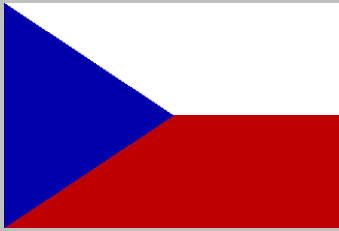


**CZECHOSLOVAK
STUDIES
ASSOCIATION**

**Newsletter of the Czechoslovak Studies
Association**

Volume 40 ▪ No. 2 ▪ FALL 2017



**The Annual Meeting of the Czechoslovak Studies
Association will take place on *Saturday, November 11*,
from 12:00 to 1:30 pm at the Marriott Downton Chicago.**



Also in this issue:

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Upcoming Conferences and Publications (CFPs)

News of the Membership

New Member Molly Pucci

William E. Wright, 1926-2017

Barbara Jelavich Book Prize to a CSA Member!

Czech and Slovak Traces in Chicago



SEE YOU IN CHICAGO!

**Kimberly Elman
Zarecor
President**

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Vice President**

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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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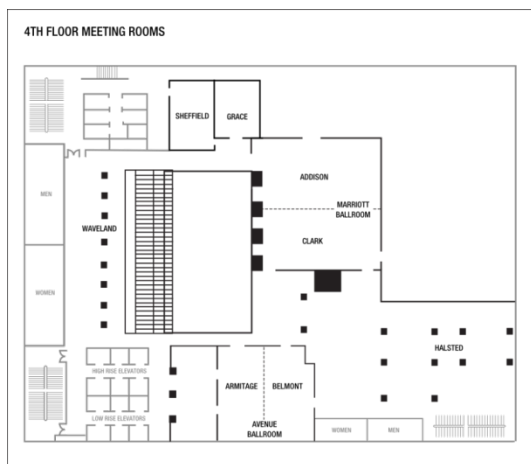
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Czechoslovak Studies Association General Meeting in Chicago

As usual the Czechoslovak Studies Association will hold its annual general meeting during the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies conference in Chicago. Minutes of the last meeting were distributed via the *Newsletter* in the Spring, 2017 issues, and some copies will be available at the meeting. The full agenda will be distributed at the meeting.

This year's meeting will take place from 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm on *Saturday, November 11*, on the fourth floor of the Marriott Downtown Chicago Hotel in the Grace meeting room. Come commemorate the 99th anniversary of the Armistice!



University of Illinois Announces Summer Research and Open Research Laboratory Opportunities

The Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has announced their Summer Research Laboratory along with the

beginning of a new program for research work conducted during other times of the year.

For over forty years, the Summer Research Laboratory at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has provided scholars from around the world with the opportunity to work in the Library's famous collections in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies.

REEEC will be holding the Summer Research Laboratory again this coming year, from June 11 to August 3, 2018. In addition, they are piloting a new program for scholars interested in visiting the campus during the academic year, from November 2017 to May 2018, called the Open Research Laboratory.

They are accepting applications for the Open Research Laboratory starting immediately. (Applications for the Summer Research Laboratory will open on December 2017.)

Both the Open Research Lab and the Summer Research Lab offer scholars the following opportunities:

- Full access to the Library and its physical and electronic collections.
- One on one research consultations with the experienced bibliographers of their Slavic Reference Service.
- Access to scholarly programming and discussion groups on the UIUC campus throughout their stay, to help them meet other scholars and learn about new research in progress.

Graduate students, academics, independent scholars, librarians, and government employees are encouraged to apply.

The Open Research Laboratory

The ORL is aimed at scholars who wish to visit Illinois any time between November 2017 and May 15, 2018. Applications are now being accepted on a rolling basis. Priority consideration for Spring 2018 will be given to applications received by January 15, 2018

For more information about what the Open Research Laboratory program offers, financial support, etc., please visit the website at: <https://reeec.illinois.edu/programming-and-events/open-research-laboratory/>.

