



# OST THE BRIDGE

News of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library



Volume 4, No. 1 — Winter 1998

## Looking Back: A Year to Remember 1997 was the year of "A Thousand Years of Czech Culture"

by Dan Baldwin, Executive Director

It is with mixed feelings that I say good bye to 1997. It has been a tremendous year for the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, one that we will be working especially hard to match in 1998. We could almost call 1997 the year of *A Thousand Years of Czech Culture*. Though the exhibit opened in May, we were hard at work with preparations when the year began. When we learned in January that we had been granted our lead gift from the Hall-Perrine Foundation, *A Thousand Years* became our institutional priority.

I am often asked about attendance figures for the exhibit and what the project has meant for the institution. We have had more than 30,000 visitors walk through our gallery since our May 24 opening. This is more than double our attendance over the same period in 1996. However, what is more important than the actual numbers is the museum experience encountered by these visitors; *A Thousand Years of Czech Culture* fulfilled, if not surpassed, the programmatic expectations that people have held for our institution. Around the country, as well, Czech and Slovak groups have developed a heightened sense of the role the museum can play in interpreting their native culture. Yet another important facet of *A Thousand Years of Czech*

*Culture* was our ability to work collaboratively with established institutions such as Old Salem and the National Museum in Prague. Locally, our sponsors, business leaders, individual donors, and the general public have provided us with overwhelming approval for this important step in our programming abilities.

*Continued on next page.*



Since its opening May 24, over 30,000 visitors enjoyed the special Prague exhibit at the National Czech & Slovak Museum.

### The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library announces the opening of two new exhibitions

in the Ray L. Jiruska Exhibit Hall on Saturday, January 31, 1998. Both exhibits will run through March 29, 1998. For the duration of the exhibitions, admission to the Museum is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

#### Slovakia's Mountain Treasures: Shepherds and Their Art

This exhibition features items on loan from the collections of Helene Baine Cincebeaux and Helen Zemek Baine. One of the highlights of this exhibition will be shepherds' coats. There will also be a variety of items made and/or used by the shepherds, such as carved cups, musical instruments, horns, and molds.



"Slovakia's Mountain Treasures" will feature a fujara like the one held here by Mikulas Rybar.

#### A Legacy of Love: The Lamparek Collection

This exhibition features items from the collection of Evelyn and Emil Lamparek, long time supporters of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. Their collection includes fine Czech porcelain,

including Royal Dux and Amphora, and Bohemian glassware. Many of the items on exhibit will be donated to NCSML at the conclusion of the exhibition. ■

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His Excellency Alexandr Vondra, Ambassador to the Czech Republic and honored guest at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library annual Fall Dinner, "Evening with the Ambassador." Over 200 guests attended a reception, gallery tour and dinner to celebrate Dozinky which means "fall harvest."

Programs, many developed in support of *A Thousand Years*, were popular in 1997. *Káva a Knihy* (Coffee and Books), Learn at Lunch, Armchair Travelogue, Stories, Tales, Legends & Lore (Children's Storytime), a concert by the Boland-Dowdall Duo, and another by Leopold La Fosse, helped expand our offerings.

In October we were honored by a visit from His Excellency Alexandr Vondra, Ambassador to the U.S. from the Czech Republic. This visit corresponded with the formation of our National Advisory Board, an element

that has long been part of our institutional planning.

Through two grants, one from the Czech Heritage Foundation, 1997 also saw the hiring of a full-time librarian. This is a critical step forward in our quest to create an important research facility and repository for materials pertaining to Czech and Slovak culture. With a collection that is largely uncataloged, donation offers which continue to grow in number, and expanding library operations (Have you stopped in to browse in our reading room? Perhaps to read *The Prague Post?*), the challenges are many for our librarian. However, we are already making great strides toward fulfilling many of our lofty goals for this important part of our mission.

