That is why it has a much larger geographical and historical range. The rationale was simply that we felt that after the closure of the journal *Centropa* in 2015, there was no real platform for English-language research on the art and architecture of central Europe. For sure, there has been growing international interest in certain aspects of central European art, in particular, contemporary art and architecture as well as that of the period of Socialist rule. But we nevertheless thought there is still room for a new journal and, in particular, one that is available as an open access publication.

We are all too aware of the fact that the very idea of ‘central Europe’ is much contested. We also welcome ongoing discussions of what it might mean and, indeed, of the ideological and other factors that have determined the meanings of the term ‘central Europe’, but we are not trying to advance a particular definition. The mention of Greece in the first issue may have surprised some readers, but it was there precisely to prompt reflection on the meaning of the term. The journal will be published twice yearly in March and September and we welcome

article submissions and reviews throughout the year.

What are some types of article or topics that you might especially like to see submitted to Art East Central? Where do you feel there are gaps in the current scholarship or topics that could use a fresh perspective?

The journal is not limiting itself to a single period, geography or theoretical approach and welcomes a wide variety of submissions on what we broadly define as art of east central Europe over the last two centuries.

It is less a matter of identifying ‘gaps’ per se, although we particularly welcome submissions that challenge established views of central European art and ask often difficult questions about the region’s identity, its minorities or gender issues, for example. However, there are some approaches we do encourage contributors to consider. Specifically, we emphasise the importance of articulating the significance of material, findings and arguments, and to bear in mind that this will be for an international readership. There are many complex reasons why the art and architecture of central Europe still has a relatively marginal place in the larger international literature of art history, but some of the factors can be mitigated. For many scholars outside of central Europe the region can present a forbidding array of cultures and a bewildering array of languages, and this needs to be taken into account if we wish to communicate with scholars much more broadly.

Should potential book reviewers contact you or will you be making the initial contact to reviewers?

Both. We welcome suggestions from reviewers and we will also be approaching experts in relevant subjects with offers to review new publications and exhibitions. Get in touch!

What are your plans for the journal's life after funding for CRAACE concludes?

While some of *Art East Central's* editorial team are represented by the members of the CRAACE team, the journal and the project are conceived as separate projects: CRAACE is scheduled to be completed in autumn 2023, *Art East Central* will continue independently from this.



Calls for Papers

Central Europe Yearbook, an open-access journal for undergraduate students working on Central European topics, provides an opportunity for them to publish their scholarship and work in tandem with professors, independent scholars, graduate students, and other undergraduates. The journal seeks submissions for its Fall 2021 issue. Please encourage students to submit projects and proposals. The Fall 2020 issue features a wide range of articles and digital projects. The Yearbook's online platform provides an outlet for a wide array of scholarly projects. Submissions can include academic articles, GIS maps, interactive resources, games, VLOGs, or any other compelling union of technology and research. More information about the journal

can be found on the journal's website, <https://pubs.lib.umn.edu/index.php/cey/>. If you have any questions, please contact the editors at ceuy@umn.edu.

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library seeks contributors for the Fall 2021 issue of its journal, *Slovo*. The working theme for this is "Great Scholars from our Homelands." Those we have identified are Jan Amos Komenský/Comenius, Ľudovít Štúr, František Palacký, and Tomáš Masaryk; we are open to consider other more contemporary scholars as well. Article length can be between 1500-2000 words. Photos to accompany the articles are welcomed and encouraged. Deadline is Friday, May 7th. Interested parties can contact Jim Miller, Vice President for Development and Marketing, at jmiller@ncsml.org.

Canadian Slavonic Papers welcomes submissions from anyone in the world and from any disciplinary perspective on the Slavic area. Editor James Krapfl is particularly keen to revitalize the book review section, so anyone (including graduate students) who might like to write a review should get in touch with him.

James Krapfl, Editor, *Canadian Slavonic Papers / Revue canadienne des slavistes*
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Photo Essay: An American in Czechoslovakia, 1958

Todd Huebner

My father's first encounter with Czechoslovakia was as a corporal in the 8th Armored Division shortly after VE-Day in 1945. Billeted with a family in the *městečko* of Merklín, some fifteen miles southwest of Plzeň, he found the place to be a haven, where he established enduring friendships and began to recover emotionally from his experiences as a combat infantryman. Indeed, while on leave on the French Riviera that August, he would write home, "I am having a nice time but am getting a bit anxious to



Wayne Huebner (second from right) with friends in Merklín, mid-1945.

get back to Czechoslovakia.”

