

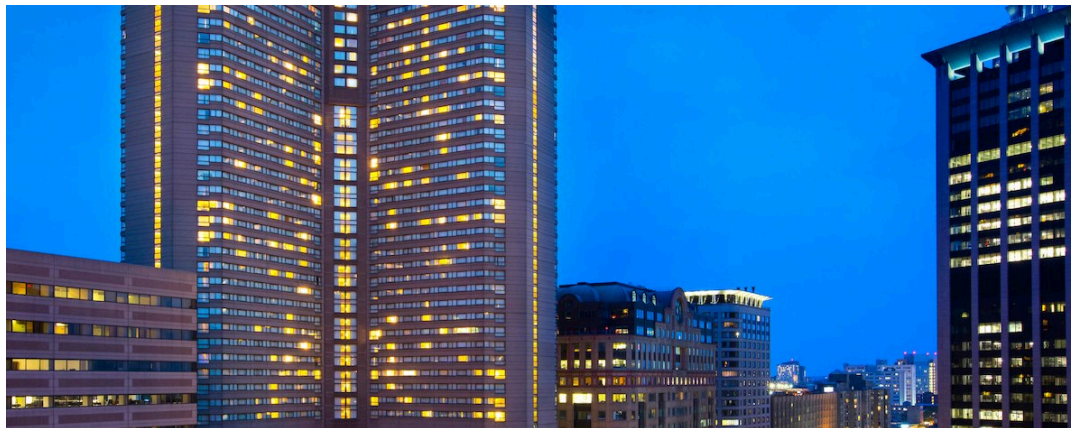
**CZECHOSLOVAK  
STUDIES  
ASSOCIATION**

**Newsletter of the Czechoslovak Studies  
Association**

**Volume 41 ▪ Nos. 1-2 ▪ SPRING/FALL 2018**



**The Annual Meeting of the Czechoslovak Studies  
Association will take place on *Saturday, December 8*, from  
5:30 to 7:00 pm at the Marriott Copley Place, Boston.**



**Also in this issue:**

**Minutes of the 2017 CSA General Meeting**

**Czech and Slovak Studies Workshop at the University of Texas, Austin  
Open Research Laboratory/Summer Research Laboratory at the University  
of Illinois**

**Upcoming Conferences and Publications (CFPs)  
On the Trail of World War I Dead in Eastern Slovakia and Southern Poland**

**News of the Membership**

**Welcome New Members**

**In Memoriam: Martin Votruba**

**History by Billboard: Public Poster Displays in the Czech Republic**

**Kimberly Elman  
Zarecor  
President**

**David Cooper  
Vice President**

**Hugh L. Agnew  
Interim Newsletter Editor**

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**OR**

**e-mail to:**

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

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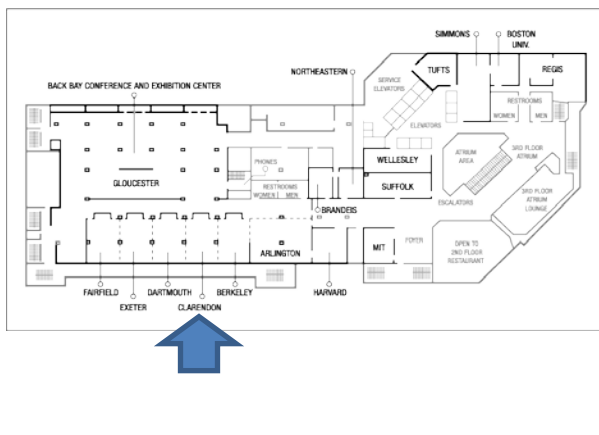




## Czechoslovak Studies Association General Meeting in Boston

As usual the Czechoslovak Studies Association will hold its annual general meeting during the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies conference, this year in Boston. Minutes of the last meeting are printed in this issue of the *Newsletter* and additional copies will be available at the meeting. The full agenda will be distributed at the meeting, but among the items on the program are: the announcement of the Pech Prize, formation of a committee for next year's book prize, discussion of plans for the Czech Studies Workshop (UT-Austin, March 29-30, call is printed in this edition of the *Newsletter* and has been distributed by email), and also updates on affiliate organizations like SVU and AHA, and discussion of events in the Czech Republic and Slovakia coming up in 2019.

This year's meeting will take place from 5:30 to 7:00 pm (we will do our best to keep the meeting to under one hour) on **Saturday, December 8**, on the third floor of the Marriott Copley Place Hotel, in the Clarendon meeting room. We look forward to seeing everyone there!



## Minutes of the Czechoslovak Studies Association

### The Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile, Chicago, Illinois

**Saturday, November 11, 2017**

Lacking a quorum, the meeting began following a waiting period in accordance with the CSA Bylaws. President Kimberly Zarecor called the meeting to order at 12:12 PM with approximately 30 people in attendance. She welcomed all and after a brief discussion of the 2016 minutes from the last meeting in Washington, D.C., called for its approval; those in attendance did so unanimously without any changes.

Secretary-Treasurer Gregory Ference gave his report with a handout noting the financial state of the CSA. (See elsewhere in the *Newsletter* for a copy.) Ference noted the Operating Fund (which includes the book prize monies since there are not enough funds to warrant a separate account) and Pech Prize Fund accounts continue at healthy levels.

Membership stands at 117 including 3 new members and 6 institutional members. 70 have paid their 2017 dues while 4 members will be dropped from the rolls in 2018 due to non-payment of dues for two years unless their up-to-date dues are received. These members will receive an email notification about their status with the organization in January.

Five members contributed \$87 to the Pech Prize Fund, while only four gave \$65 to the Book Prize. Both prizes are not sustainable at current contribution levels with the book prize especially vulnerable.

CSA's *Newsletter* "interim" editor, Hugh

Agnew was unable to make the meeting so President Zarecor stood in for him. She noted the *Newsletter* had a bit of a rough start after Jim Peterson retired from the post, while fifty-five members still receive hard copies. Zarecor then talked about the problems with the Listserv and is looking into Mail Chimp as an alternative.

Karla Huebner, chair of the Book Prize Committee noted that the committee received seven submissions and thanked the other members of the committee for their work. The award went to Rudolf Kučera for the work *Rationed Life: Science, Everyday Life, and Working-Class Politics in the Bohemian Lands, 1914–1918* (Berghahn, 2016). Honorable mention went to two entries: Alice Lovejoy, *Army Film and the Avant Guard: Cinema and Experiment in the Czechoslovak Military*, and Eagle Glassheim, *Cleansing the Czechoslovak Borderlands*.

Under **Announcements**, President Zarecor talked about the Czech Studies Workshop. It will be held in April 2018, at Columbia University, and is co-sponsored by the Slovak Studies Association and the CSA. Funding and sites have been secured until 2021, with 2019 being at the University of Texas, Austin; 2020, the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library, Cedar Rapids; and 2021, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Zarecor then asked the audience for notable achievements and publications with a number of members citing their accomplishments.

In **New Business**, Zarecor asked for volunteers to serve on the Pech Prize Committee. Ben Frommer, Shawn Clybor, and Mary Hrabik Samal agreed to serve.

Carol Skalnik Leff volunteered to continue to serve on the Program Committee for ASEEES; another member is need. ASEEES members can now submit individual papers and the organization will put together panels. Cynthia Paces will continue as the organization's liaison to the American Historical Association. As a member group, the CSA has automatic access to an annual panel.

Zarecor asked for a volunteer to be webmaster/social media manager. There are 250 members on the Facebook site. She will continue to work on it, but would like some help. Kateřina Čapková offered to try to get someone in the Czech Republic to put together an up-to-date website.