1998 will prove to be equally challenging and exciting. Two temporary exhibits, detailed elsewhere in *Most*, will provide an excellent bridge to the opening, this Spring, of the museum's long-awaited core exhibit. We are very pleased with the designs of this project. The collection with which many of you are familiar, with the addition of new acquisitions and loans, will look as it never has before, wrapped in an interpretive context and exhibited in our new cases. Look forward as well to new programs, exciting library developments, and if all goes as hoped, a really amazing Fall Dinner. ■

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## CURATOR'S REPORT

As usual, I have been very busy lately. My two fall interns finished their projects with the collections. Alexis did a great job organizing our textiles. She went through everything except the kroje (costumes) and reboxed like items together. She then organized the boxes on our new textile shelves. We now have a more accessible textile storage system that includes plenty of space for new additions to the collection.

Many people have asked about what the Museum will have to offer during the interim between *A Thousand Years of Czech Culture*, and the opening of the core exhibition. One thing we always emphasize is that the Museum will not close. Even during the short periods of time when the gallery is not available,

we always have the Immigrant Home, Library, and Gift Store to offer visitors.

This winter we have several things planned. During the entire interim period, from January 30 to the end of April, visitors can anticipate viewing some of the treasures from our own collection in a modest exhibit in the Library. As we work in the middle and back of the gallery, two other small exhibits will be open in the front of the gallery through March 29.

The first exhibit space will house an exhibit titled, "A Legacy of Love," which will feature fine ceramics and glassware from the Lamparek family. Emil and Evelyn Lamparek have been collecting Bohemian glass, Royal Dux, and Amphora for many years, and we are pleased to have this opportunity to share

their collection with our visitors.

The second exhibit, titled "Slovakia's Mountain Treasures," will feature Slovak shepherding with items from the collection of Helene Baine Cincebeaux. Helene has many fine items, including decorated sheepskin coats, a complete shepherd's outfit, and shepherd's bags, carved cups, and pins. This exhibit promises to include some very fine pieces, and will cover some interesting information about shepherding in Slovakia.

When you come in to view these two exhibits, keep in mind there are many exciting transformations going on behind those tall, temporary walls! ■

— Carmen Langel, Curator





Photo of Madeleine Albright was taken by Jeanette Pafko, a member of the NCSML and representative of American Sokol Organization in Minnesota, who participated in the national conference "The Czech Republic and Czech Americans on Their Way to the Common Future." The conference was presented by The Embassy of the Czech Republic on October 18th in Washington D.C. to discuss NATO related issues. Dan Baldwin had the opportunity to attend the conference and meet a number of dignitaries, including Madeleine Albright and His Excellency Alexandr Vondra.



Corporate Community Leaders enjoy showing of exhibit. A special reception and gallery tour, sponsored by US WEST Communications, drew a crowd of more than 170 current and prospective NCSML members from the corporate community on November 20th. Guests enjoyed a private showing of *A Thousand Years of Czech Culture: Riches from the National Museum in Prague*.

The Library has experienced a change in leadership recently. Martha Wilding is now the librarian at the Blommers Measurement Laboratory at the University of Iowa. I have been the librarian since the first week in November, though I am not a complete stranger to the Museum and Library. I substituted for curator Carmen Langel when she was on maternity leave.

In the past two months I have been busy with such things as answering reference questions, learning how to manage the web site and reviewing potential library automation systems. During this time I have given a lot of thought on how to build upon the efforts made by Martha and others. My vision for the library is four-fold. First, I intend to build a comprehensive collection of books and archival materials that reflects the history and culture of the Czech and Slovak peoples from both the Old and New World. These reference and research materials will be largely in the English language, which will make these items much more accessible to the general public. I will, however, seek to collect historical materials written in the Czech and Slovak languages, especially those that were produced here in the United States. Second, I plan to develop a

genealogical resource collection for those researching family histories. Third, I want the library to act as a clearinghouse of information about the various Czech and Slovak cultural organizations from across the nation. Finally, I intend to use computer technology to provide information to researchers over the Internet.