The SRL is open to all scholars with research interests in Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies for eight weeks this coming summer, from June 11 until August 3, 2018. Each year, during the SRL, the REEEC hosts research workshops and training sessions that may be of interest to visitors.

Applications will open on December 2017, with the deadline for grant funding being March 15, 2018. REEEC will continue to accept applications for the Summer Research Lab after the grant deadline, but they will be at a lower priority for housing and travel funds.

For further information, please see: <https://reeec.illinois.edu/programming-and-events/summer-research-laboratory/>

Upcoming Publication and Conference Opportunities (CFPs)

*10th CEE Forum – Call for Papers:
Constitutional Identity and Social Memories
in Central and Eastern Europe*

Timișoara, Romania, April 2018

Almost every constitution in Central and Eastern Europe contains the general

characteristics of the community that has given itself a constitutional act. These characteristics are most often based on a national or civic approach to the notion of community, the appeal to the belief in God or the remembrance of the fight for independence and the suffering caused by the 20th-century totalitarianism. However, a certain amount of time always passes between the act of establishing a constitution and its future uses. The community faces new challenges and gains new experiences. Therefore, the real subject of the constitution is always already changing. In this context, should the constitution be read traditionally as a narrative about what it is and where the constitutional order came from or should it be read in a more prospective manner, which would aspire to explain what kind of society the community guided by that particular constitution wants to become? Does CEE constitutions' language prefer one perspective to the other?

Another interesting point regarding the subject matter of constitutional identity is the constant dialogue between the national constitutional courts of the European Union Member States, on the one hand, and the European Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights, on the other hand. What are the most recent developments in this regard? Nowadays, the notions of constitutional identity and collective memory appear to be frequently resorted to in order to justify “illiberal” attitudes. How does EU respond to this phenomenon?

From a comparative perspective, one may wonder what it is that CEE countries share in terms of constitutional identity? But what does separate them from each other? Is

constitutional identity just an empty narrative or is it embedded into a given society, its political decisions and everyday life? If a constitution is culturally entrenched, does its interpretation in the course of (constitutional) adjudication allow for the use of foreign sources? From an empirical standpoint, to what extent are CEE countries employing foreign law in order to deal with questions of national constitutionalism?

What are to be considered strictly legal expressions of constitutional identity? Is it possible to find some deep structure of constitutional identity from a *longue durée* point of view? What is the relationship between the constitution and collective memories? In what ways does the storytelling of traumas from the communist past contribute to shaping our present-day constitutional consciousness?

Those are the main questions that we would like to examine during the 10th Central and Eastern European Forum of Young Legal, Political and Social Theorists, to be held in Timișoara, Romania, in April 2018. We seek to encourage scholars from a wide range of disciplinary fields to reflect on the meaning of constitutional but also national identity. In the specific context of the CEE region, scholars' interrogations should take into consideration how social memories of actually existing socialism inform current debates in the realm of constitutionalism.

We invite contributions exploring the following questions from a theoretical perspective: the relationship between constitutional identity and specific political institutions; the political dimension of constitutional identity; the notion of the

constitutional "people"; social mechanisms of selection of memories; legal regulations of collective memories; collective memories in constitutional adjudication; social frames of collective memories; conflicts between collective memories; constitution and religion in Central and Eastern Europe; the impact of World War II and the communist period on constitutional and national identities; the role of national identity in nationality laws (for instance, the cases of Latvia and Estonia, where Russian residents did not become automatically nationals of the new republics); trends in the role of national identity in CEE constitutional laws; the question of a regional, supranational CEE identity (as opposed to Western and Eastern Europe); the concept of national unity in the constitutional order; the contribution of non-judicial actors in shaping constitutional identity; the place of comparative constitutional law in the legal scholarship of CEE countries;- constitutional transplants; the place of law and literature scholarship dealing with the question of social memory in the legal research of CEE countries; economic doctrines inscribed in the constitutional texts of CEE countries.

In addition to the above topics, there will also be a General Panel for theoretically focused papers on legal, social and political issues.