Under **Discussion Points**, Zarecor stated that times had changed since the founding of the organization. As a result, how has the mission changed? The CSA prizes are a good forum, but the CSA needs to get more information about itself out since at one time the only way to do so was the *Newsletter*.

She asked how the CSA could interface with organizations in the Czech Republic, as well as with scholars in our own areas, by, perhaps trying to organize panels for congresses, writing various directors, and explaining the benefits of CSA membership.

Lastly, President Zarecor talked about the need to contribute to and/or fundraise for the CSA prizes. She also noted the major difference between the Pech Prize and the Book Prize being that only members were eligible for the Pech. She believed that the Book Prize should have the same criteria as the Pech for several reasons including shoring up membership and a good way to publicize the CSA. A motion was put forward to change the verbiage of the

Book Prize to match the Pech Prize; it passed with one abstention. A ballot will go out to the membership for a vote with the 2018 dues.

With business concluded, the meeting adjourned at 1:01 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Gregory C. Ference, Secretary-Treasurer

NOTE: the detailed financial statement is printed at the back of this newsletter.

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## **Nineteenth Annual Czech & Slovak Studies Workshop**

April 5-6, 2019

The University of Texas at Austin

The Nineteenth Annual Czech & Slovak Studies Workshop will be held at UT-Austin on April 5-6, 2019. The program committee welcomes papers on Czech and Slovak topics, broadly defined, in all disciplines. In the past our interdisciplinary conference has drawn participants from colleges and universities in the United States and abroad. Areas of interest have been: anthropology, architecture, art, economics, education, film, geography, history, Jewish studies, literature, music, philosophy, politics, religion, society, sociology, and theater. New work in progress is appropriate for our workshop format. Each speaker is typically allotted a 50-minute slot divided between a presentation and active discussion. Junior faculty and advanced graduate students are particularly encouraged to participate.

This year's keynote speaker will be Dr. Barbara J. Falk, Associate Professor of Defense Studies at the Canadian Forces College, and author of *The Dilemmas of*

*Dissidence in East-Central Europe: Citizen Intellectuals and Philosopher-Kings* (2003). Dr. Falk writes on topics ranging from terrorism and security law and policy to political trials and non-violent forms of dissent. Her talk will highlight her new work on the political theories of Václav Havel and his concepts of power, truth and responsibility. These topics are as urgent and relevant as ever with the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Velvet Revolution approaching in the midst of global political upheaval.

(<https://www.cfc.forces.gc.ca/136/277-eng.html>)

The deadline for submitting proposals is January 11, 2019.

Applications should include this information (please format the pages into a single pdf file):

Name:

Full address:

Institutional affiliation:

Email address:

Paper title:

Paper abstract of approximately 250 words

Short Curriculum vitae (up to 3 pages)

Please also indicate whether or not you have attended a Czech & Slovak Studies Workshop in the past.

For selected participants, accommodations and some meals in Austin will be provided from April 4-7, 2019. Participants will be asked to cover their own travel expenses to Austin. Limited travel funds may be available for PhD students studying at US and Canadian universities.

Program Committee:

Zachary Doleshal, History, Sam Houston State University

Christian Hilchey, Slavic and Eurasian Studies, UT-Austin

Kirsten Lodge, English, Midwestern State University

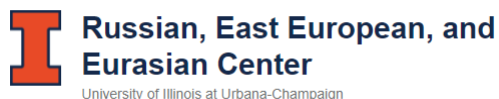
Mary Neuburger, History & Slavic and Eurasian Studies, UT-Austin

Kimberly Zarecor, Architecture, Iowa State University  
Application materials should be emailed to [zarecor@iastate.edu](mailto:zarecor@iastate.edu) or mailed to: Kimberly Zarecor

Department of Architecture  
146 College of Design  
Iowa State University  
Ames, IA 50011, USA

Any questions can be sent directly to Kimberly Zarecor at [zarecor@iastate.edu](mailto:zarecor@iastate.edu).

The workshop is generously funded by the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies Center and the Czech Studies endowments at UT-Austin, with assistance from the Czechoslovak Studies Association and the Slovak Studies Association.



## **Call for Applications: Summer Research Laboratory at Illinois**

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 our Library's famous collections in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies.

We are pleased to announce that we will be holding the Summer Research Laboratory again this year, from **June 10 to August 2, 2019**. The SRL is open to all scholars with research interests in Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies. Graduate students, academics, independent scholars, librarians, and government employees are encouraged to apply.

### **About the Program**

With hundreds of thousands of volumes in Russian, East European, and Eurasian languages, alongside extensive microfilm collections of rare and archival materials, the University Library at Illinois ranks among the best research collections in the world. The SRL provides scholars with the opportunity to work extensively with these resources, at any stage of their work. Many important books and articles have been written in our collections over the years. Graduate students find a trip to Illinois an excellent way to plan their research and begin work on their dissertations.

The SRL offers scholars the following opportunities:

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

### **Funding Information**

Scholars participating in the Summer Research Laboratory may apply for:

- \* up to 12 days of dormitory housing on campus;
- \* travel grants of up to \$500 in support of their trip to Urbana-Champaign.
- \* research stipends

The SRL is supported by the US Department of State's Title VIII Program for the Study of Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union, which exists to support policy-relevant research on the region.

SRL applicants are also encouraged to consider studying an area language at Indiana University's Summer Language Workshop, located in nearby Bloomington, IN, immediately before or after their participation in the SRL. Those interested in overseas language study are particularly encouraged to pair SRL participation with an application for an [IU Title VIII Portable Fellowship](#). More information on Indiana's Title VIII funding opportunities, languages, and the application can be found at the [Summer Language Workshop website](#).

### **Workshops & Programming**

Each year, during the SRL, we host research workshops and training sessions that may be of interest to visitors: please see [here](#) for details. This summer, we are hosting the following workshops (please click on the links for more information):

- \* New Fields for Old: The Revitalization of Political, Diplomatic and Military History and its Implications for Research in Libraries and Archives
- \* US – Russia Relations – Future

Applications are now open, with the deadline for grant funding being **February 11, 2019**. REEEC will continue to accept applications for the SRL after the deadline, but they will be at a lower priority for funding.

For further information, please see:

<https://reeec.illinois.edu/programming-and-events/summer-research-laboratory/>

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## **Upcoming Publication and Conference Opportunities (CFPs)**



### **Incorporating sexual violence into Czech WWII history and its aftermath A Workshop**

Call for Papers

Date: March 29, 2019

Venue: Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague

Deadline: February 1, 2019

Organizer: Dr. Jaromír Mrňka, Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes, Prague

Dr. Anna Hájková, University of Warwick, UK

While over the past forty years, historiography has addressed sexual violence, in Czech historiography, the topic remains largely a lacuna. This workshop seeks to amend it. Building on Susan Brownmiller's maxim in which rape is a statement of power rather than lust, our workshop offers a methodological primer combined with networking. The one-



day event, featuring leading experts Regina Mühlhäuser and Anna Hájková, will combine an introductory lecture, two panels of talks, and close work with primary sources.

We are seeking submissions for participation with abstract (up to 300 words, including discussion of sources, and a short bio, up to 100 words). We are interested in the history of Second World War defined widely, that is people working on Czech and Slovak 1930s and 1940s, ethnic minorities, Holocaust, expulsion etc.

Selected participants (three to four) will present their work in one of the panels. Participants can apply for reimbursement of travel and accommodation costs. Following this event, we aim to continue the workshop in further, more research oriented, seminars. We expect participants to read background literature in English. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

The workshop will take place in English.