After his release from the army in 1946, my father stayed in touch with his Czech friends, but it took another twelve years before he and my mother could save enough money for a trip to Europe. And the timing, in the midst of the Cold War, was hardly propitious.

The border crossing at Rozvadov was something of an ordeal. The heavily fortified frontier was intimidating. My parents did not speak Czech, and the

border guards showed no inclination to speak English or German (if indeed they could). A long, anxious wait ensued, as the bureaucracy ground its gears, confronted with a visa that (unbeknownst to my parents) had been erroneously issued for arrival at the Prague-Ruzyně airport. After the travelers finally gained admission to the country, they met no cars on the road to Merklín, only trucks full of soldiers.

My father's friends, however, were delighted to see him and to meet my mother. After some day-trips around western Bohemia, they proposed a tour through the rest of the country, and—armed with a 35mm Praktiflex FX camera, a light meter, and an ample supply of Kodachrome slide film—the party wended its circuitous way east as far as the High Tatras and back again, taking in all the major sights en route. It was, I am credibly assured, a fascinating journey.

Altogether, my parents' visit to Czechoslovakia (the first of many), lasted from 1 to 18 July 1958. The photographs that follow are just a few of those they took.



Dolores and Wayne Huebner at Mariánské Lázně, 3 July 1958.



Renovation work begins in the western Bohemian town of Cheb (German: Eger) after more than a decade of decay post-expulsion. The signs in the bottom picture advise that a drugstore behind the construction site is open, with cosmetics and photographic film for sale.



Traditional Slovak houses somewhere in the Tatra region, with my parents' Mercedes 180D parked outside.



Three young Slovak women, dressed for church on a Sunday morning, somewhere in the Tatra region.



New houses, probably somewhere in western Slovakia.



Street scene in the Silesian city of Havířov, which was planned and built as a mining town between 1946 and 1955.



Street photography at the Prague castle, with the Strahov Monastery in the distance.



Funeral procession in Merklín. Taken on the last day of my parents' visit, the shot unexpectedly presented itself as they were preparing to leave.

Member News

Karl F. Bahm

Publications:

“The Constitution of Personal Identity in Crisis: The Consequences of the 1848 Revolution for Uffo Horn’s ‘National Hermaphroditism’,” *Bohemia: Zeitschrift für Geschichte und Kultur der Böhmisches Länder* Bd. 59, 1 (2019): 77-101.

Muriel Blaive

Publications:

“Codeword ‘Criminal’: Moral Remembrance in National Memory Politics,” CBEES State of the Region Report 2020, Czech Republic: Constructions and Instrumentalization of the Past A Comparative Study on Memory Management in the Region, 106-114. <http://sh.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1523899/FULLTEXT01.pdf>.

Chad Bryant

Publications:

Chad Bryant's *Prague: Belonging and the Modern City* hit real and virtual bookstore shelves in May 2021. (<https://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674048652&content=bios>) Recently, he spoke about topics related to this project at the Modern Jewish Seminar, based in Prague; the “A New Poetics of Space: Literary Walks in Times of Pandemics and Climate Crisis” conference

hosted by the Mid Sweden University; and during a book conversation with Tara Zahra sponsored by the Seminary Co-op Bookstores, in partnership the University of Chicago’s Center for East European and Russian/Eurasian Studies.

Along with Diana Dumitru and fellow CSA member Kateřina Čapková, Bryant is co-authoring a study of the origins and legacies of the Slánský trial. Supported by an American Council of Learned Societies fellowship, the book is under contract with Oxford University Press. (The book comes out on May 4, and the talk with Tara is on May 6.)

Lida Cope

Publications:

Lida Cope and Robert Dittmann, “Language Loss: Czech in the Diaspora.” M. Greenberg and L. Grenoble, eds. *Encyclopedia of Slavic languages and Linguistics* (Leiden, Netherlands, Brill, 2020).
Online: <https://referenceworks.brillonline.com/browse/encyclopedia-of-slavic-languages-and-linguistics-online>

Kateřina Čapková

Publications:

Eliyanna R. Adler and Kateřina Čapková, eds., *Jewish and Romani Families in the Holocaust and its Aftermath* (Rutgers, 2020)
Kateřina Čapková and Hillel Kieval, eds. *Zwischen Prag und Nikolsburg: Jüdisches Leben in den Böhmisches Ländern* (Collegium Carolinum, 2020).