In the short-term, though, I have set a number of goals that I want to achieve in 1998: 1) catalog the English-language portion of the collection; 2) catalog selected Czech and Slovak materials; 3) purchase English-language books about Czech and Slovak history and culture; 4) purchase genealogical research materials; 5) select a library automation system; 6) write grant proposals to fund an automation system; 7) develop and revise library policies and procedures.

I look forward to getting started on these projects in this new year and encourage you to support your library by donating your time and dollars as well as books, archival materials, photos, etc. In return, you will help create a research center that will preserve and promote Czech and Slovak history and culture for generations to come. ■

— David Muhlena, Librarian

## New Librarian Appointed

Dave Muhlena comes to us from the Patients' Library at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. You may remember his name from the Fall 1997 Curator's Report. He was the temporary curator for the museum while curator Carmen Langel was on maternity leave. Dave received his bachelor's degree in history and master's degree in library and information science from the University of Iowa. He brings a wide range of experiences to the library. After graduate school, Dave worked at the Liberal Arts Grants Office at the University of Iowa as a grants researcher and at Gustavus Adolphus College as a Development Associate. His marriage in 1995 brought him back to eastern Iowa and allowed him to pursue a career in the field of librarianship. Dave has been a supporter of the Johnson County (Iowa) Historical

David Muhlena,  
Librarian



Society, first as a volunteer, then as the site manager of the Plum Grove historical residence in Iowa City, and now as a board member of the Society. Besides answering reference questions and managing the library, Dave enjoys reading, backpacking and spending time with his wife and young son. ■



## PROGRAMS REPORT

After a successful season of programs in 1997, plans for the Museum's programming schedule for 1998 is underway. The popular "Learn At Lunch" series will be continued. Approximately thirty individuals brought their lunches to the museum, once each month, to eat while enjoying a varied selection of interesting and informative programs. Armchair Travelogues attracted audiences of a hundred or more. Lectures and musical events were attended by appreciative audiences. Well-known University of Iowa Artist-Teacher of Violin, Leopold La Fosse performed in September. "Red Cedar Chamber Music" held its kick-off concert for the 1997 - 1998 season, "Folk-Inspired Classics," at the Museum in November. More programs and concerts are planned for 1998. Demonstrations of traditional, Czech and Slovak arts and crafts were popular events at

the Easter and Christmas seasons.

Káva a Knihy (Coffee and Books), our new reading-lecture-discussion series, got off to a good start with a small group of readers who were interested in reading Czech and Slovak literature and sharing their perceptions, reactions, and impressions. A special treat, following the reading of Patricia Hampl's book, *A Romantic Education*, was the opportunity to meet the author herself, for "coffee and conversation." Members enjoyed talking with Ms. Hampl about her writing style, research processes, and trips to Prague and sharing with her their own thoughts and reminiscences of this captivating capital city.

Educator, Dr. Jitka Šonková, led the

The popular "Learn At Lunch" series will be continued for 1998.

group to a better understanding of Karel Čapek, the man, as selections from *Toward the Radical Center — A Karel Čapek Reader* were discussed. Václav Havel's, *Disturbing the Peace*, was the group's last selection for 1997.

Káva a Knihy meets the first Monday of the month, at 7:00 p.m., in the Museum Library. The first meeting was on Monday evening, February 2nd. The book we discussed was *Out of This Furnace — A Novel of Immigrant Labor in America*, by Thomas Bell, which is the story of three generations of an immigrant Slovak family. Copies of the novel are available in the Museum Gift Store. New members to the group are welcome and encouraged to participate. More information may be obtained by contacting Patricia Hikiji at (319) 362-8500. ■

— Patricia Hikiji, Programs Coordinator

## Děkujeme vám

What helped to make the presentation of the exhibition, *A Thousand Years of Czech Culture: Riches from the National Museum in Prague*, an outstanding event for the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library was the dedicated support of its volunteers.