Please send your abstracts **no later than on February 1, 2019** to [kamila.kozichova@ustrcr.cz](mailto:kamila.kozichova@ustrcr.cz).

**CfP: Socialist Ports in a Global Perspective, Rijeka, May 31 - June 1, 2019 (Deadline: Dec. 10, 2018)**

By Brigitte LeNormand

Socialist Ports in a Global Perspective: a Workshop at the University of Rijeka, Croatia, on May 31-June 1, 2019.

Organized by Ulf Brunnbauer (IOS Regensburg), Brigitte Le Normand (University of British Columbia), Sarah Lemmen (University of Kiel), and Vjeran Pavlaković (University of Rijeka).

This Call for Papers is reprinted here given that two post-Habsburg socialist states, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia, had sea-ports (the Czechoslovak port being located in Hamburg). Scholars of Polish ports may also be following this listserv, even though the Polish coast was not part of the Habsburg Empire.

Ports hold a special position in economic, social and political aspects of modern societies; ports in socialist countries possibly even more so. In a political system that preferred closed borders, ports symbolized the “gates to the world”; in an economic system that was thoroughly planned, ports became the main contact point for global trade outside of a planned economy. In many ways, socialist ports were places of exception: heightened contact with the rest of the world went hand in hand with heightened control; the relative permeability of ports as border regions allowed for intensified smuggling, black marketeering or defection. Because of their permeable nature, ports – as well as shipyards – may be considered places of increased potential for political protest and dissent.

This workshop aims to discuss the functions, specifics and regional embeddedness of socialist ports throughout the 20th century in a global perspective. We focus on the locality (socialist ports as specific economic, political or social locations, as part of a port city, as part of an international network), on the agents (e.g. national and local authorities, workers and sailors within a highly international working environment), as well as on networks (between ports both socialist and non-socialist, as well as the interface between ports and other entities, such as railways) and on changes and continuities during (economic, political, social)

transformations. Finally, we inquire into the general concept of a “socialist port”.

We invite abstracts (max. 500 words) for papers focusing on socialist ports throughout the world. Workshop participants should be prepared to send in their full papers a month before the workshop. The organizers will cover the cost of accommodation. Pending the results of funding applications, we hope to also provide a subsidy toward travel costs.

Please send your abstract by **Dec. 10, 2018**, to Dr. Sarah Lemmen (Lemmen@oeg.uni-kiel.de) and Dr. Brigitte Le Normand (brigitte.lenormand@ubc.ca).



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**CfP: Western Slavic and Eurasian Association conference, San Diego, 24-27 April 2019 (Deadline: 1 Dec 2018)**

by Patrick Patterson

The Call for Papers is now open for the annual conference of the Western Slavic and Eurasian Association (WSEA) to be held from 24-27 April 2019, in San Diego, California, at the Manchester Grand Hyatt.

WSEA holds its annual conference as part of the Western Social Science Association. To submit a proposal for a paper or panel, please register here: <http://wssaweb.com/sections>.

Follow the instructions for submissions under the “Slavic and Eurasian Studies” section. Deadline for submission is 1 December 2018.

Papers from any academic discipline covering the range of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian studies will be accepted. We welcome worldwide participation; presenters do not need to be residents of the western U.S. or employed in institutions there.

For questions see the conference information at the site: <http://www.wssaweb.com/upcoming-conference.html>, or email Patrick Patterson at [patrickpatterson@ucsd.edu](mailto:patrickpatterson@ucsd.edu)

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**Call for Applications: Lessons and Legacies of Munich**

by Alex Israel

The Holocaust Educational Foundation, the Center for Holocaust Studies at the Institute for Contemporary History in Munich, the Federal Agency for Civic Education of Germany, and Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, are pleased to announce a special session of the Lessons and Legacies Conference. The special session, “The Holocaust and Europe: Research Trends, Pedagogical Approaches, and Political Challenges,” will take place in Munich from November 4 - 7, 2019.

The conference invites proposals for papers, panels, and workshops. The deadline for proposals is **December 31, 2018**. The Call for Papers can be found [here](#); additional information about the conference can be found [here](#).

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**Northeastern Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Conference Call for Papers, 2019**

We welcome proposals for individual papers and complete panels for the 40th annual Conference of the Northeast Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (NESEEEES, a regional affiliate of ASEEEES).

The Conference will be held on **Saturday, March 30, 2019** at the [NYU Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia](#). We are very grateful to the Jordan Center, and Joshua Tucker, Director of the Center and NESEEEES Honorary Chair, for their support.

Scholarly papers and panels are welcome on any aspect of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies. Pre-organized panels are strongly preferred (even if chairs and discussants have not yet been identified but the papers are thematically related).

Proposals must include the following:

- Title and a one-paragraph abstract
- Any requests for technical support
- Presenter's email and surface mail addresses
- Presenter's institutional affiliation and professional status (professor, graduate student, etc.)
- The name and contact information for the panel organizer, where applicable.

Undergraduate students under the guidance of a faculty mentor may present a paper at the Conference if the faculty mentor submits the information listed above.

Please submit your proposals here: <https://goo.gl/forms/ayKlkrDEV3n47XdH2> **no later than Tuesday, 15 January 2019.**

We strongly urge professionals in the field to volunteer to serve as chairs and/or discussants.

Much of the benefit of the Conference depends on active participation and informed commentary by participants. Please add "Chair" or "Discussant" instead of a Title/Abstract on the Submission Form.

Graduate students are encouraged to participate. This year, NESEEEES will award a first prize and a second prize for the best papers presented at the conference. Essays are judged according to the following criteria:

- clarity of main research question outlining the scholar's approach to the topic
- importance of the research to the profession
- amount of support for the argument
- adequate and interesting content
- readiness for publication: use of English, readability and style

Following the Conference, graduate students may submit revised papers to the competition for review. Visual materials accompanying the presentation at the Conference should be submitted along with the written text for evaluation. The papers must be between 7,500 and 14,000 words in length. The first prize paper will be entered in the national ASEEEES competition.

Questions can be sent to: [neseees@gmail.com](mailto:neseees@gmail.com)

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the Conference in March.

Elidor Mëhilli

President

Northeast Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies

## Michigan Slavic Publications Announces new Edition of the *RKZ*

*The Queen's Court and Green Mountain Manuscripts, With Other Forgeries of the Czech Revival*, edited and translated by David L. Cooper.

The present volume of MSP's Czech translations Series brings the first scholarly edition in English of the so-called Manuscripts, Czech literary forgeries of the early nineteenth century whose creation and reception represent one of the more remarkable episodes of Romantic forgery. The rich documentation here includes a selection of reviews and polemical articles that the Manuscripts provoked, showing their long term cultural significance and impact, including the central role they played in the development of Czech national consciousness.

The annotated translation enables contemporary readers to experience their aesthetic force and perceive the qualities that linked Czech culture to the broad stream of European cultural developments.



## On the Trail of World War I Dead in Eastern Slovakia and Southern Poland

by Michael Kopanic

I spent 4 weeks in Slovakia in the summer of 2018, and returned to do some research in the Levoča archives on conditions in Spiš County in late 2018 and early 2019.