We invite legal, political and social theorists, philosophers, linguists, literary critics, historians or economists to contribute to this academic event. Participants are more than welcome to embrace as wide a range of methodologies as possible.

Submissions:

Abstracts of 300-500 words should be submitted by *January 15, 2018*.

We will inform about acceptance of papers by 20 February 2018.

Applications should be submitted at: https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=10th-cee-forum_cism.

The conference fee is 60 euros. We regret that we are not able to offer any scholarships to participants. Successful applicants shall be informed by e-mail about the necessary details regarding the payment.

Organizing committee: Dr. Alexandra Mercescu (alexandra.mercescu@e-uvt.ro), Karolina Kocemba (karolinaakocemba@gmail.com), Dr. Andreea Verțeș-Olteanu (andreea.vertes@e-uvt.ro), Dr. Lucian Bojin (lucian.bojin@e-uvt.ro)

Call for Papers: Imperial Cities: The Tsarist Empire, the Habsburg Empire and the Ottoman Empire in Comparison

by Eszter Gantner

German Historical Institute, Moscow, April 26-27, 2018

VOH (Verband der Osteuropa-historikerinnen und -historiker e.V. Association of Historians on East Central Europe); DGO (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Osteuropakunde e.V. / German Association for East European Studies; DHI Moskau (Deutsches Historisches Institut Moskau / German Historical Institute, Moscow); Herder-Institut für historische Ostmitteleuropa-forschung – Institut der Leibniz-Gemeinschaft / Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe – Institute of the Leibniz Association; Universität Wien, Institut für Osteuropäische Geschichte / University of Vienna, Institute

for Eastern European History call for papers for the following international conference:

Urban history research has recently experienced increasing interest in “imperial” questions. One expression that is used over and over again is the “imperial city”. While this term has so far primarily been applied to the European metropolises of the western colonial empires, this conference aims to analyze the phenomenon of the imperial city in the context of the continental empires of Eastern Europe, such as the Habsburg Monarchy, the Ottoman Empire and the Russian Empire. Since these empires do not draw a clear distinction between “colony” and “motherland”, we suggest therefore that “imperial cities” can be understood as particular cities where empire manifests itself, which are also marked by the imperial form of the state. Regarding the empires of Eastern Europe, this includes not only the metropolises of Vienna, Budapest, Istanbul or St. Petersburg, but also such multiethnic provincial cities as L’viv, Kazan or Sarajevo, border cities like Brody, Tiraspol or Belgrade, port cities such as İzmir, Trieste or Odessa, and many more. Therefore, this conference will seek to determine how fruitful it is to call cities imperial in the context of the continental empires of Eastern Europe. What is specific about “imperial cities” in Eastern Europe? How can questions of imperial history expand our understanding of these cities? And finally, how instructive is it to explore these empires in the light of urban history?

Since we assume that imperial structures also shape cities in the long term, this conference approaches the phenomenon of imperial cities from the eighteenth to the twenty-first

centuries based on the following three, interwoven aspects:

Cityscape: Imperial cities claim to represent the empire vis-à-vis both their own inhabitants and foreign powers, and to provide space for different population groups. To what extent does the given city meet this claim? How do areas of ethnic, religious and social entanglement relate to areas of segregation in the city?

Imperial modernization: Capital and industry accumulate in imperial cities, which thus stage themselves as sites of social and technological progress. Aiming to embody the civilizing power of the empire, they initiate civilizing campaigns on its peripheries, but at the same time they are themselves objects of modernizing interventions. How do such endeavors manifest themselves in cities, and how successful are they?

Afterlife of empire: The imperial imprint of the city often outlives the demise of the empire. Typically, “Habsburg”, “Ottoman” or “Soviet” buildings and quarters still shape the appearance of the city. How does the city deal with this specific heritage? Are “imperial” buildings, streets or quarters torn down and overbuilt, are they preserved and transformed as tourist sites, or do the new rulers strive to politically re-code the imperial remains?

We welcome proposals for case studies on cities of the different empires, of different centuries, and with different thematic focal points. Proposals with cross-empire references are especially welcome, whether these are comparisons or analyses of transfers.

