

Kroje Will Dance into NCSML for Summer 2002

Plan now to see *Kroje – Dress for the Dance of Life!* an original exhibition prepared by the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. Kroje (pronounced kroy-eh) are folk costumes, powerful symbols of Czech and Slovak pride in ethnic heritage. As an extension of the kroje section of the *Homelands* exhibition, *Kroje – Dress for the Dance of Life!* includes many colorful heirloom textiles with elaborate embroidery, fine lace, and beadwork.

Kroje represent some of the finest folk art of the Czech and Slovak people, reflecting several hundred years of evolution and refinement. Made entirely by hand, kroje tell the story of their proud wearers, chronicling generations of tradition affected by local natural environment, foreign influences, fashion preferences, and local taste. There is no single national kroj for the Czech Republic or Slovakia; the costumes are as varied as they are beautiful, with embellishments, materials, and overall form unique to each village and region.

Kroje – Dress for the Dance of Life! will draw from the NCSML's extensive collections to exhibit more Czech and Slovak kroje than have ever been shown in one place outside the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Most of the costumes have never been exhibited before. In addition, Helene Cincebeaux will loan fine beaded kroje and other beaded textiles from the Baine/Cincebeaux Collection. Cincebeaux and her mother have traveled to hundreds of

Slovak towns and villages, accumulating perhaps the largest private collection of Slovak kroje in the world. Pieces from the Baine/Cincebeaux Collection have been shown in prominent museums around the U.S. Look for Cincebeaux's pieces in a special section of the exhibition and plan now to attend one of her gallery tours on April 12-13, or her April 14th program on beaded kroje.

A series of original paintings by Moravian artist Joža Uprka will enhance the exhibition. Uprka (1861-1940) is best known for his post-impressionist style, using bright color and texture to depict Moravian village life and individuals in traditional kroje. The paintings are from the private collection of George Drost, Chicago's Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic, and have never been exhibited in the United States.

Eagerly awaited by NCSML members for several years, *Kroje – Dress for the Dance of Life!* is undoubtedly the most elaborate temporary exhibition mounted to date by the NCSML. Many complete kroje, packed exhibit cases, paintings, and incredible early 20th century graphics will fill every available space. This exhibit will only be offered at the NCSML in Cedar Rapids- don't miss it!

Kroje – Dress for the Dance of Life! opens to the public on April 12th and runs through October 13, 2002. Mark your calendar to attend the Members Opening Reception on Thursday evening, April 11, 2002. Lectures,



classes, a dance festival, and even a kroje symposium in early September are planned for the summer in conjunction with the exhibition. Watch the NCSML web site, kalendář, and future newsletters for program dates and details.

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Last year the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library received a \$200,000 endowment gift from the estate of Henrietta Bartizal. This gift was added to more than \$60,000 of previous endowment gifts she had made in the two years prior to her passing. Mrs. Bartizal, a life-long resident of Riverside, Illinois, was the daughter of Frank J. and Bessie (Panosh) Skala. Mr. Skala had been a prominent banker in Berwyn, the neighboring community to Riverside, and one of the leading Czech citizens in the Chicago area. The endowment fund is in her parents' name.

Henrietta, along with her daughters Henrietta Pons and Blanche Babcock, made several trips to the NCSML over the past six years, attending Fall Dinners and exhibit openings. On many of these trips Henrietta would bring along items for the collection (many to the library), and she made annual financial contributions to the operations.

There are several wonderful aspects to this story. The first is that Henrietta Bartizal recognized that the NCSML was the most appropriate institution to honor her Czech heritage and to safeguard and make accessible (through exhibits and research) family items that help reveal and preserve the remarkable Czech Diaspora. Secondly, having

entrusted us with these items, she knew how important it would be to help create a secure future for the NCSML. Endowments are the greatest guarantees we have for sustainability in perpetuity. Her special love was the library, so her gift supports the librarian's position at the NCSML. Thirdly, this story isn't about money. It is about a relationship between an individual, her love of her parents, children, and her heritage, and the institution that will honor and interpret this heritage for future generations. We miss Henrietta a great deal. But we also remember her everyday.

Growing the endowment fund is our institutional priority in 2002. Some donors will be able to give gifts while they are alive, and have the pleasure of seeing the direct benefits their generosity is providing. These gifts may take the form of cash, stock, real estate or other types of exchange. Other donors will best be able to make endowment gifts through their estates, through insurance policies, trusts, real estate, cash or other items. And some, like Henrietta, will do both.