I also traveled for several days visiting World War I cemeteries and battle sites in eastern Slovakia and southern Poland. Traveling with Martin Drobňák from the Beskyds War History Club (*Klub vojenskej histórie Beskydy*) and Rusyn colleague Ron Matviyak from Anchorage, Alaska, I took many photos of the World War I cemeteries and some battle sites. The sites have deteriorated badly over the years, and the Club, formed in 2005, has been doing volunteer work to renovate cemeteries, and research to find the names of fallen soldiers, including Slovaks and the many other nationalities who died in the war. Because of decisions to shred and dispose of the names of soldiers from Slovakia who did not die, suffer injuries, or be taken prisoner of war, it is much easier to find material on the dead than those who survived the war. Since the trip, I have translated many of the Club's entries on its Facebook website. The Club has both a page on Facebook and a regular website, whose URLs are below:

<https://www.facebook.com/kvhbeskydy/>

<http://www.kvhbeskydy.sk/onas/>

## News of the Membership

### Hugh L. Agnew

#### *Presentations:*

“Reflections on the Pittsburgh Agreement at 100,” presented at a symposium marking the centennial of the signing of the Pittsburgh Agreement, Pittsburgh, PA, May 31, 2018.

“October 28, 1918: Break with the Past, or Continuity?” presented at the conference “Rebirth of Europe: Celebrating 100 Years,” sponsored by the Washington, DC Chapter of SVU and the Wilsonian Club, at the embassy of Slovakia, June 1-2, 2018.

“Legacy of Renaissance: What Czechoslovakia Inherited from the *národní obrození*,” presented at the 29<sup>th</sup> SVU World Congress in Prague, July 11, 2018.

“*Odrakouštět se?* Czechoslovakia, 1918-1938, and the Habsburg Legacy,” presented at the conference “Making and Remaking Europe: The Czech and Slovak Contribution,” Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, University of Toronto, November 7-9, 2018.

Agnew was also interviewed twice by Czech media, once by Český rozhlas and once by Česká televize, in connection with the anniversary of Masaryk’s visit to the US in 1918.

### Jakub Beneš

#### *Publications:*

“The Green Cadres and the Collapse of Austria-Hungary in 1918,” *Past & Present* 236:1 (August 2017).

### Paulina Bren

#### *Publications:*

Paulina Bren’s book project, *The Barbizon* (a social history of New York’s women-only hotel), will be coming out with Simon & Schuster, and has been optioned by HBO as a limited series.

#### *Promotions, Awards, Recognitions:*

Paulina was also promoted to Adjunct Associate Professor of International Studies and elected director of Women Studies at Vassar College.

### Gary B. Cohen

#### *Publications:*

“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.

“An American Remembers the Charles University Archive in the Era of Normalization,” *Acta Universitatis Carolinae - Historia Universitatis Carolinae, Pragensis* 43, no. 1 (2018): 225-32.

“Der Kampf der Konservativen gegen den ‘Schulballast.’ Eine Episode aus der österreichischen Bildungsgeschichte der 1880er Jahre,” in Johannes Feichtinger, Marianne Klemum, Jan Surman, and Petra Svatek, eds., *Wandlungen und Brüche. Wissenschaftsgeschichte als politische Geschichte* (Vienna: V&R unipress - Vienna University Press, 2018), pp. 319-25.

#### *Presentations:*

On November 12, 2018, Gary presented a talk, “Thinking about the Afterlife of the Habsburg Monarchy in Central Europe,” at the Masaryk Institute in Prague.

*Promotions, Awards, Recognitions:*

The Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic awarded Gary the František Palacký Honorary Medal of Merit in Historical Sciences on May 21, 2018. Prof. Eva Zažimalová, president of the Academy, presented the medal at a celebration on November 14, 2018. Congratulations, Gary!



**David Cooper**

*Publications:*

See note elsewhere in this *Newsletter* about the publication of Cooper's translation and bilingual edition of the RKZ, *The Queen's Court and Green Mountain Manuscripts with Other Forgeries of the Czech Revival*.

*Presentations:*

Keynote address: "The Forgotten 7s: National Commemoration in Nineteenth Century Bohemia," at the conference "Marking x8: Commemoration in Czech and Slovak History," University of Chicago, October 26, 2018.

**Zdeněk V. David**

*Publications:*

"Back to the Future: A Modern Revival of Sixteenth-Century Czech Cultural and Political Values," in *Thresholds into the Orthodox Commonwealth: Essays in Honor of Professor Theofanis G. Stavrou*, ed. Lucien J. Frary. Bloomington, IN: Slavica Publishers, 2017, 561-98.

"Jan Patočka's Assessment of European Civilization: From Exaltation to Disillusionment," *Comenius: Journal of Euro-American Civilization*, 4, no. 1 (Spring 2017), 47-68.

"Modern Nationalism and the Development of Central Europe: The Enlightenment and Romanticism," *Comenius: Journal of Euro-American Civilization*, Vol.4, no. 2 (Fall 2017), 1-24.

The Influence of Jan Patočka's Philosophy on Václav Havel's Political Thought," *Kosmas: Czechoslovak and Central European Journal*, 29 (Fall 2015), 37-50. [Published in 2017]

With Christina N. Wall, "The Josepist Enlightenment Tradition in Bohemia and the Poetry of Karel H. Mácha," *Bohemia: A Journal of History and Civilization in East Central Europe*, 57 (2017), no. 2, 322-345.

"Jan Patočka, Marx, and Socialism: From People's Democracy to the Aftermath of Prague Spring," *Comenius: Journal of Euro-American Civilization*, 5, no. 1 (2018), 63-82.

"Two Progenitors of Masaryk's Philosophy: Friedrich A. Lange and Henry G. Lewes," *Kosmas: Czechoslovak and Central European Journal*, n.s. 1 (2018), 1-12.

*Presentations:*

“Modern Nationalism and the Development of Central Europe,” Comenius Academic Club, Conference, New York City, June 23-25, 2017.

“Jan Patočka, Marx, and Socialism: From People’s Democracy to the Aftermath of Prague Spring,” Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Convention, Chicago, November 17-20, 2017.

“Pavel Bydžovský’s *Historiae aliquot Anglorum martyrum: A Translation and an Analysis*” [The Utraquists and the English Reformation: Pavel Bydžovský on John Fisher and Thomas More], Bohemian Reformation and Religious Practice, International Symposium (BRRP 13), Philosophical Institute of the Academy of Sciences ČR, Prague, June 22-25, 2018

**Michael Kopanic**

*Publications:*

“Thirty days that shook Slovakia in 2018: The Murder of Journalist Ján Kuciak and its Consequences,” *Jednota* (June 20, 2018): 10, 18.

“The Battle of Dukla Pass, 1944,” *Jednota* (April 10, 2018): 10, 17.

Archived issues of *Jednota* may be found at <https://www.fcsu.com/newspaper/newspaper-archive/>.

*Presentations:*

“*Vinobranie: Celebrating Wine in Slovakia*,” Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) symposium, Minnesota Genealogical Center, September 29, 2018. The talk included an overview of Slovak wine growing regions, the most well-known Slovak wines, the customs around grape picking

(*odberačka*), and the celebrations of the grape harvest in the past to the present.

**James Krapfl**

*Publications:*

James was co-editor (with Barbara J. Falk) of a special issue of *East European Politics and Societies*, 32/2 (May 2018), devoted to Václav Havel’s essay “The Power of the Powerless.” The issues includes his translation of Jiří Suk and Kristina Andělová’s essay, “The Power of the Powerless and Further Havelian Paradoxes in the Stream of Time,” for which he won the Michael Henry Heim Prize for Collegial Translation, as well as his own essay, “Boredom, Apocalypse, and Beyond: Reading Havel through Patočka,” and a revised translation of “The Power of the Powerless” that he prepared together with Paul Wilson.

He co-authored (with Kieran Williams) the essay “For a Civic Socialism and the Rule of Law: The Interplay of Jurisprudence, Public Opinion, and Dissent,” published in the volume *Eastern Europe in 1968: The Impact of the Prague Spring*, edited by Kevin McDermott and Matthew Stibbe. (See Kevin’s update below).