The conference language is English. We expect to be able to cover travel and

accommodation expenses. We plan to publish the revised conference papers.

Please send your abstract (max. 500 words) and a short CV by *November 17, 2017* to eszter.gantner@herder-institut.-de, or ulrich.hofmeister@univie.ac.at

*Call for Papers: International Conference -
Thinking Sex after The Great War*

Deadline December 15, 2017 (Conference October 17-18, 2018, Brussels)

Over the last few decades, the multifaceted relations between gender and the First World War have been explored in various historical studies. Historians have analyzed the role of gender in the run-up to the outbreak of the war and in the war propaganda, they have depicted the gendered experience of the war by soldiers and civilians, and probed the ways in which the war challenged and blurred existing gender roles. Yet they have also described how the war in the end often seemed to reinforce gender stereotypes. Throughout this rich literature, the question of the impact of the war on gender relations often resurfaces, although most scholars seem to agree that a definitive and general answer on the ‘net result’ of the war in terms of increasing or decreasing equality, is hard to reach and probably beside the point.

The organizers of this conference invite historians to reflect on the impact of the Great War on gender from the specific angle of learned discourses. Intellectuals, philosophers, social scientists, physiologists, psychologists and scientists witnessed and experienced the war personally. Some of them were integrated in the military war machine (either as

‘common’ soldiers, officers or experts) and were relocated, while others stayed at home and continued their jobs, or registered themselves as ‘conscientious objectors’ and explicitly opposed the war. Like other citizens, they lost family members and friends, experienced love and desire, excitement and disillusionment, enthusiasm and indignation. These experiences inevitably impacted upon their view of society, human nature and the role of the sexes and sexuality. The conference will focus on the trajectories and experiences of intellectuals before, during and after the war, and how the war reinforced, challenged or changed research agendas, paradigms and knowledge about gender and sexuality.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- the links between sexuality, aggression and gender in post-war psychology, psychiatry, sexology, sociology;
- the exchange between military and civilian medical care, and the consequences for the interwar medical views on sex;
- the significance of the war for theories on the instinctual life of men and women;
- the influence of personal and intimate encounters of middle class intellectuals and working class men and women in the military (soldiers, nurses...);
- the impact of the presence of colonial troops in Europe and the resulting interracial sexual/romantic relationships, miscegenation etc.;
- female intellectuals and the experience of the patriotic/nationalistic wave cutting through the transnational feminist movement;

- the effects of travelling and dislocation (including experiences in the Ottoman Empire, the Middle-East...) on intellectual discourses on gender and sexuality.

Abstracts of papers (20 minutes) should contain no more than 400 words and should be sent, with a one-page cv, by email to henk.desmaele@uantwerpen.be. The conference language will be English but contributions in French are welcome if accompanied by a powerpoint in English.

Abstract deadline: *December 15, 2017*

Notification of acceptance: February 2018

The organizers will be able to cover travel and accommodation costs of a limited number of participants.

A selection of papers will be published afterwards in an edited volume or special issue of a journal.

Organizing committee:

Henk de Smaele (University of Antwerp)

Cécile Vanderpelen (Université Libre de Bruxelles)

Gita Deneckere (Ghent University)

Amandine Lauro (Université Libre de Bruxelles/FNRS)

Laurence Van Ypersele (UCL)

Florent Verfaille (Cegesoma/State Archives of Belgium)

Kaat Wils (KU Leuven)

The call is also available as a pdf and on www.avg-carhif.be (Archive and Research Centre for Women's History).

Please contact avg.carhif@amazone.be for further information.

*Prize: 2019 Leo Baeck Institute Year Book
Essay Prize in German-Jewish Studies*

by Almut Becker

The Leo Baeck Institute for the Study of the History and Culture of German-speaking Jewry is delighted to announce its 2019 Year Book Essay Prize. The Leo Baeck Institute Year Book is a fully refereed Oxford journal and covers cultural, social, and economic history. A leading journal in the field, the Year Book has appeared annually since 1956.