Specific recruitment efforts enhanced by word-of-mouth communication brought together an eager group of over 200 volunteers. Orientation and training workshops were held prior to the opening of the exhibition in May. Twenty volunteers were utilized each day in the "Visitor" side of the museum operation (the Exhibit Gallery and the Gift Store), with additional volunteers helping in the Library and Business Office.

"...word of mouth communication brought together an eager group of over 200 volunteers."

Gallery Attendants interacted with visitors, answered questions and monitored the various display areas in the exhibit hall. Docents in the Immigrant Home interpreted the lifestyle of the immigrants who settled in Iowa in the late 1800's to early

1900's: Attendants in the Information Station greeted the visiting public, sold tickets to the exhibit and assisted with general information inquiries. Volunteers also served as clerks in the museum Gift Store and as teacher-tour-guides, conducting walking tours of adjacent Czech Village for visiting school groups.

Two hundred twenty-one volunteers recorded hours in 1997, for a total of 15,281 hours of service. Forty-four individuals gave over 100 hours of their time and talents to the museum. The greatest number of hours volunteered by an individual in these key areas were: the Exhibit Hall, 171.75 hours; the Immigrant Home, 179.50 hours; the Gift Store, 175.75 hours; the Information Station, 145.50 hours. The highest number of hours donated by an individual volunteer for 1997 was 528.

The museum's volunteer pool included twelve students of high school and college age. Two parent-and-child combinations worked together. Husband-and-Wife teams numbered eighteen. Four volunteers commuted distances of from 50 - 70 miles to volunteer in the gallery. The most popular name among volunteers was "Dvorak." Five Dvoraks

offered their services along with three Kadlecs and three Modraceks.

"Just for Fun" activities for the museum's volunteers included a potluck in November, and a cookie-and-gift exchange in December. Another volunteer get-together will be held in February. A special recognition event is being planned for March. The Volunteer Coordinator and her assistants wish to express their heartfelt thank-yous to all of the volunteers who made the commitment and gave so generously of their time to support the museum and its exhibit program. *Děkujeme vám mnohokrát!*

Development of the next exhibit, featuring artifacts from the Museum's permanent collection, is underway. Volunteers will again play an important role in the presentation of this exhibit to the visiting public. Orientation and training sessions will be scheduled for April. For more information about volunteer opportunities, contact Patricia Hikiji at (319) 362-8500. ■

— Patricia Hikiji, Programs Coordinator



# PROGRAMMING AT A GLANCE

## Programming Schedule for 1998

February 18 — Learn At Lunch (To be determined)

- 12:00 Noon – 1:00 p.m. at WFLA Heritage Hall.

February 28 — "Stories, Tales, Legends, and Lore"

Children's Storytime

- 10 a.m. at Museum Library. Free to public.

March 2 — "Káva a Knihy" Reading/Lecture/Discussion Series

- 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at Museum Library

March 18 — "Czech Music in Cedar Rapids"

Rollie Raim, Czech Heritage Band member and retired instrumental music teacher

- 12:00 Noon – 1:00 p.m. at WFLA Heritage Hall

Bring your lunch and join Rollie Raim to learn about the development of Czech music in Cedar Rapids through the various vocal and instrumental groups that were established in the community. Free to the public.

March 28 — "Stories, Tales, Legends, and Lore"

Children's Storytime

- 10 a.m. at Museum Library. Free to public.

March 29 — Armchair Travelogue: "These are a Few of My Favorite Things" slide presentation by George (Max) Naxera, Jr.

- 2:00 p.m. at WFLA Heritage Hall. Enjoy the special events, places and scenes of Cechy that have been an inspiration and never-ending delight to traveler and photographer, Max Naxera. Free to public.

April 4 — Czech & Slovak Easter Customs & Traditions

- 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., at WFLA Heritage Hall. Demonstrations of ethnic arts and crafts, by local artists and artisans. Fee: \$2.00 per adult, \$1.00 per student.