*Presentations:*

“The Prague Spring, 1968-2018: Hidden Novelties and Unsuspected Legacies,” University of Toronto, March 2018.

“Remaking Slovakia: The Gentle Revolution and Its Legacies, 1989-2018,” Embassy of the Slovak Republic, Washington, May 2018.

“The Prague Spring and Polish March in Global Context” at the conference “1968 in Poland and Czechoslovakia in Comparison,”

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, August 2018.

“Emancipation from What? The Meaning of Freedom in the Prague Spring and Its Aftermath” at the conference “Envisioning Emancipation: The Year 1968,” Prague, November 2018.

“Collective Effervescence in Postwar Czech and Slovak History: 1948, 1968, 1989, and Beyond” at the conference “Making and Remaking Europe: The Czech and Slovak Contribution,” Toronto, November 2018.

“Defining the Relationship between 1968 and 1989,” Jena Center for Twentieth-Century History, Jena, Germany, November 2018

#### *Promotions, Awards, Recognitions:*

During the 2018-19 academic year James is a fellow at the Imre Kertész Kolleg in Jena, Germany, for a project on “The Other 1968: A Cultural History of East Central Europe in the Prague Spring Era.” He also received a multi-year research grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for this project.

In June James received the H. Noel Fieldhouse Award for Distinguished Teaching in the Faculty of Arts at McGill University.

#### **Kevin McDermott**

##### *Publications:*

Co-edited (with Matthew Stibbe), *Eastern Europe in 1968: Responses to the Prague Spring and Warsaw Pact Invasion* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2018).

Co-authored (with Vítězslav Sommer), ‘The “Anti-Prague Spring”: Neo-Stalinist and Ultra-Leftist Extremism in Czechoslovakia, 1968-70’, in K. McDermott and M. Stibbe (eds),

*Eastern Europe in 1968: Responses to the Prague Spring and Warsaw Pact Invasion* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2018), pp. 45-69.

#### **Martin Nekola**

[Editor’s note: Martin’s updates for 2017 were inadvertently left out of the last newsletter, so they are included here in addition to the most recent additions]

##### *Publications:*

*Krvavé století* (Prague: Naše vojsko, 2015)

*České Chicago* (Prague: Nakladatelství Lidové noviny, 2017).

*Do švestek jsme doma: Příběh pouťorového exilu* (Prague: Euromedia, 2018).

*Rudolf Kopecký: Vzpomínky starého novináře* (Beroun: Machart, 2018)

*Osobnosti pouťorového exilu* (Prague: Naše vojsko, 2018).

“Polozapomenutý sociální demokrat. Životní osudy JUDr. Jaroslava Profouse ve světle jeho paměti,” *Securitas Imperii* 28 (1/2016), 172-198.

“Václav Hlavatý. World-famous Mathematician and the first President of SVU; *Comenius* 3/1 (2016), 97-108.

“V zemi klokanů proti srpu a kladivu. Protikomunistický exil v Austrálii v první fázi studené války, *Moderní dějiny* 24 (2/2016), 221-241.

“Supranational Organizations of the East-European Émigrés: A Half-forgotten Chapter of the Cold War, in Jašek, Peter (ed.): *Political exile from Central and Eastern Europe. Motives, strategies, activities and perceptions of East and West, 1945-1989*, (Bratislava:



Nation's Memory Institute, 2017), pp. 422-444.

“Vůdcovství v poúnorovém exilu,” *Bulletin of Edvard Benes Society* 29 (April 2016): 24-27.

“Exil a krajané v Národním archivu; několik slov k výjimečné publikaci,” *Paginae Historiae* 24/2, (2016): 296-299.

Martin also publishes regularly in the newsletter of the Bohemian Benevolent and Literary Association in New York, whose website is here: <http://www.bohemianbenevolent.org/>.

*Presentations:*

Martin is an active speaker at venues including University of Scranton, New York University, UC Berkeley, Soka University, UNLV, University of Central Oklahoma, National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library, University of Illinois-Chicago, Western Michigan University, Miami University of Ohio, California State University, Sacramento, University of Oregon, and University of Louisville.

*Projects:*

Martin curated and wrote the brochure for the exhibition “Czech and Slovak New York, 1848-2018,” presented at the Bohemian National Hall in New York City.

He is also involved in the project “Czechoslovak Talks” supported by the Dotek Foundation, which collects and makes accessible via its webpage the life stories of Czechs and Slovaks who have experienced the ups and downs of the twentieth century, to preserve them for future generations. For more see the project's webpage: <https://www.czechoslovaktalks.com/en/>.

**Claire E. Nolte**

*Publications:*

“‘A Magical Theater of Strength and Beauty’: The 1912 *Slet* in Prague,” in *Austrian Studies* 25 (2017), “Celebration: Festkultur in Austria”, pp. 136-147.

*Presentations:*

“Revolution in the Rear-View Mirror: Marking 1848 in Late Imperial Prague,” presented at the conference “Marking x8: Commemoration Czech and Slovak History,” University of Chicago, October 2018.

*Promotions, Awards, Recognitions:*

Claire Nolte retired from Manhattan College last spring, and was named Professor Emerita.

**James Walter Peterson**

*Publications:*

*Defense policies of East-central European countries after 1989: Creating stability in a time of uncertainty*, with Jacek Lubecki, Manchester: Manchester University Press, to be published in December 2018.

“American Foreign Policy Strategies toward the Asia-Pacific: Political Patterns and Future Expectations.” *Central European Journal of International and Security Studies*, 2/2018, pp. 130-56.

“Remembering the Czech Legion and the 1917 Battle of Zborov in the Poetry of Rudolf Medek Set to Music,” with William J. Peterson. *Kosmas: Czechoslovak and Central European Journal*, New Series Vol. 1, No. 1, March 2018, pp. 13-40.

*America and Germany: Political Elites and the Refugee Issue*, with Sarah Kuck. Lambert Academic Publishers, January 2018, 48 pages.

*Presentations:*

“Security and Defense Preparedness of the Successor States to Former Yugoslavia: Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (North Macedonia), Montenegro, Serbia, and Slovenia,” Georgia Political Science Association, Savannah, November 10, 2018.

“Centennials of the Beginning of Czechoslovakia on October 28, 1918, and the end of World War I on November 11, 1918: The Role of Memory in Interconnecting the two Events,” University of West Georgia Conference on the Humanities, Carrollton, October 27, 2018.

“Impact of 2014 Ukrainian-Crimean Crisis on Czech and Slovak Perceptions of Foreign and Defense Policy Needs,” Southern Conference on Slavic Studies, Charlotte, March 23, 2018.

**Natali Stegmann**

*Presentations:*

Keynote address, “Who is a Veteran? Negotiating War Experiences, Status and Significance in East Central European Postwar Societies,” at the workshop “Vanquished or Victorious? European veterans of World War One in comparative perspective 1918–1938,” Prague, September 19-20, 2018.

**M. Mark Stolarik**

*Presentations:*

“The Pleasures and Pitfalls of Doing research in Communist Slovakia, 1968-1988,” at the ASEES in Chicago, November 17, 2017.

“Graduate Studies in North America,” at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia, on October 24, 2017.

“Slovak Immigration to North America, 1870-2010,” at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra on October 25, 2017

“The Russians Are Invading Us! Prešov, 1968,” at the conference “August ‘68” held at Comenius University in Bratislava, September 21, 2018.