The Leo Baeck Institute Year Book Essay Prize was established to

- Stimulate new research on the history and culture of German-speaking Jewry
- Promote young researchers in the field

The essay can be on any topic on the history and culture of German-speaking Central European Jewry from early modern times through to the present.

The prize

The winner will receive:

- Publication of the winning essay in the 2019 volume of the *Leo Baeck Institute Year Book*
- A cash prize of £500
- A free year's print and online subscription to the *Leo Baeck Institute Year Book*

How to enter

Entries of 5-8,000 words should be submitted through our online submission system. Please refer to http://www.oxfordjournals.org/our_journals/lbaeck/for_authors for instructions on how to prepare and submit your manuscript. All entries will be peer reviewed

anonymously. The winner will be selected from all entries recommended for publication by our peer reviewers.

The closing date is *February 1, 2018*.

Competition rules

The competition is open to recent PhDs and Postdocs who have received their PhD no more than 5 years ago. The entry must not be under consideration for publication elsewhere.

See http://www.oxfordjournals.org/our_journals/lbaeck/prize_submissions.html for the full competition rules.

*Call for Seminar Proposals - German Studies
Association - Sept. 27-30, 2018 (Pittsburgh,
PA)*

by Faye Stewart

The 42nd German Studies Association (GSA) Conference in Pittsburgh, PA (September 27-30, 2018) will continue to host a series of seminars in addition to conference sessions and roundtables.

Seminars meet for all three days of the conference. They explore new avenues of academic exchange and foster extended discussion, rigorous intellectual debate, and intensified networking. Seminars are typically proposed and led by two to three conveners and they consist of 12 to 20 participants, including scholars from different disciplines and at different career stages. Seminars may enable extended discussion of a recent academic publication; the exploration of a promising new research topic; engagement with pre-circulated papers; an opportunity to debate the work of scholars with different

approaches; the coming together of groups of scholars seeking to develop an anthology; or the in-depth discussion of a political or public policy issue, novel, film, poem, artwork, or musical piece.

In order to facilitate extended discussion, seminar conveners and participants should participate in all three seminar meetings. Please note that seminar conveners and seminar applicants who have been accepted for seminar participation will not be allowed to submit a paper in a regular panel session. However, they may take on one additional role in the conference as moderator or commentator on another session independent of their enrollment in a seminar, or they may participate in a roundtable.

Although we accept proposals from conveners who have directed a seminar during the past two consecutive years, we give preference to newcomers and thus encourage the rotation of seminar conveners in similarly-themed seminars. We further recommend that those conveners contact the coordinators of the Interdisciplinary Network Committee, Professors Pamela Potter (pmpotter@wisc.edu) and Winson Chu (wchu@uwm.edu), to establish an official GSA Network on their topic.

The application process has two steps. Initially, we invite you to submit a preliminary proposal that includes the following items:

- Title
- Names of conveners
- A 150-word description of the seminar's subject (which will eventually be used in the call for

participants, the printed program, and the online program/mobile app)

- A 50-word description of the format of the seminar (which will also appear in the call for participants, etc.)

These items are due by **November 13, 2017**. Please submit your application online at <https://www.xcdsystem.com/gsa>. Your username and password are the same ones you use to log in to your GSA profile at <https://thegsa.org/members/profile>.

Please note that you must be a current member of the GSA to submit a proposal. If you need your password reset, please contact Ms. Ursula Gray (UG@press.jhu.edu) at Johns Hopkins University Press. If technical questions or problems arise with the submission interface itself, please contact Elizabeth Fulton at techsupport@thegsa.org.

At this point, the GSA Seminar Committee will provide suggestions and assistance for the final submission, which is due by December 13, 2017. The committee will then review seminar proposals, and post a list of approved seminars and their topics on the GSA website by early January 2018.

