



News of the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library

Volume 6, Number 4 — Fall 2000

# Formal Settings Opens November 2

Formal Settings: Decorated Porcelain of Bohemia opens November 2, 2000 as the second exhibition mounted in the museum's new gallery. Formal Settings will feature dozens of fine porcelain pieces from the collection of Dr. James D. Henderson of Milwaukee, including a mix of dinnerware and serving pieces, dresser sets, vases, and other decorative items. Text and images will reveal the history of porcelain production, how it was made and decorated, sample advertisements, and factory drawings of various plate rim patterns.

The history of Czech porcelain production began with the first Bohemian porcelain factory, which opened in 1792. It wasn't until the early 1800s, when geologists confirmed the existence of fine ideal clay deposits, that the Austrian Empire encouraged the construction of Bohemian porcelain factories. Thirty Czech pottery factories were established by 1850, many located in the Karlovy Vary region.

Skilled Bohemian artisans painted original art or embellished transfers on the porcelain to reflect current art trends. Unpainted white pieces, called whiteware, were also exported for embellishment in other countries. Many of Dr. Henderson's hand painted pieces were shipped to the United States as whiteware and decorated in this country during the arts and crafts movement of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. China decorating became a popular form of artistic expression during this time, especially among women, and china decorating studios and clubs sprang up in larger cities around the U.S.



Visitors to *Formal Settings* will observe an impressive variety of porcelain forms. Decorative styles vary and include intricate transferware from as early as the 1830s, and a range of hand painted pieces representing trained Bohemian artists and both trained and amateur artists from the U.S. Motifs range from game fish to floral.

Formal Settings will be open through January 14, 2001.

# Fall Dinner to Have Literary Theme

Zenny Sadlon, for 14 years the Czech reporter for Voice of America, was always frustrated that his favorite novel was never appreciated, or even fully understood, by American readers. He decided to something about it. Zenny and his collaborator and VOA associate, Mike Joyce, will tell their story as the program for the 2000 Fall Dinner on November 4

continued on calender page...

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### FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# From the President

Life at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library has been very hectic and it looks as though it will continue. Since the last newsletter was published the museum has presented several popular programs, many of which were related to our special exhibit, Czech Technology in Motion. I hope you had a chance to take advantage of these. Czech Tech itself was very popular, drawing approximately 13,000 visitors from across the country and many different

increased. And she's just getting started. 2001 will exceed all other years at the NCSML as music, dance, lectures, and demonstrations presented by individuals from across the country, and the Czech Republic and Slovakia, will occur throughout the year. A major project is our 2<sup>nd</sup> History and Culture Conference about which we will be offering details soon. It will take place March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>nd</sup>, 2001. Mark your calendars now, as this will be a very dynamic event.



Left to right:
Dan Baldwin
President NSCML
Jakub Skalnik
First Secretary,
Embassy of the
Czech Republic
Martin Butora
Ambassador of Slovakia
Janelle McClain,
Chairman, NCSML

At a dinner in Des Moines for the Iowa Council for International Understanding

walks of life. One of our motivations for presenting Czech Tech was to attract a diverse audience who otherwise would not visit the museum. Clearly this worked as several motorcycle and car clubs toured the exhibit.

The Fall Dinner (page 1) will feature Zenny Sadlon speaking about his work on a translation of *The Fateful adventures* of the Good Soldier Svejk, the best-known Czech novel. For years Zenny was the reporter covering the Czech Republic for Voice of America. I met him when he did a series on the museum for Voice of America. He has also agreed to be a contributor to *Slovo*. His program at the Fall Dinner should be excellent.

Two new professionals have joined the NCSML staff. Jan Stoffer Tursi is now our programs coordinator and Laurie Robinson is our director of development and communications. Jan has made an immediate impact as the number and quality of our program offerings has significantly Laurie brings substantial museum fund raising experience to the NCSML. She is a former museum director who has worked with membership, corporations, and grant writing. I think you will find her a joy to work with.