Our endowment currently is around \$850,500. The board has set a goal of growing the endowment to \$2 million by the end of '02, and \$5 million by '04. A \$5 million endowment would provide approximately \$200,000 of annual support. This means that each year a significant foundation of funding would always be in place.

As you hear more about the endowment, and you think about the legacy you would like to leave at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, know that our goal today, and everyday, is to create a secure future for this remarkable institution. Henrietta Bartizal understood this, and for that we are forever grateful.

Dan Baldwin, President/CEO
dbaldwin@ncsml.org

MUSEUM STORE OFFERS NEW DOLLS, BOOKS, NEEDLEWORK PATTERNS, MUSIC

To celebrate the April opening of *Kroje—Dress for the Dance of Life!* the museum store will offer new merchandise, including the largest selection ever of dolls made in the Czech Republic. Dressed in Bohemian, Moravian or Slovakian costumes, dolls are made of vinyl or porcelain and range in height from 4 to 18 inches. Prices vary.

Also available: *Czech, Moravian and Slovak Traditional Costumes* paper dolls - \$9.95 and a *Czech, Moravian and Slovak Traditional Costumes* coloring book - \$5.00.

Books

Czech & Slovak Kolaches & Sweet Treats Cookbook - \$6.95

Czech Americans in Transition by Clinton Machann - \$18.95

Texas Veterans of Czech Ancestry by The Czech Heritage Society of Texas - \$45.00

Needlework Pattern

1907 Czech/Slovak Sampler Counted Thread Needlework, an authorized reproduction from the collections of The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, by Marjorie Mueller - \$5.00

Music

Twelve Piano Pieces for Children Based on Czech Legends and History by David Talacko - \$8.50

Whither Little Path and Other Authentic Folk Songs from the Czech & Slovak Republics, Arranged and Translated by Alma Turechek, Professor Emerita, Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

- Songbook - \$12.00
- CD featuring the voices of Max Naxera and Coe Professor Margie Marrs - \$19.00

Children's Books by Peter Sis

The Three Golden Keys brings to life the magic of Prague and its legends - \$23.00

A Small Tall Tale From The Far Far North charts unexplored territory in the world of picture books - \$17.00

For additional information, or to order, please call the museum store at 319.362.8500. The store accepts VISA, MasterCard and Discover. Shipping is available.



NCSML offers August motor coach trip to Nebraska Czech Festival

Please join us August 2nd to 5th for a fun 4-day trip to Wilber, Nebraska, to experience the 41st Annual Nebraska Czech Festival and the Miss Czech-Slovak USA Pageant.

We'll leave early Friday morning, and enjoy some special sites and events at stops en route. We'll be in Wilber Saturday and Sunday to take in Festival events, including parades, accordion jamborees, bands, dance performances, dances, and, of course, a kolace-eating contest.

We'll sponsor a float in the parade - bring your kroj if you'd like to ride the float or walk along the parade route! We'll cheer for the first Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa as she competes in the pageant. And we can cheer again for our own Lisa Volesky as she completes her reign and crowns the next queen. [Lisa Volesky, of Swisher, Iowa, represented the local Czech Heritage Foundation in last year's pageant, and is the first Iowan to reign as Miss Czech-Slovak USA.]

We'll make some fun stops as we return on Monday, August 5, and will arrive in Cedar Rapids Monday evening.

For more information or to make reservations, please call Shirley Rosencrans at 319.362.8500. Invite your family and friends to join us. Let's have a great representation from the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library by having a full motorcoach to the 41st Annual Wilber Nebraska Czech Festival!

GRANT NOTICES

The operations of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library are supported this year, in part, by a grant from The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, Cultural Enrichment Grant Program.

The exhibit, *Kroje—Dress for the Dance of Life!* is funded, in part, by a grant from Humanities Iowa and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

More than 500 participated in Svatý Mikuláš programs



Puppet workshop participants Elizabeth and Sam Tursi show off their creations. Our thanks to RE/MAX associates, who sponsored the puppet show and pop-up puppet workshop.

After the puppet show, Eulenspiegel puppeteers and NCSML volunteers helped children make their own pop-up puppets. Special helpers included Lisa Volesky, Miss Czech-Slovak USA, and the Czech Heritage prince and princess, Eric Gervais and Rachel Wobeter.