April 4 — Batik Egg Decorating Classes

- 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon and 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at WFLA Heritage Hall. Learn how to make "kraslice" (decorated Easter eggs) in the batik, or wax-resist style. Class fee: \$25.00. Class size: limited to 15. Instructor: Master Artist, Marj Kopeček Nejd. Pre-registration required. Registration deadline: March 23. Contact the Museum to register.

April 6 — "Káva a Knihy" Reading/Lecture/Discussion Series

- 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at Museum Library

April 8 — BRNO Chamber Orchestra

- 7:30 p.m. at Sinclair Auditorium, Coe College

April 11 — Czech & Slovak Easter Customs & Traditions

- 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at WFLA Heritage Hall. Demonstrations of ethnic arts and crafts by local artists and artisans. Fee: \$2.00 per adult, \$1.00 per student

April 15 — Learn at Lunch: "Comenius" – Bob Stone

- 12:00 Noon – 1:00 p.m. at WFLA Heritage Hall. Bring your lunch and watch a film on the life of famous Czech educator, Jan Amos Komensky. Bob Stone, an "obdivovatel Komenského" (admirer of Komensky) will add his special comments and insight. Free to public.

April 25 — "Stories, Tales, Legends, and Lore"

Children's Storytime

- 10 a.m. at Museum Library. Free to public.

April 30 — Opening of New Exhibit



### BRNO Chamber Orchestra

with Michiko Otaki, Piano

7:30 p.m., April 8<sup>th</sup>  
Sinclair Auditorium  
Coe College

World class ensemble blends Baroque, Classical and Contemporary works by composers from the Czech and Slovak regions.



Brandon Hamous and Stasia Krivanek were crowned 1998 Czech Heritage Prince and Princess during the program at the Fall Dinner.

### WISH LIST

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is in need of the following items:

- paper cutter (with sharp blade)
- letter-size four- or five-drawer file cabinet
- overhead projector
- laser or deskjet printer
- flat file cabinet for map storage
- electric calculator
- rectangular lace tablecloth (for 8 ft. table)
- slide projector

If you would like to donate any of these items, please call (319) 362-8500.



### MUSEUM STORE DISCOUNT COUPON

20% OFF

20% OFF

All merchandise excluding books, tapes and CDs.

Expires March 2, 1998.

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library



## OUR GENEROUS DONORS...

### V UPOMINKU "IN MEMORIUM" Donations received for September 4, 1997 through January 8, 1998

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- For: Lorraine Blazek Yusa**  
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**For: Marge Pace**  
Rad Prokop Velky CISLO 137 C.S.A.

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### In Appreciation...



Grant of \$2,500 received from Evergreen Packaging through International Paper — one of only three gifts received in Cedar Rapids through their newly established granting process.

Shown: Eleanor Soucek and Don Pulkrab viewing artifacts from *A Thousand Years* exhibit at the National Czech and Slovak Museum & Library.



## A WORD FROM DEVELOPMENT

### Making Bequests

There are several ways to name the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library as a beneficiary in your will. A specific bequest designates that a dollar amount or a certain percentage of your estate be given to the Museum & Library. A residuary bequest can ensure that the NCSML receives any assets remaining after all debts, taxes, expenses, and other bequests have been made. Through a contingency bequest, you can provide a gift to the NCSML under certain circumstances, as, for example, when another bequest cannot be paid because of the prior death of the recipient.

Some of our donors who are interested in including the NCSML in their estate plans also want to provide for a family member or friend. If this is your situation, you may wish to establish a life income arrangement in your will. Under such an arrangement, which

goes into effect at your death, income is paid to another person for his or her lifetime.

After the recipient dies, the Museum & Library receives the principal. It is even possible to make an estate gift of a home or farm while retaining the right of a family member or friend to use that property for the rest of his or her life.