Zdenek V. David

Publications:

Tomáš G. Masaryk, *a Scholar and a Statesman: The Philosophical Background of his Political Views*. (Reno, Nevada: Helena History Press, 2020).

“The Coup d’Etat of 1948 within the Context of the Czech political tradition,” *Comenius: Journal of Euro-American Civilization*, 2020, vol. 7, no. 2, 1-24.

“Jan Patočka as a Critic of Thomas Masaryk and Mentor of Václav Havel,” *Comenius: Journal of Euro-American Civilization*, 2020, vol. 7, no. 1, 9-28.

“Puritans’ and Anglicans’ Views of Hus in Elizabethan England,” *Hus, husitství, tradice, Praha: Od reality k mýtu a zpátky*, Eva Doležalová et al, eds. Prague: Historický ústav AV ČR, 2020, 181-194.

“Religious Contacts with England during the Bohemian Reformation.” *Kosmas: Czechoslovak and Central European Journal*, New Series, Vol. 2, no. 2 (Fall 2019), 1-21. [Published in 2020]

“A Unique Testament of Bohemian Utraquism: Pavel Bydžovský’s 1554 Treatise on the English Martyrs,” *Bohemia: A Journal of History and Civilization in East Central Europe*, vol. 59, no. 2, 2019, 341-361. [Published in 2020]

Anna Hajkova

Publications:

Anna Hájková, *The Last Ghetto: An Everyday History of Theresienstadt* (Oxford, 2020)

Karla Huebner

Publications:

Magnetic Woman: Toyen and the Surrealist Erotic (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2020).

Owen Johnson

Activities:

“‘That’s All We Did for Him’: The Story of Ernie Pyle and His Relationship to Blacks,” presented at the annual convention of the American Journalism Historians Association convention, online, October 2, 2020.

“Media and Nation in 20th Century Slovakia,” research in progress, presented at the annual convention of the American Journalism Historians Association convention, online, October 3, 2020.

“Regaining & Expanding Their Voice: Slovak Mass Media, 1948-1968,” March 21, 2021, Twentieth Annual Czech and Slovak Studies Workshop (online).

Cameo role as “Victorian,” Ernie Pyle Experiment radio series (2020); the series was one of five finalists for a 2021 Audie award (Audio Publishers Association)--these are the “Oscars” for audio programs.

Publications:

At Home with Ernie Pyle (Indianapolis: IBJ, 2020)--2nd printing: original published in 2016 by Indiana University Press.

“Ernie Pyle & Harriett Davidson: Two Red-Headed Travelers,” *Traces of Indiana & Midwestern History* 32:3 (Summer 2020), 46-55.

James Krapfl

Activities:

As of Jan. 1, the editor-in-chief of *Canadian Slavonic Papers*. (See Calls for Papers for details.)

Carol Skalnik Leff

Activities:

Currently working on the engagement of East European politicians with the European Parliament.

Publications:

With Olena Betlii, “The Incoherence of Czech Domestic Politics and Its Foreign Policy Consequences,” in Robin Alison Remington and Robert K. Evanson, ed., *Globalization and Regime Change: Lessons from the New Russia and the New Europe* (Rowman and Littlefield 2019) Chapter 5, 83-102.

With Sabrina Ramet. “Interwar Czechoslovakia—a national state for a multiethnic population.” *Interwar East Central Europe, 1918-1941: The Failure of Democracy-Building, the Fate of Minorities* (London: Routledge, 2020), 75-108.

“Building Democratic Values in the Czech Republic since 1989,” in *Central and Southeast European Politics since 1989*, Revised 2nd edition, Sabrina Ramet and Christine Hassenstab eds. (Cambridge University Press, 2019), 165-190.

“In the Nick of Time: The Politics of European and Transatlantic Integration in Slovakia,” in Robin Alison Remington and Robert K. Evanson, ed., *Globalization and Regime Change: Lessons from the New Russia and the New Europe* (Rowman and Littlefield 2019), Chapter 8, 163-182.

Comments:

In this otherwise dismal year, I think all of us have found a silver lining in the embrace of trans-national zoom workshops, panels and presentations. From my perspective on the executive committee of Slovak Studies Association, I can say that my colleagues and I in Slovak Studies (a number of which like Susan Mikula Christie and Dan Miller are also Czechoslovak Studies Associations members as well we should be!) have benefited significantly from the trans-continental and trans-Atlantic interactions.