The 17th Annual Sv. Mikuláš Day was a huge success, with more than 500 people attending programs at the museum, including a performance of Czech Christmas carols by the Cedar Rapids Xavier High School Voce Choir; a puppet show and puppet-making workshop by the Eulenspiegel Puppet Company; visits from Sv. Mikuláš, the angel, and the devil, portrayed by members of Czech Heritage; Master Folk Artist Marj NejdI personalizing Christmas ornaments; carols by the Czech Heritage Singers; and a performance by the Slovak Catholic Sokols, from Milwaukee, WI. The NCSML thanks all the sponsors and cooperating groups who made this special day possible.

Cedar Rapids Sokol sponsored the performance of Slovak Catholic Sokols from Milwaukee, WI, who performed precision drills for a captivated audience. Afterward, Sokol members and NCSML volunteers treated the group to a potluck dinner.





Czech Heritage Foundation members portrayed Sv. Mikuláš, the angel, and the devil, doling out candy canes and talking with young visitors.

Sv. Mikuláš Day began early with Christmas carols by the Cedar Rapids Xavier High School Voice Choir, under the direction of Ann Ohrt. The students sang in both Czech and English.



The Czech Heritage Singers have performed for Sv. Mikuláš audiences every year, singing in Czech and teaching about traditional Czech Christmas carols.

National Koláč Bake Off will take place March 23 at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

Koláč bakers are invited to submit entries in the following categories: Open Koláče, Closed Koláče, or Specialty Koláče (including the large traditional koláče and koláče with non-traditional fillings). Bakers are encouraged to use their own special family recipe. Prizes will be awarded at 3:00 p.m. to first place winners in each category as selected by a panel of distinguished judges. A People's Choice Prize will also be awarded. For more details, please see the entry form in this newsletter, or call Jan at 319. 362.8500. Please enter by March 20, 2002.

Koláč tasters are invited to attend the bake off, sample all the koláče, and vote for your favorites. Tickets at the door: \$1 for five samples / \$.25 for one.

CZECH COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE COMES TO CEDAR RAPIDS

The Czech Collectors Association recently accepted the NCSML's invitation to hold their 2002 annual conference in Cedar Rapids. Conference dates are April 18-20, 2002. NCMSL members are invited to participate in the conference, which will include lectures, a special exhibit of members' glassware and ceramics, a reception, ethnic demonstrations at the museum, and an auction. For more information about CCA or to register for the conference, contact Cheryl Goyda at _____ or visit the web site at: www.czechcollectors.org.

Library Receives Grants and Gifts to Catalog Library Collection

The NCSML library continues to make progress in the ongoing task of cataloging library materials and putting the catalog online. This effort has gotten a boost lately through several important contributions.

The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation, through its Merveaux Fund, awarded a grant of \$5,500. Other gifts included a \$3,000 anonymous donation and a \$1,000 donation from the estate of Mary Drahozal. The NCSML also received grants of \$20,000 over two years from the General Endowment Fund of the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation, and \$8,167 from the Linn County Board of Supervisors.

Some of the grant money will allow the NCSML to purchase existing high-quality catalog records for books and periodicals in the library collection. Cataloging is an exacting and time-consuming procedure,

especially when dealing with foreign languages. With grant funds we will "copy-catalog" the items in the library collection, which is a fast and cost-effective way to acquire quality catalog records for use in the catalog database.

Next, the catalog database will be made available via computer, which will allow NCSML staff and the general public to search for items in the library collection. Eventually, we will make the catalog searchable over the Internet. Researchers anywhere in the world will then be able to access NCSML library collections through the World Wide Web.

The NCSML continues to seek additional funding sources for the cataloging project. A long-term goal is to hire a technical services librarian, who will oversee the maintenance of the online catalog and be responsible for processing and cataloging incoming library acquisitions.

ALMA TURECHEK'S WHITHER LITTLE PATH RECORDED

NCSML member Alma Turechek is the translator and arranger of *Whither Little Path and Other Authentic Folk Songs from the Czech and Slovak Republics*. She taught piano and music theory at Coe College, was the director of the choir at Trinity Methodist Church, and has been instructor in folk music and games at recreation schools in Illinois and Iowa.

With assistance from her Coe colleague Professor Margie Marrs, Alma published *Whither Little Path* in booklet form in 1999. Last year, again with Marrs' assistance, and with the help of George J. (Max) Naxera, Dean Karns, Vic and Janice Naxera, and through the support of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, these folk songs were recorded.