The GSA Seminar Committee consists of:

- Margaret Eleanor Menninger (Texas State University) mm48@txstate.edu (Chair)
- Maria Mitchell (Franklin & Marshall College) maria.mitchell@fandm.edu
- Faye Stewart (Georgia State University) fayestewart@gsu.edu

Please direct all inquiries to all three of us.

News of the Membership

Gary B. Cohen

Publications:

A Czech translation of Gary's 2013 Kann Memorial Lecture has been published as "Překračování kulturních hranic v Praze roku 1900: Obrázky z pozdně imperiálního Rakouska," *Marginalia Historica* (Prague), ročník 2016, č. 1: 55-100. He has also published a review essay on Pieter M. Judson's *The Habsburg Empire: A New History*, in *Central European History* 50, no. 2 (June 2017): 239-244, 253-254; and a book chapter, "Education and the Politics of Jewish Integration," in *The Cambridge History of Judaism, vol. VIII: The Modern World, 1815-2000*, ed. Mitchell B. Hart and Tony Michels (Cambridge, UK, and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2017), pp. 477-504.

Presentations:

On June 30, 2017, Gary presented a paper, "Democratic Development in the Habsburg Monarchy," at the conference, "1867 and the Formation of Austria-Hungary: Political Culture and Democratic Traditions in Central Europe," sponsored by the Masaryk Institute and the Czech Academy of Sciences in Liblice, Czech Republic, June 29, 2017.

Milan Hauner

Publications:

Book review of Vojtěch Kyncl: *Lidice - Zrození symbolu*, Academia, Praha 2015, in *Dějiny a současnost*, no. 4, (April, 2017).

Hitler - den po dni (Day by Day), Prague: Touzimsky & Moravec, 2017. With over 600 illustrations compiled by Jaroslav Cvancara.

Michael Kopanic

News:

Michael is on the Board of Directors of the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International and attended their 16th Genealogical and Cultural Conference in Pittsburgh in October. (He promises to write a summary of the conference proceedings of interest to CSA members for the next newsletter).

Presentations:

He presented two papers at the Pittsburgh conference, "Traditional Slovak Autumn Customs in Slovakia," and "Crash Course in the Slovak Language," CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society International Conference, Pittsburgh, October 19-20, 2017.

He also presented to the Slovak American Society of Washington on "Žatva and Dožinky The Slovak Harvest and Harvest Festivals," October 1, 2017.

Ellen L. Paul

Presentation:

"Imagining a Separate Slovakia: Anti-Communist Slovak Exiles' Hopes and Dreams," American Historical Association Annual Conference, via affiliate Polish American Historical Association, Denver, CO, January 7, 2017.

James Walter Peterson

Publications:

His book, *Russian-American Relations in the Post-Cold War World* came out in August, 2017, with Manchester University Press.

M. Mark Stolarik

Publications:

Mark announces that the 2017 edition of the scholarly annual *Slovakia* (Vol. 43, Nos. 80-81) has recently come off the press. It features the following articles: "More Slovaks in the U.S. than Czechs? Who says? When and Where," by Kenneth Janda; "A Survey of Slovak Communities of the Byzantine Rite in Canada before they Received their own Bishopric," by Daniel Cerny; "The Slovak Army on the Eastern Front During World War II," by Jan Rychlik; "Kicked Out: Czechoslovakia's Postwar Policy Toward Ethnic Minorities and Its Unintended Outcomes," by Marty Manor Mullins; "Invoking the Nation, Strengthening Devotion: National Discourse at the Slovak National Pilgrimage," by Alexander Bielicki; and "Siberia: A Slovak Folk Tale," by R. Vladimir Baumgarten. Book reviews by Keith P. Dyrud, Gregory C. Ference, Juraj Hocman, Jan Lanicek and Mark Stolarik follow.

The editor of *Slovakia* is seeking manuscripts for the next edition. If you have a suitable article for publication, please send it electronically to: M. Mark Stolarik, Editor, *Slovakia*, 22 Bren-Maur Road, Ottawa, ON K2J 3Z7. E-mail: stolarik@uottawa.ca

Welcome New Member!