Kevin J. McNamara

Review of his book, *Dreams of a Great Small Nation* (New York: Public Affairs):

Emerging Europe (United Kingdom, November 21, 2020): https://emerging-europe.com/after-hours/dreams-of-a-great-small-nation-the-story-of-the-czechoslovak-legion/?fbclid=IwAR2FeiRLo3J9HkL_qtH1-7mYi4V03QcesvpJTW030bfA3Js7CGnphKgX8ts

Book excerpts published in:

Izvestiya Laboratorii Drevnikh Tekhnologii (Reports of the Laboratory of Ancient Technologies), vol. 16, no. 3 (Russian Federation, Fall 2020):

<https://elibrary.ru/item.asp?id=44190032>

Kosmas: Czechoslovak & Central European Journal (Spring 2019):

https://www.svu2000.org/kosmas/ebooks/pdf/Kosmas_Free_NS2019_02-1.pdf

When his book was translated into Czech and Slovak editions this past fall, he was interviewed by CNN Czechia, *Slovenka Magazine*, and Česká Televisie.

Publications:

Academic Questions (March 2019):

<https://rdcu.be/bjNQH>

Thomas Ort

Publications

“An Ordinary Marriage? Czech-German Matrimony in Karel Čapek’s *An Ordinary Life*,” in *Vorstellungen vom Anderen in der tschechisch- und deutschsprachigen Literatur: Imaginationen und Interrelationen*, eds. Petra James and Helga Mitterbauer (Berlin: Frank & Timme, 2021), 87-105.

Conference presentations

“From Memory to Meaning: The 1947 Commemoration of the Heydrich Assassination.” Paper presented at the 52nd Annual Convention, Association for Slavic East European and Eurasia Studies, Washington, DC, November 5-8, 2020.

Fellowship award

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, 2021-22, for the book project, “The Afterlife of a Death: Meaning, Memory, and the Assassination of Reinhard Heydrich.”

James Peterson

Activities:

Presented, with Dr. Pavel Hlaváček of the Metropolitan University Prague, “The Shadow of the 1938 Munich Pact: Its Echoing Impact on the Political Legacies, Perceptions, and Policies of East-Central Europe and America,” at the virtual Security Forum at the University of Matej Bel in Banská Bystrica, Slovakia.



New Members

Julian Adoff is a PhD Student in Art History at the University of Illinois at Chicago. His research focuses on the history of graphic design, cultural theory, and visual/design culture, with specific interest in how art functioned within the history of nationalism in Central Europe at the end of the Age of Empires. Julian currently chairs the College Art Association's Students and Emerging Professionals Committee.

Rachel Appelbaum is an Assistant Professor of Modern Russia and Eastern Europe in the Department of History at Tufts University. She received a First Book Subvention Award from ASEEES in 2018 to support the publication of her recent book *Empire of Friends: Soviet Power and Socialist Internationalism in Cold War Czechoslovakia* (Cornell University Press, 2019).

Marta Filipová is currently a Research Associate at the Department of Art History, Masaryk University, Brno. Her research focuses on identity construction in the visual arts of modern Central Europe and the relationship between the global and local in art and design. As a member of the CRAACE team (see article on CRAACE, above), she is responsible for the theme Presenting the state: world fairs and exhibitionary cultures. She recently published *Modernity, History, and Politics in Czech Art* (Routledge, 2019).

Michael D. Gordin is Rosengarten Professor of Modern and Contemporary History and Director of the Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts at Princeton University. He specializes in the history of the modern physical sciences and Russian, European, and American history. His most recent book, *Einstein in Bohemia* (Princeton, 2020), follows the intertwined paths of Albert Einstein and the city of Prague (where Einstein taught 1911-1912) across the twentieth century.

Mary Heimann is Professor of Modern History at Cardiff University. Her research has investigated English Catholicism, Czechoslovakia, and Cold War Communist-Catholic relations in Eastern Europe. Her book *Czechoslovakia: The State That Failed* (Yale, 2011) recently appeared in translation as *Ceskoslovensko stát který zklamal* (Petrkov, 2020).