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**Welcome New Members!**

The Czechoslovak Studies Association welcomes several new members who have joined since the last newsletter. We look forward to meeting them and hearing about their continuing work in the field. Please welcome:

**Christopher Campo-Bowen**

Christopher is an Assistant Professor/Faculty Fellow in the Department of Music at NYU. He completed his Ph.D. in musicology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He holds a B.A. in Music with honors in conducting from Stanford University and an M.M. in Orchestral Conducting from The Catholic University of America in Washington D.C. He is also active as a viola player, singer, conductor, and translator.

Christopher's research focuses on music in the Habsburg Monarchy in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, especially on the relationships between music, ethnicity, gender, and empire. He is particularly interested in the music of the composers Bedřich Smetana, Antonín Dvořák, and Leoš Janáček and how conceptions of ruralness in Czech opera structured notions of subjectivity and identity. His current project investigates the institutional

and imperial relationships between Prague and Vienna in the context of operatic performance and exhibition culture.

### **Jan Láníček**

Jan is Senior Lecturer in Modern European and Jewish History in the School of Humanities and Languages at the University of New South Wales, Australia. Born in the Czech Republic, Jan completed graduate studies at Palacký University in Olomouc and then a doctorate at the University of Southampton. He arrived in New South Wales in 2012 as a post-doctoral fellow, then lecturer and, since 2017, senior lecturer.

Working in the fields of Jewish history and Holocaust studies, Jan has published *Czechs, Slovaks, and the Jews: Beyond Idealization and Condemnation* (2013), *Arnošt Frischer and the Jewish Politics of Early 20th-Century Europe* (2017), and (with Hana Kubátová) *The Jew in Czech and Slovak Imagination, 1938-89: Antisemitism, the Holocaust, and Zionism*. His current research project deals with post-Holocaust reconciliation and transitional justice in Czechoslovakia (Holocaust on Trial: Post-Holocaust reconciliation in Czechoslovakia, 1945-53).

### **Stuart Liebman**

Stuart is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Media Studies, Queens College and the Ph.D. Programs in Art History and Theatre at the CUNY Graduate Center

His academic interests focus on the intersections of cinema with modernism in the arts, and the representation of history in film. While he has published widely on early French cinema, American avant-garde cinema, Soviet

cinema, films about the Holocaust, and post-World War II German cinema, he has also published on Polish and Czech cinema. His most recent book is an edited volume of essays, *Claude Lanzmann's Shoah: Key Essays* (2007).

### **Sarah Lemmen**

Sarah joined the faculty of the Historisches Seminar, Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel in 2018, following a stint as a fellow at the German Historical Institute in Washington, DC. Prior to that she was at the University of Bremen. She received her education at the universities of Leipzig and Prague, followed by various research positions in Leipzig and Vienna.

Sarah's research interests include Czech and Slovak history in the nineteenth and twentieth century, as well as transnational and global history, the history of travel and tourism, dissent, opposition and exile in the Cold War, and the history of ports. She is presently working on a project on the Czechoslovak port in Hamburg during the communist era. In 2018 she published *Tschechen auf Reisen. Repräsentationen der außereuropäischen Welt und nationale Identität in Ostmitteleuropa 1890-1938*.

### **Tereza Novotná**

Tereza is currently affiliated with Fudan University and the Université Libre de Bruxelles and is EUROPEUM Senior Associate Research Fellow. She earned her BA and MA in the Czech Republic and her PhD in Politics and European Studies at Boston University.

Tereza's current research interests include Czech domestic politics and European foreign policy. Her publications include "The EU as a

Global Actor: United We Stand, Divided We Fall,” *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies*, 55 (2017): 177–191, and *How Germany Unified and the EU Enlarged: Negotiating the Accession through Transplantation and Adaptation* (2015).

### **Zuzana Stuchlíková**

Zuzana is a research fellow and Head of the Brussels Office of the EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy. Formerly a research assistant at the Charles University, she holds an MA in European Studies and completed a study exchange at Sciences Po Paris School of International Affairs in 2014. She focuses on topics related to Central Europe and Visegrad cooperation, Czech Republic’s European Policy and EU institutions. Together with Tereza Novotná she contributed an article, “Czechia: From a V4-Enthusiast to a V4-Sceptic and Back Again,” to the volume *The Future of the Visegrad Group* (2017).

See also the CFP for the workshop on **“Socialist Ports in a Global Perspective, Rijeka: May 31-June 1, 2019 (Deadline: Dec. 10, 2018)**, in this newsletter on page 6.

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### **Michael Young**

Michael is Digital Scholarship and Humanities Librarian and Adjunct Lecturer in Art History at the University of Connecticut, having previously taught the history of art and architecture at Bard College, Skidmore College, Union College, Columbia Graduate School of Architecture and Planning. He specializes in Czech Baroque architecture, and his current research interests include Baroque monasteries in the Czech Lands, and the Prague art historian Oskar Pollak.

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## **In Memoriam: Martin Votruba**

by Michael Kopanic



It is with a heavy heart that we mark the passing of an outstanding teacher, a dear friend and an esteemed colleague, Professor Martin Votruba. He served as the Head of Slovak Studies Program and was a Senior Lecturer at the University of Pittsburgh (Slavic Department, Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences). Many considered him to be the country's leading scholar on Slovak culture. Martin died on November 23, 2018 after a short bout with lung cancer, even though he never smoked.

Votruba's passing was a shock to the academic and Slovak-American community. As his long-time secretary and friend Christine Metil related, “Martin was an invaluable member of the department, a teacher, scholar, and friend. He is greatly missed. He was the rock that built the Slovak program,” the only one of its kind in the United States. He assisted in sending many of his students to study Slovak at Studia Academica Slovaca, the Slovak language summer school at Comenius University in Bratislava. The University of Pittsburgh is the

only university in the United States that offers a Slovak studies minor.

His death was surprising, since as recently as November 4, he had just presented his informative lecture at the University of Pittsburgh's Annual Slovak Heritage Festival: "Slovaks Facing the Revolts of 1848: Between Imperial Vienna and Combative Budapest." Martin had looked thinner and more frail than the last time I saw him, but he delivered a superb presentation, and as usual, interacted well with the audience and addressed questions with enthusiasm and his breadth of knowledge. Apparently, Martin knew it would be his last lecture, but he kept his illness confidential.

### **Background**

Martin was born the son of Radomír and Viera (Nepožitková) Votruba on March 6, 1948 in Brno, Moravia (then part of Czechoslovakia), but spent his childhood in the village of Vyšné Hágy. His early years spent in a village at the foot of the High Tatra Mountains were reflected his favorite avocation: mountain hiking.



He received his MA in 1973 and his doctorate in 1983 (CSC) from Comenius University in Bratislava. Between degrees, he pursued further studies at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, where he received a diploma in English Studies (FS, 1980). As a teacher and scholar, he specialized in Slovak studies—its language, history, literature, culture, Slovak and West Slavic linguistics, and Communism and its collapse in Central Europe.

His working career began as an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Translation & Interpretation in Bratislava, Slovakia, 1973-1974, and continued at Comenius University, Slovakia, 1974-1985. Upon emigrating from Czechoslovakia, he served on the editorial staff of the *Ornciment Quarterly* in Los Angeles, 1985-1988 and as an editor for Radio Free Europe, in Munich, Germany, 1988-1990. The University of Pittsburgh appointed him to the newly established permanent Slovak Chair of the Slovak Studies Program, where he has remained since 1990.