The CSA welcomes on board **Molly Pucci**, currently an Assistant Professor of Twentieth Century European History at Trinity College, Dublin, Eire. Molly earned her PhD at Stanford, where she wrote a dissertation on the shaping of the secret police in communist Eastern Europe from 1944 to 1953. She won

the Radomír Luža Prize in Central European History. Her current areas of research interest include the history of communism in Czechoslovakia and the history of intelligence and security forces. She can be reached at the email address: puccim@tcd

Jelavich Book Prize Awarded to CSA Member Jakub Beneš

The **Barbara Jelavich Book Prize** for a distinguished monograph published on any aspect of Southeast European or Habsburg studies since 1600, or nineteenth- and twentieth-century Ottoman or Russian diplomatic history, has been awarded to CSA member **Jakub S. Beneš**, for his study *Workers and Nationalism: Czech and German Social Democracy in Habsburg Austria, 1890-1918* (Oxford University Press).

Congratulations to Jakub!

William E. Wright, 1926-2017

William E. Wright, founder of the Center for Austrian Studies at the University of Minnesota and a professor at that institution for nearly 40 years, passed away on February 24, 2017, at the age of 90. William was born on November 5, 1926 in Fairfield, AL to Cecil and Myrtle Wright. Raised in Van Nuys, CA, he graduated from Van Nuys High School and then went on to serve in the US Army during World War II. William then attended the University of Colorado, Boulder where he completed his undergrad and PhD degrees in History. While living in Boulder, he met his wife Norma, and they were married in 1950. They moved to Minnesota in 1957.

An esteemed scholar, he was highly respected by friends, family and colleagues around the globe. Anyone dealing with Habsburg history touching the eighteenth century, especially the era of Maria Theresa and Joseph II, must be acquainted with his *Serf, Seigneur, and Sovereign: Agrarian Reform in Eighteenth-Century Bohemia* (1966). Among his other works touching on the history of landlord-peasant relations is his article “Neo-Serfdom in Bohemia,” published in *Slavic Review*, 34/2 (June, 1975).

He and his wife Norma loved to travel and spent repeated residencies in Austria. With so many years of travelling the world, along with his passion for politics, photography, and the continued quest for knowledge, William was an abundant source of information; his personal story was just as compelling and intriguing as any book in his extensive library. His love, kindness, generosity and physical presence will be greatly missed. (Adapted from the obituary in the *Star-Tribune*).

Czech and Slovak Traces in Chicago

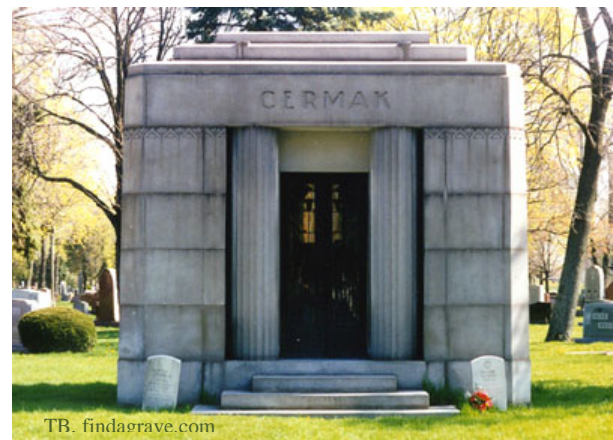
This year’s ASEES convention is held once again in the “Windy City,” still reveling in its World Series Championship from last year and mourning the early exit of the Cubbies from this year’s World Series. But it is also among the top US metropolitan areas that can boast a significant Czech and Slovak heritage, which makes it particularly fitting for the convention this year.

By the last quarter of the nineteenth century, Chicago was drawing increasing numbers of immigrants from Central and Eastern Europe, among them many Czechs and Slovaks.

Traces of their presence that can still be visited in Chicago include the Bohemian National Cemetery (on Chicago’s north side). It was established in 1877 by more than 20 Czech fraternal, savings and loan, freethinker, and other associations as a “free national cemetery, where any Czech could be buried without regard to religion.” (Website of the Friends of the Bohemian National Cemetery). Now open to persons regardless of religion or descent, it was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2006.