The *Whither Little Path and Other Authentic Folk Songs from the Czech and Slovak Republics* compact disc is available at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library's Museum Store for \$19.00 (plus \$3.00 for shipping and handling). For more information, contact Shirley Rosencrans at (319) 362-8500 or via e-mail at giftstore@ncsml.org.

NCSML offers an evening with guitarist Vladislav Bláha

Vladislav Bláha, internationally known classical guitarist from the Czech Republic, will perform a concert including classical guitar pieces and Moravian folk songs in the Grand Hall at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library on Saturday, March 16, 2002, at 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Bláha has achieved international recognition as winner of four international guitar competitions. A Professor at the Brno Conservatory and Director of the International Guitar Festival in Brno, he has released five solo CDs, and been a featured soloist on six others. A reception will follow the concert, giving concertgoers an opportunity to meet and talk with Mr. Bláha. Tickets are available at the museum in advance and before the performance: \$5.00 for NCSML members and \$8.00 for non-members. This program is sponsored, in part, by the Iowa Arts Council.

Cedar Rapids Symphony presents Martin Kasik at the Paramount

A young award-winning virtuoso from the Czech Republic will join the Cedar Rapids Symphony for "Slavic Salute," its final concert of the season, on Saturday, May 4, at 8 p.m. and Monday, May 6, at 7 p.m. at the Paramount Theatre in downtown Cedar Rapids.

Martin Kasik, a 26-year-old native of Ostrava now living in Prague, has been hailed internationally for his powerful performances and sensitive interpretations of great classics. Tickets range from \$16 to \$39; senior citizen and student prices are available. For tickets, call the Symphony Box Office at 366-8203 or 1-800-369-TUNE. Great America Leasing sponsors the concert.



Martin Kasik

ENTRY FORM

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library 2002 National Koláč Bake Off March 23, 2002

Rules for the 2002 National Koláč Bake Off

- Koláč bakers are invited to submit their entries in the following categories:
 - Open Koláče with Traditional Filling (poppy seed, prune, cherry, apricot)
 - Closed Koláče with Traditional Filling (poppy seed, prune, cherry, apricot)
 - Specialty Koláče – including large traditional koláče and non-traditional fillings
- Prizes are awarded to first place winners in each category as selected by a panel of distinguished judges. A People's Choice Award is also presented.
- **Participants must bring 4 dozen koláče to the event.** One dozen is reserved for judging. The remaining three dozen are available for public sampling.
- **Participants must enter by noon, March 20, 2002.** Commercial bakeries are not eligible to enter. Please complete a registration form for each entry if you are entering multiple recipes. Late entries are not accepted. To register, fill out the form at the bottom of the page and send it to:

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library
ATTN: Jan
30 16th Ave. SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404
- Judges may reassign category, as they deem necessary.
- **All entries must be in the NCSML's WFLA Heritage Hall by 11:30 a.m., March 23, 2002.** Judging commences at noon. Samples are available to the public at noon. Prizes are awarded at 3:00 p.m.
- **Entrants, or a representative, are required to be present for the duration of the bake off (noon – 4:00 p.m.), serve samples to the public, and have fun.**
- One winner from each category will receive *Czech & Slovak Kolaches & Sweet Treats*, a \$25 gift certificate to the Museum Store, and other prizes to be announced.

Name: _____ Category: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

For more information, call (319) 362-8500.
The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library * 30 16th Ave. SW * Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

EXHIBITS AND COLLECTIONS

CONTEMPORARY "TURNED" WOOD TOYS COMING TO NCSML

The art of Jan Honza Novaček will be featured at the NCSML in the South Hall gallery from March 2 – June 2, 2002. Novaček is known for his beautiful graphics and paintings, but his favorite 'canvas' is wood. Dolls, flying creatures, marionettes, and toys are made by turning wood on a lathe and using paint to add character. Novaček has exhibited his work around Europe. He makes his American debut in 2002 with exhibits at the Embassy of the Czech Republic and NCSML.



Plan now to make your own creation in a workshop with Mr. Novaček at the NCSML on March 2, 2002. (Call Jan Stoffer Tursi at 319.362.8500 for more details or to register.)

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is open Tuesday through Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 4:00 p.m.

From April 12 through Oct. 13, 2002, during *Kroje – Dress for the Dance of Life!* the museum will also be open on Mondays from 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Admission is FREE to members.



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library
30 Sixteenth Avenue SW • Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404-5904
319 362-8500 • Fax 319 363-2209



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