I recently had two opportunities to attend major events on behalf of the museum. In August I participated in the Society of Czechoslovak Arts and Sciences (SVU) annual meeting and in September attended a gala in New York organized by the American Friends of the Czech Republic, at which President Havel presented Secretary of State Madeleine Albright with a Civil Society award. I am pleased to report that at both of these significant events, the NCSML was extremely well-received and our profile was very high. Word of the work going on in Cedar Rapids is rapidly spreading. This could not be possible without the support of our members.

Dan Baldwin, President/CEO dbaldwin@ncsml.org

### **MUSEUM STORE NEWS**

# Our New Store Merchandise Complements Exhibits

We are very excited about all the new merchandise in the museum store, just in time for your holiday shopping. New products include beautiful hand-blown glass Christmas tree ornaments and tree toppers; tree topper display stands; crystal; Christmas and classical CDs on the Czech Superphon label; china cups/saucers, vases, serving trays; perfume bottles; dolls; garnets; glass teapots, cups/saucers, wine or brandy decanters; books; cookbooks and more.

Also, the print of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library by nationally-known artist, P. Buckley Moss, is still available for \$95. Peppertree Studios and CornerHouse Gallery and Frame are offering a \$20.00 discount off framing for museum members. What a great Christmas present for family or friends.

Just in is a beautiful calendar featuring the photography of Igor Grossman, a well-known Slovak whose popular book we sell in the museum store. The calendar is personalized for the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library and will make a wonderful gift.

Don't forget one of the benefits of being a museum member is a 10% discount on purchases over \$10.00. The store will do special orders and we offer shipping.



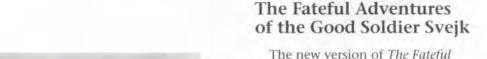
# Bohemian Decorated Porcelain to Accompany Formal Settings

Dr. Henderson of Milwaukee, Wisconsin started collecting over 20 years ago when his wife inherited a set of Bohemian dinnerware. In searching for information about the nearly 100-year-old pieces, he found few English references about the history of Bohemian porcelain production. His passion for knowledge turned into a 20-year adventure ultimately leading to the factories and museums of the Czech Republic.

In 1999, Henderson published the results of his research in *Bohemian Decorated Porcelain*. This colorful hardback book is one of the most comprehensive English publications

on Czech porcelain. The book includes a general history of porcelain production, manufacturing and decoration techniques, a full history of many significant Bohemian factories, and examples of maker's marks from each factory. There are also dozens of full-color images of pieces in his collection and from other museums and private collections.

Bohemian Decorated Porcelain will serve as the exhibition catalog for Formal Settings and is available for sale in the museum store. Dr. Henderson will be available for a book signing on Saturday, November 4th from 3:30-4:00 p.m.



The new version of *The Fateful Adventures of the Good Soldier Svejk* translated by Chicago reporters, Zenny Sadlon and Mike Joyce, is available in the museum store for \$17.50 plus \$4.00 S&H. Zenny and Mike will be the keynote speakers at the annual Fall Dinner, November 4. They will be signing their new book. This would make another great Christmas or birthday gift.



### IN BRIEF

### Jan Stoffer Tursi: Program Coordinator

As the NCSML grows and matures, educational programming becomes more and more important. In June, Jan Stoffer Tursi joined the staff as the Program Coordinator. Jan is originally from Corydon, Iowa and has a bachelor's degree in anthropology from the University of Northern Iowa. Upon graduation, Jan moved to Cedar Rapids where she worked as an archaeological assistant for the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) at the University of Iowa.

She is currently writing her master's thesis through Texas Tech University, studying anthropology and museum science. In addition to scheduling programs and writing programming material, Jan has also been responsible for museum publicity. Jan and her husband, Jim, live in a purple house with their dogs, Piedmont and Saffron.