At Pittsburgh, Professor Votruba taught an array of courses on Slovakia and East Central Europe, including the following: Slovak language classes at all levels, A Survey of Slovak History and Culture, The Year Communism Crumbled, Slovak, Czech, and Central European Cinema, and a Slovak Transatlantic Cultures course which included Slovak immigration. He built the largest collection of Slovak films outside of Slovakia and organized showings for the public to view them.

Professor Votruba became the lynchpin of the Slovak Studies Program and left a lasting legacy. Together with his diligent secretary, Christine Metil, he started and organized the

ongoing Slovak Heritage Festival, which has continued to be held on the first Sunday in November each year. He designed the festival so that it appealed to the general public—folk dance groups, musicians, exhibits, and of course, Slovak foods. But he also included scholarly lectures for those interested in more in depth information on various topics of Slovak culture.

In addition, every year he organized an annual spring event, The Thomas Kukučka Memorial Lecture, which brought to the university a prominent scholar to speak on a topic related to Slovak culture. Votruba himself often lectured at the Department of State in Washington, at academic conferences, and elsewhere on Slovak topics.

Professor Votruba served as a member of a number of significant institutions: Board of directors of the Academia Istropolitana, Bratislava; Evaluator of Berlitz transactions Superior vena cava syndrome, Los Angeles, since 1990; the Slovak collection committee of the Western Pennsylvania History Society, Pittsburgh, since 1990; a certified tester for the Slovak and Czech languages for the Interagency Language Roundtable protocol and training carried out by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) in conjunction with the Defense Language Institute. He also belonged to several scholarly organizations, including the Modern Language Association and the Slovak Studies Association.

In addition, Votruba published a number of studies, which are listed at the end of this tribute. And he performed numerous peer reviews for a host of journals, books and other publications.

Recognizing his achievements, he received numerous awards and commendations: American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages Excellence in Teaching Award (Post-Secondary), 2011; Best Academic Article Bi-annual Prize, Slovak Studies Association-Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies; the Milan Hodža Award of Honor, from the Slovak Academy of Sciences, 2014; Letter of Commendation for “dedication to education and to the preservation of the Slovak culture in the community,” Mark Doyle, Member of Congress of the United States; Letter of Commendation for “educational and instructional merits and commitment,” Office of the Chief Executive, County of Allegheny; Education Award “in recognition and appreciation for dedication and service to preserve and enrich the Slovak culture,” Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association; Medal of Honor, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the U.S.; Faculty Honor Roll “in recognition of dedication to excellence in education,” University of Pittsburgh; Letter of Commendation “for positive interaction with students,” Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, University of Pittsburgh.

### **Concluding Remarks**

Martin was a true friend, a master teacher and an invaluable colleague, and a genuinely kind and helpful person; he will be sorely missed. The many students who studied under him will all remember him as one of the best teachers, one who cared about serving others.

On a personal note, Martin was always promptly willing to assist me if I had any questions about Slovakia or the Slovak language. We always spoke and communicated

with each other in Slovak, whether by e-mail or in person.

Just this past summer of 2018, I was working on a paper about the Slovak grape harvest and festivals (*vinobranie*) and had a question for him about the meaning of the custom “*zarážanie hory*”, a medieval phrase about the grape harvest. It does not translate very well into English and the many dictionaries and websites that I had consulted offered no clear definition. Even though he was on the road traveling in Slovakia, he responded with a quick answer, and then followed it up the next day with a more extensive reply, showing he had done some research. The term referred to the tradition of barring people from the vineyards during a several week period in August and September. His extensive reply noted its similarity to the Austrian and German custom of “*Hutzeit*”, when no one was allowed to enter the vineyard except the owner and the custodian. He concluded that the best translation would be a period of “shutting off/closing off vineyards” or “the closure of vineyards” or “the isolation of vineyards” or “the closing of vineyards” or something similar. Apparently this intended to protect the grapes from parasitic diseases, theft, and included a rite of prayer services. This was just one of many times that Martin had assisted me, and I will always feel indebted to his devotion to his work and helping others.

Finally, Professor Votruba built a wonderful website with information about Slovakia, which answers many commonly held questions and includes some useful references. It often comes up in internet searches about Slovakia. As always when writing, he combined a smooth English writing style with his wealth of knowledge about Slovak culture, history, and

the Slovak language. Hopefully, the university will maintain his website as a lasting legacy to a man who truly deserved to hold the chair of Slovak Studies. The Slovak Program website may be found at this address: [http://www.pitt.edu/~votruba/skprogram/Martin\\_Votruba.html](http://www.pitt.edu/~votruba/skprogram/Martin_Votruba.html)

The University of Pittsburgh will host a **memorial service in his honor at 2 p.m. on January 13, 2019** at the Frick Fine Arts Auditorium. More detailed information from the university on the memorial service for Dr. Votruba will be forthcoming at a later date.

### **Publications**

2013 “*Výučba slovakistiky v post-krajanskom prostredí USA.*” In: Jana Pekarovičová and Zuzana Hargašová, eds. *Slovenčina vo svete – súčasný stav a perspektívy*. Bratislava: Univerzita Komenského, 2013. ISBN 978-80-223-3490-7

2011 “Birds, Orphans, and Fools.”; “Camouflage.”; “Love Film.”; “A Thousand-Year-Old Bee.”; “Rosy Dreams.”; “She Grazed Horses on Concrete.” Entries in: Adam Bingham, ed. *Critical Directory of World Cinema: East Europe*. Chicago, IL/Bristol, UK: The University of Chicago Press/Intellect Ltd. ISBN 978-1-84150-464-3

2009 *Porovnávací gramatika anglického a slovenského jazyka II*. With Alžbeta Kubišová and Miroslav Bázlik, 3rd edition. Bratislava: Univerzita Komenského. ISBN 978-80-223-2620-9

2009 “The Uncommon Language: Bratislava, Budapest, and Brussels.” *Slovak Studies Association Newsletter*, Vol. 32, Fall 2009, 19-25.

2007 "Highwayman's Life: Extant Documents about Jánošík." *Slovakia* Vol. 39#72-73, pp. 81-98. ISSN 0583-5623 [Slovakia is indexed in Historical Abstracts, parts A and B.]

2006 "Hang Him High: The Elevation of Jánošík to an Ethnic Icon." *Slavic Review* 65/1, Spring 2006: 24-44. ISSN 0037-6779

2005 "Historical and National Background of Slovak Filmmaking." *KinoKultura, Special Issue 3: Slovak Cinema*, December 2005. ISSN 478-6567

2005 *Gramatika angličtiny: seminárne úlohy*. With Miroslav Bázlik, 6th edition. Bratislava: Vydavateľstvo Univerzity Komenského. ISBN 80-223-2118-4

2005 Guest editor. (The first English-language volume on Slovak filmmaking.) *KinoKultura, Special Issue 3: Slovak Cinema*, December 2005. ISSN 478-6567

2004 "Comments on 'Culture and Politics – Rivals or Allies?'" in M. Mark Stolarik, ed. *The Slovak Republic: A Decade of Independence*, Wauconda, IL: Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers, Inc., pp. 119-124. ISBN 0-86516-568-8

2003 "Trends in 20th Century Slovak Filmmaking." *Slovakia* Vol. 37/68-69, pp. 71-98. ISSN 0583-5623 [Slovakia is indexed in Historical Abstracts, parts A and B.]

2001 "Blažková, Jaroslava;" and "Jarunková, Klára." entries in: J. E. Miller (ed.) *Who's Who in Contemporary Women's Writing*, New York, NY: Routledge. ISBN 0-415-15981-4.