Among the many sculptures, tombs, and statues in the cemetery are two by Albin Polásek. One famous Chicago figure whose mausoleum is here is Mayor Anton “Tony” Cermak, who died in 1933 from wounds received during an assassination attempt on President Franklin D. Roosevelt.



1933 was of course the year of the Chicago World's Fair, and the fledgling republic of Czechoslovakia was well represented there. Unlike earlier fairs (including the 1893 exposition in Chicago) the organizers decided to emphasize the modern technologies and look forward to a future—heartening entertainment in a country still suffering from the Great Depression. The Czechoslovak pavilion, designed by Kamil Roškot, fulfilled these goals with its vast spaces and wide glass surfaces.



Specifically Slovak roots may still be traced in the Chicago community, too. For example, the Roman Catholic church and community center of St. Simon the Apostle in the Gage Park area describes itself as “a parish of immigrants and their descendants; a refuge for faith-filled people working hard to succeed in America. We are proud of our Slovak heritage and continue to promote it as the home church of Chicago Slovaks. We have proudly reclaimed our identity as an immigrant parish welcoming a whole new wave of immigrants from Mexico, the rest of Latin America, Slovakia, and Poland.” Sunday masses are held in English, Slovak, and Spanish. (www.stsimontheapostle.com)



Their co-nationals of the Evangelical faith are represented by Trinity Slovak Lutheran church (ELCA) on N. Lacrosse Ave., established in 1893 to serve the needs of the Slovak immigrant community. After moving several times it began services in its current building on the north side, not far from the Bohemian National Cemetery, in 1950. Sunday services are held in Slovak and English.

Another long-standing organization founded by Czech immigrants is the Bohemian Lawyers' Association of Chicago (BLAC), established in 1911. It was very active up to the years of World War I, but then had its ups and downs, though it always continued to exist and became more active again in the late 'twenties. It had as members many well-known figures in the Chicago Czech-American community including the father of Illinois governor Otto Kerner, also named Otto. After the Velvet Revolution its activities

were revitalized by the creation of an exchange program between the John Marshall Law School (initiative of Professor Michael Seng), which brought law students from the Faculty of Law of the Masaryk University in Brno to Chicago to study at JMLS. Following that success and with the financial support of the memberships, the BLAC established scholarships for students of Czech, Moravia, Silesian, Slovak, or Ruthenian background and has disbursed some \$150,000 to 77 students. The BLAC now accepts associate members from among lawyers who, while not of Czech or Slovak background, have an interest in the heritage and culture of the Czech Republic and Slovakia, and also accepts law student members. (<http://www.bohemianlawyers.org>)

BOHEMIAN LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO



Established 1911

Of course Thomas G. Masaryk is frequently commemorated in Chicagoland. Among the memorials to him is a school located in the Chicago suburb of Cicero, once mainly a Czech/Bohemian town but now largely Hispanic. Tracing its roots back to the activities of the Bohemian Freethinkers School Association established in 1872, it began offering Czech language instruction in 1877. The current school structure was opened in 1921, still bears Masaryk's name, and still

offers classes in Czech and a site for cultural events. (www.czechschoolchicago.org)



Visitors to or alumni of the University of Chicago (where Masaryk lectured on Czech history, literature and culture during the summer of 1902) probably know that Albin Polasek is also the author of the imposing monument to TGM erected (after delays caused by World War II) in 1950 on the university campus. Unlike other Masaryk memorials, the sculpture does not actually depict Masaryk himself, but instead a burly and heavily armed Blaník knight, waiting to emerge from his enchanted slumber to save his nation at its hour of greatest need (see the illustration on the back cover).

Contributions Welcome!

Once again, please send in news of the membership, as well as notifications of interesting conferences or colloquia, opportunities for presentations or calls for submissions of articles or chapters, or any other material of interest to our membership! The editor's address may be found on the contents page.



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