Archaeology in the Gallery. Jan doing historic archaeology celebrating Iowa's Archaeology Awarness month in Sept.



### **COLLECTIONS UPDATE**

# Acquisition will play an integral role in the long-range development of library

After much planning, the NCSML recently acquired the Slavic library collection from Benedictine University in Lisle, Illinois. With the help of volunteers, we moved 255 boxes of books and bound periodicals, stacked them onto 17 pallets, and loaded them onto a semi trailer. We were fortunate to have the help of several volunteers who boxed and moved the collection. Assisting museum staff were museum volunteers Bernie Drahozal and Bob Drahozal. Volunteers from Chicago area Sokol units included Tom Pajer (Sokol Berwyn-Slavsky), Cathy Kocek (Sokol Chicagoland), Andrea, Jack and

Valerie Scheirer (Sokol Chicagoland), Bob Kucera (Sokol Naperville), and Patty Vondra (Sokol Stickney). These volunteers were hardworking and got the job done ahead of schedule – a big "thanks" to all of you. Thanks also to Ervin and Greg Bittner, who supplied the pallets, and to Bob Kazimour of RFK Transportation, who had the collection trucked to Cedar Rapids and stored until it could be moved into the library.

One of the objectives identified by the NCSML Board of Directors in its five-year long-range plan is to "achieve library recognition as a

leading U.S. research and reference center for Czech and Slovak culture." The Benedictine collection will play an integral role in realizing the NCSML's goal of creating such a research center. An important attribute of the Benedictine collection is that it is cataloged. It will provide the framework into which we integrate the uncataloged library materials already held by the museum. To accommodate this massive cataloging effort, an online library catalog will be selected, purchased and installed by summer 2001. Initial cataloging efforts will focus on the Benedictine collection and materials published in the English language. We will use existing bibliographic records whenever possible, a practice called copy cataloging. Cataloging these materials will be an ongoing effort.

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is committed to creating and maintaining a research center devoted to the preservation and study of Czech and Slovak history and culture. As funding for additional library staff, information technology and other resources is secured, the library will be able to realize its potential.



This RFK semi-trailer transported the collection from Benedictine University in Lisle, Illinois, to the NCSML.

Dave Muhlena, Librarian dmuhlena@ncsml.org

# KALENDÁR OCTOBER 2000- FEBRUARY 2001

# **Coming Events**

Oct. 29, 2000: Sunday Lifelong Learning Series. Carol Cartwright of Ames, Iowa will present a slide program of images from the Czech Republic. 2 pm. Free. WFLA Heritage Hall.

#### NOVEMBER

Nov. 4, 2000. Fall Dinner.

6 pm Reception. 7 pm Dinner. Program: Zenny Sadllon and Mike Joyce, translators of "The Fateful Adventures of the Good Soldier Svejk." \$35. Call (319) 362-8500 for information.

Nov. 15, 2000: Learn at Lunch.

"St. Wenceslaus Church" by Rose Kopecky, Noon, Heritage Hall. Free, Bring a sack lunch and learn about the history of this 150-year-old church and the saint it was named for.

Nov. 16, 2000: Thursday Night Presentation. Diana Davies, University of Iowa, will present a program about Czechoslovakia's first president, T. G. Masaryk. Time to be announced. Free. Heritage Hall.

Nov. 20, 2000: Káva a Knihy (Coffee and Books). Reading Discussion Series, Madeleine Albright, a Twentieth-Century Odyssey by Michael Dobbs. 7-9 pm. Free,

Nov. 24 & 25, 2000: Folk artist Mari Nedil personalizes ornaments 10 am-3 pm

Nov. 26, 2000: Life Long Learning Series. "Verboten: Music and Art Banned by the Nazis" by Scott Cole of Drake University will give a lecture/recital about Czech-Jewish composers/pianists and other composers (Schulhoff) banned by Nazis. 2 pm. Free. WFLA Heritage Hall.