Libora Oates-Indruchová is currently a Professor of Sociology of Gender in the Department of Sociology, University of Graz, with research interests that include cultural representations of gender, gender and social change, censorship and narrative

research. She particularly writes on late state-socialist Czech cultural issues, and her work has appeared in *Signs, Slavic Review, Europe-Asia Studies, Men & Masculinities, Aspasia, Sociologický časopis*, and elsewhere. With Hana Havelková, she co-edited *The Politics of Gender Culture under State Socialism: An Expropriated Voice* (Bloomsbury, 2015), and her new book *Censorship in Czech and Hungarian Academic Publishing, 1969-89* will appear later this year.

Jesse Siegel is a PhD student in Modern European History at Rutgers, with a minor field in Global Comparative Studies. His current research examines Czechoslovak German businessmen 1918-1948 and how they navigated economic and political rupture in the European market.

Tanya Silverman is a graduate student at the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Michigan, specializing in Czech cultural history and film. She presented a paper on Karel Teige's collages at the 2021 Czech and Slovak Studies Workshop.

Veronika Tuckerová teaches in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at Harvard University. Her research focuses on Franz Kafka and Prague German Literature, bilingualism, samizdat, and translation. She edited and co-translated an anthology of the poet Ivan Blatný (2007); among her translations from German to Czech is Gershom Scholem's memoir, *From Berlin to Jerusalem*. She is a regular contributor to the Prague-based art and literary journal *Revolver Revue* and to the New York-based journal, *Slavic and East European Performance*.

CZECHOSLOVAK STUDIES ASSOCIATION
Financial Statement
For the Period 6 November 2019 to 15 November 2020
BALANCES
15 November 2020

Cash Balances in:

Operating Fund (includes Book Prize Funds)	\$17,024.55
Pech Fund	\$ 4,872.96

OPERATING FUND

Opening cash balance	\$ 17,332.44
Receipts for the period	<u>\$ 195.18</u>
	\$ 17,527.62
Disbursements for the period	- \$ <u>503.07</u>
Closing cash balance	\$ 17,024.55

RECEIPTS FOR THE PERIOD

Dues	\$ 100.00
Interest + misc. contributions	<u>\$ 95.18</u>
TOTAL	\$ 195.18

EXPENDITURES AND TRANSFERS FOR THE PERIOD

Czech Studies Workshop (Univ. of Pittsburgh)	\$ 500.00
Paypal fees	<u>\$ 3.07</u>
TOTAL	\$ 503.07

STANLEY Z. PECH PRIZE FUND

Opening cash balance	\$4,870.18
Contributions	\$ 0
Interest	+ <u>\$ 2.78</u>
TOTAL	\$4,872.96

CZECHOSLOVAK STUDIES ASSOCIATION

DUES REMITTANCE, 2021

Dear CSA Member:

Your 2021 dues are now payable. Please complete the form below and return it by email or postal mail along with your dues by 31 March 2021. Persons who do not pay dues will have their names dropped from the *Newsletter* mailing list and will not receive the fall 2021 issue. Nonpayment of dues for two consecutive years will result in loss of membership.

The Czechoslovak Studies Association is eager to increase its membership. If you know persons who might qualify for membership in the Association, please list those persons' names and addresses or affiliations in the space provided on the back of this form. Thank you.

NAME (Please print) _____

(Preferred Mailing Address)

(Firm or Institution)

(Phone Number)

(E-Mail)

_____	Salary over US\$25,000 annually (US\$15.00)	_____	Retired (US\$8.00)
_____	Salary under US\$25,000 annually (US\$10.00)	_____	Student (US\$5.00)
_____	Stanley Z. Pech Prize Fund Contribution		
_____	CSA Book Prize Contribution		
_____	CSA Sustaining Contribution		
_____	Overseas Air Mail for <i>Newsletter</i> (US\$4.00)		
_____	Overseas 10% discounted multi-year membership (includes air mail of <i>Newsletter</i>): 5 years at US\$85.50 10 years at US\$171.00		
_____	Total enclosed		

Please indicate how you are paying your dues (circle one):

1. by check payable to the Czechoslovak Studies Association. (Checks must be written in US dollars and drawn from a US bank.)
2. by PayPal using the following email: **czechoslovaksa@gmail.com**

MULTIPLE YEAR PAYMENTS ARE ACCEPTED.

See back →

Potential member(s) and address(es):

(Please Print)

Please send this form and your payment by 31 March 2021 to:

Thomas Ort, Acting Secretary-Treasurer
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Long Island City, NY 11101
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thomas.ort@qc.cuny.edu