2000 *Porovnávací gramatika anglického a slovenského jazyka* I. With Miroslav Bázlik, 3rd revised edition. Bratislava: Univerzita Komenského, ISBN 80-223-1470-6

2000 *Porovnávací gramatika anglického a slovenského jazyka* II. With Alžbeta Kubišová and Miroslav Bázlik, 3rd revised edition. Bratislava: Univerzita Komenského. ISBN 80-223-1471-6

2000 *Gramatika angličtiny: seminárne úlohy*. With Miroslav Bázlik, 5th edition. Bratislava: Univerzita Komenského. ISBN 80-223-1446-3

1998 "Linguistic Minorities in Slovakia." In *Linguistic Minorities in Central and Eastern Europe*, ed.: C. Bratt Paulston. London: Multilingual Matters. ISBN 18-535-9416-4

1997 [book review] "Hammer, Louise B.; Ripka, Ivor: Speech of American Slovaks... – Bratislava, 1994." *Journal of Slavic Linguistics*, JSL Vol. 5/1, 1997, 188-189.

1997 "English and Slovak Span the Atlantic." *Zborník Filozofickej fakulty Univerzity Komenského: Philologica*. Vol. XLVI, p. 157.

1995 "Slovakia after the Velvet Revolution: A Tale of Two Intelligentsias." *Slavic Almanach* Vol. 3/3-4, pp. 126-136. ISSN 1025-3386

1994 *Gramatika angličtiny: seminárne úlohy*. With Miroslav Bázlik, 4th revised edition.

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## History by Billboard: Public Poster Displays in the Czech Republic, 2018

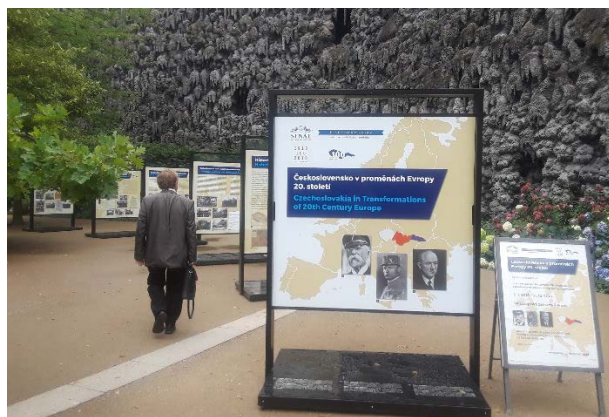
by Hugh Agnew

As we all know, this year marked a "round anniversary" year for the Czechs and Slovaks, including many potential anniversaries. One of the most often commemorated was of course the anniversary of the founding of the Czechoslovak state in 1918, though it was by no means the only one so marked: 1848, 1918, 1938, 1988/89, and others were all noted.



One feature of these commemorations that struck me when I was able to spend a few weeks in the Czech Republic this summer was how many public historical displays I ran across in the form of public billboard posters on the historical event to be commemorated. This effort to move historical commemoration out of museums and lecture halls and into the street struck me as interesting, so here are a few images of what I saw.

I was in Prague to attend the SVU Congress held there in July, and our opening event also featured the formal opening of an exhibit, “Czechoslovakia in the Transformations of the Twentieth Century,” set up in the Valdštejn Gardens behind the Senate.



In a series of posters the exhibit surveyed Czechoslovakia’s history with all the usual suspects and topics covered. Fairly traditional in approach, it did at least cover some sensitive topics such as the post-war expulsions. Unlike the other exhibits of this type that I saw, this one attempted to provide a survey of the entire century.



On a trip to Tábor I was struck, again, by the presence of a similar exhibit, this one scattered through various locations in town. The theme was “How we lived in Tábor a century ago,” but of course a major part of the story was the 1918 anniversary.

On the main square the posters dealt with the few days around October 28, 1918, though with an eye to the succeeding two decades. If there were additional chapters of the exhibit dedicated to later decades (World War II, the communist era) I did not see them.

One interesting aspect of Tábor’s exhibit was that part of it was specifically directed at the young viewers, which you can see if you look at the lowest panel of each of the major poster billboards.

Illustrated with contemporary graphics around the theme of independence, and the overcoming of the Habsburg “oppression” the Czechs had suffered under, they posters included some memorable paintings and graphics. One image of the two-tailed lion

(representing Bohemia) savaging an Austrian banner was particularly striking.



Other images foreshadowed repeated use in later political moments: the “death notice” for Austria-Hungary (upper right of the picture above) was repeated in the resistance posters following the 1968 Soviet-led invasion that ended the “Prague Spring,” and again was used to lament the Polish Law and Justice party’s tightening its grip on Polish politics this year.



There was also a poster commemorating the famous “men (no women) of 28 October” that tied into Tábor’s own history and self-image: entitled “The Last Táborites,” it featured the leading figures of the domestic and international movement for an independent Czechoslovakia, tying them in directly with the Hussite traditions as the Czech nationalists interpreted them, and Tábor’s place in that interpretation.



But the 1918 anniversary was not the only one commemorated with similar “public history” displays. I stayed in Žižkov, and on Olšanské náměstí there was a special exhibition devoted to the anniversary of the urban redevelopment scheme (*asanace*) carried out there, starting in



1978. Since these events were in the living memory of many of the passers-by, perhaps their relationship to the poster billboards was different. Or perhaps they simply walked past them on their way to their daily destinations.



However that may be (and unlike the posters in Tábor, one does not notice here any attempt to present the information given specifically

geared towards younger viewers), the overall message of the posters was positive, even though this redevelopment was an accomplishment of the “normalized” regime of Gustáv Husák—which argues perhaps for a more nuanced approach to the recent pre-1989 past at least in some aspects of life. It was impossible to stop and view these billboard displays without thinking of Cathleen Giustino and Kimberley Elman Zarecor, of course!

The question remains whether this form of public history is an effective, or accurate, way to communicate historical interpretations and conclusions to the public. Is it merely a formal affirmation of a triumphalist narrative of national success? Or is it possible to present history in such a public forum with all the complications that we professional historians wrestle with when we try to form our own narratives?

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### 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.

**CZECHOSLOVAK STUDIES ASSOCIATION**  
 Financial Statement  
 For the Period 4 November 2016 to 6 November 2017  
**BALANCES**  
 6 November 2017

Cash Balances in:

Operating Fund (includes \$1,248 in Book Prize Funds)	\$15,327.32
Pech Fund (includes a CD at 0.10% interest)	\$ 4,854.29

**OPERATING FUND**

Opening cash balance	\$ 13,904.64
Receipts for the period	\$ <u>1,527.68</u>
	\$ 15,432.32
Disbursements for the period	- \$ <u>105.00</u>
Closing cash balance	\$ 15,327.32

**RECEIPTS FOR THE PERIOD**

Dues & contributions (includes Book Fund [\$65] and Pech Fund [\$87] receipts)	\$ 1,513.04
Interest	\$ <u>14.64</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,527.68</b>

**EXPENDITURES AND TRANSFERS FOR THE PERIOD**

Bank Service Charges	\$ 18.00
Transfers to Pech Fund	\$ <u>87.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 105.00</b>

**STANLEY Z. PECH PRIZE FUND**

Opening cash balance	\$2,658.28
Contributions	\$ 87.00
Interest	+ \$ <u>2.47</u>
	\$2,747.75
Pech Prize (Includes \$1.00 Money Order)	- \$ <u>201.00</u>
	\$2,546.75
CD at 0.10% due 21 September 2018 (\$2,305.22 plus interest of \$2.32 added at maturity 9/21/17)	+ \$ <u>2,307.54</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,854.29</b>



“The Dustbins of History (Smetišťe dějin)”

Seen on a Tábor street, July 2018