Estate planning is a complex and highly personal process. We recommend that you work with your attorney to ensure that your estate is structured to carry out your wishes. The Museum & Library Development Office will be happy to assist you or your counsel by providing legal designations, arranging the specific uses for your gift, and discussing appropriate recognition. ■

— Judy Ostrander,  
Director of Development

### New Board Nominees: As of Jan. 26

**Terry Brosh** — *President, Brosh Chapel, Inc.*  
Born and raised on 16th Avenue, Terry Brosh is the 4th generation president of Brosh Chapel, founded in Solon by his great grandfather. Both sets of Terry's great grandparents emigrated from Czech lands. Terry is chairman of the Hawkeye Area Chapter of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and was a founding board member of Stone Academy and the Sutcliffe Bridge Authority. He is a member of the Iowa & National Funeral Director's Associations. Prior to attending San Francisco College of Mortuary Science, Terry was in the U.S. Navy and served in Viet Nam.

**Tim Kintner** — *President, First Trust Bank.*  
Tim holds a B.A. from Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and an M.B.A. from Michigan State University. He has lived in Cedar Rapids for four years, moving here from the Twin Cities. Tim serves on the boards of the Hawkeye Area Council Boy Scouts, Metro Area Housing Project, Cedar Rapids Symphony, and the advisory board for Lutheran Social Services. He is a member of the Iowa Banker's Association. ■

Please cut along dotted lines and mail contribution with pledge form below. Use enclosed self-addressed envelope.

## The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

### New "Core" Exhibit Project — Contribution/Pledge Form

I would like to help support the new "core" exhibit at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library with my tax deductible contribution.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to support the Museum & Library's own world-class exhibit scheduled to open to the public on April 30, 1998.

— OR —

I would like to pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in support of this exhibit. Please bill me as follows:

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for your support!*

## NATIONAL NEWS

### ◆ Travel Opportunity!

• May 26 – 10 • Did you ever wish to capture the charm of “the olden days” and yet, not leave behind the comforts and conveniences of the 20th century? Can fairy tales and folk ways fit with 2,000 years of significant history in Central Europe? Do the three capital cities of Prague, Brno, and Bratislava suggest destinations you’ve always wanted to add to your list of places visited? If so, please join Max Naxera from May 26 to June 10, 1998, as he leads a very special tour to the Three Capitals of Bohemia. You’ll be amazed at all that is included in the 16-day package for such a reasonable price. Please call Max at \_\_\_\_\_ or Rene at Carlson Wagonlit Travel/Destinations Unlimited at (319) 366-1042. Free brochures are available now. Max says, “Come, join us. You’ll be glad you did!”

### ◆ Czech & Slovak American Genealogy Society of Illinois

#### Conference: *A Quest for Ancestors*

• Saturday, March 28, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Topics include: Beginning Genealogy — Using Church Records in Your Family Research; Czech & Slovak Easter Customs; Finding Naturalization and Ethnic Origins; Genealogy and Genetics; Hands on Egg Decorating Class; and Luncheon. An afternoon cultural program features the Moravian Cultural Society Dancers, a special presentation of Kroje, and much more.

For more information, call Joe Hartzel at \_\_\_\_\_  
To make hotel room reservations, call William Tell/Holiday Inn at 708-354-4200.

### ◆ Hotel Wilber Bed & Breakfast Inn

Elegant, historic, unique. Built in 1895, in the Czech Capital of the USA – Wilber, Nebraska. Eleven rooms with bed and breakfast. Restaurant meals on weekends or by appt. Reservations required. 35 miles southwest of Lincoln at junction of hwy. 103 & 41.  
203 South Wilson, Wilber, NE 68465  
For reservations, call 402-821-2020.

## MEMBERS RECEIVE FREE ADMISSION

*A reminder* to all current members of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library: Your membership allows you free admission and unlimited visits to all museum exhibits! All you need to do is show your current membership card at the visitors station in the Grand Hall. Encourage your family and friends to become members so they too can enjoy these privileges.

*Note:* Admission prices for non-members are reduced for the months of February, March and April to \$2 for adults, \$1 for children ages 5 – 16. Children under 5 are admitted free with a paying parent or guardian. ■

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