#### ...continued from front page

Arguably the greatest Czech novel, The Good Soldier Svejk, by Jaroslav Hasek, tells the story of a seemingly hapless Czech who is conscripted by the Austro-Hungarian Army after making, again, seemingly disparaging remarks about Arch Duke Ferdinand. What follows is a series of adventures and misadventures in which Svejk confounds his superiors with behavior that is either doltish or brilliantly subversive.

And there lies the great ambiguity and perhaps the source of dissatisfaction by American readers of The Good Soldier Svejk. Zenny always believed the root of the problem was in the translation. So he and Mike Joyce set out to do the seemingly impossible: create a new translation of an established literary masterpiece.

Nov. 28 & 30, 2000: Porcelain Painting Class. \$10.00. For ages 15 and up. Class size limited to 15. Reservations required. JoAnne Neff, instructor.

#### DECEMBER

Learn about the Christmas carp, how to decorate a Czech, Slovak and Moravian tree, and enjoy traditional holiday activities and demonstrations throughout the month.

Dec. 2, 2000: Svati Mikulás Day. Celebrate a Czech and Slovak Christmas with St. Nicholas, the angel and the devil. Come for a 10 am puppet show performed by the Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre (puppet show admission \$2 for adults, \$1 for children). There will be a free activity for children and families following the show.

Dec. 3, 2000: Muzika Muzika (Music Music). Roosevelt Middle School 7th & 8th grade orchestra. 2 pm. Free. Heritage Hall.

Dec. 3, 2000: Folk artist Marj Nedjl personalizes ornaments 10 am-3 pm.

Dec. 6, 2000: Learn at Lunch. "Kapr" ("The Christmas Carp"). Noon. WFLA Heritage Hall. Free. Bring a sack lunch and learn about the role the carp plays in Czech and Slovak Christmas traditions.

Dec. 9, 2000: Folk artist Marj Nedjl personalizes ornaments 10 am-3 pm.

Dec. 9, 2000: Annual Museum Guild Cookie Walk.

A very popular holiday event allows visitors the opportunity to 'stock up' on yummy Christmas goodies. 10 am-3 pm.

Dec. 10, 2000: Petr Vasa, a performing artist from the Czech Republic, will be at the CSPS at 7 pm. This program is co-sponsored by Legion Arts and the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.

#### JANUARY

Jan. 14, 2001: Sunday Lecture. Finding your roots in the Czech & Slovak Republic... What to do, what to expect, tips & suggestions by Mark Vasko-Bigaouette, Founder Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International. 2 pm. Free. WFLA Heritage Hall.

Jan. 17, 2001: Learn at Lunch. Noon. Heritage Hall. Free. Bring a sack lunch and learn about Czech and Slovak traditions.

Jan. 28, 2001: Life Long Learning Series. Dr. Sarah Meredith of Iowa State University and one of her students will talk about their adventures at the International Antonin Dvořák Competition in Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic. 2 pm. Free. WFLA Heritage Hall.

#### **FEBRUARY**

Feb. 8, 2001 - April 22, 2001. A National Collection.

This exhibition marks the completion of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library's collection storage facility. The exhibit will include highlights from the artifact and archive collections, including many items that have never been on exhibit. Expect a broad range of artifacts, including textiles, paintings, glass and ceramics, original letters and photographs, folk art, firearms, maps, and many other items.

Zenny is Slovak and Moravian by birth, and a Czech by upbringing. He first read Svejk when he was 15years old, the result of its being republished during the Prague Spring of 1968. Zenny defected in the early 70's and arrived in Chicago in 1973. Already profiled by the Chicago Tribune and the Cedar Rapids Gazette, Zenny and Mike have been getting a strong response to their project.

"You've got to get 'Svejked,' " Zenny likes to say. On November 4, you'll have your chance. You won't want to miss it.

Tickets to the fall dinner are \$35. To order your tickets call (319) 362-8500. The 2000 Fall Dinner is sponsered by Pilsner Urquell, USA.

#### Museum Sponsored Motorcoach Trip

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library will be offering another fun 4-day, 3-night trip, this time to Dearborn (suburb of Detroit), Michigan, June 29 - July 2, 2001 to witness the American Sokol Organization XX National Slet followed by a farewell BBQ. A Slet is a competition for Sokol gymnastic units. We will be watching the grand finale of this 5-day event with all the gymnasts perfuming in unison.

Other highlights will include the Henry Ford Museum & Green Village in Detroit. Not all details are finalized. The next newsletter will have pricing and the final itinerary. If you are interested in the trip, please contact Shirley Rosencrans at 362-8500 to be pul on the list. Come join our fun group of travelers!

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Memorial for Mary Ellen Herda Turek

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### Dikuji vám mnohokrát Thank you very much

The Museum gardens have presented visitors with many lovely blooms thanks to the efforts of the NCSML "Garden Club." With rakes, shovels, trowels, weeders, and hoes, this stalwart group has planted and watered, thinned and weeded, and trimmed and shaped the flower beds and window boxes to insure a colorful floral display that continues from the first spring blossoms to the last fall hues.

My dear summer, cos nám přineslo? What did you bring us? Mnoho dobrého, Many good, kvítí pikného, beautiful blossoms, modrého, bílého blue, white i červeného. and red. Z Cech

From Czech

Mé milé léto,

#### **NCSML** gardeners

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President Havel of the Czech Republic greets Secretary of State Madeleine Albright at a reception prior to the September 7 gala hosted by the American Friends of the Czech Republic.

### **2001 EXHIBTION SCHEDULE**

### A National Collection: Celebrating the Artifacts and Archives of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library,

February 8 - April 22

In conjunction with the creation of the NCSML's new collection storage facility, A National Collection will celebrate the material culture of Czechs and Slovaks as demonstrated through the growing depth of the museum's collection. Short on interpretation and long on objects, this exhibition will feature long-held and newly-acquired pieces, including glass, porcelain, folk art, textiles, a Civil War diary (kept by a Czech immigrant soldier), musical instruments, photographs, and much more.

### (Title TBA) Photography by Lil Juras

February 22 - May 13

### Twentieth Century Sensations: Czechs and Slovaks and their Impact on Popular Culture

May 24 - September 23

In what should be a very popular exhibit, Twentieth Century Sensations will explore the role Czechs and Slovaks have played in shaping our lives and consciousness in politics, sports, film and television, art, literature, business, and science and technology. From astronauts Gene Cernan and Jim Lovell to Ray Kroc (found of McDonald's restaurants, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to Martina Navratilova, and Franz Kafka to Milos Forman, the impact of Czechs and Slovaks has been profound.

### 101 Artists in the Post Revolution Czech Republic. Photography by Chad Evans Wyatt

May 24 - September 2

### Roads to Understanding

October 25 - January 20, 2002

From the collection of the National Library of Prague, Roads to Understanding will chart the role of printing and publishing in enlightening the people of Czech and Slovak lands. Maps, rare books, early folios, and documents will engage visitors in a compelling walk through the history of how changes in technology and attitude influenced the quality and quantity of information disseminated from the 14th to the 19th century. Roads to Understanding, produced in conjunction with Chexpo, a Praguebased exhibits company, will feature some of the rarest pieces ever exhibited at the NCSML.

Primary exhibits will be in the museum's new temporary gallery. Photographic exhibits will continue to be mounted in the museum's Grand Hall and South Hall.

Members receive free admission to all exhibitions.

National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library 30 Sixteenth Avenue SW • Cedar Rapids, Iowa USA 52404-5904 319 362-8500 • Fax 319 363-2209 Non-Profit Organization U.S. POSTAGE PAID Cedar Rapids, IA Permit No. 414

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