



OST
THE BRIDGE

News of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library



Volume 7, Number 2 — Summer 2001

20th Century Sensations

Will Open May 24



*Their Czech or
Slovak heritage
shaped their lives.
Their achievements
shaped our world.*

From moon rocks to tennis rackets, pop art to psychoanalysis, *20th Century Sensations* explores the remarkable impact Czechs and Slovaks have had on the world around us, in the arts, politics, business, science, and sports. Personal items, historic artifacts, fine art, and images will tell the stories of more than 30 fascinating individuals including Andy Warhol, Madeleine Albright, Martina Navratilova, Sigmund Freud, Franz Kafka, Astronauts James Lovell and Eugene Cernan, Milos Forman, Ray Kroc, Louis Brandeis, Jaromir Jagr, Stan Musial, and many more.

Born in Pittsburgh to Slovak immigrants, the artist Andy Warhol defined pop art. On exhibit: Andy's cameras, one of the Marilyn Monroe prints, and a youthful portrait of Andy and his brother, artist Paul Warhola.

As large a figure in his day as Havel is today, Tomáš G. Masaryk was the revered first president of Czechoslovakia. On exhibit: his reading glasses and personal desk set.

Half Czech, half Slovak, Astronaut Eugene Cernan commanded the Apollo 17 mission, and was the last man to walk on the moon. On exhibit: moon rock.

Though he wrote in German, the Czech literary giant Franz Kafka lived half a block from Prague Castle on Gold Lane. On exhibit: First edition of Kafka's *The Trial*.

Acknowledged as the father of psychoanalysis, the Moravian-born Sigmund Freud authored many books and corresponded with the intellectual giants of his times. On exhibit: Original letters between Freud and Albert Einstein, first editions of Freud's *Interpretation of Dreams*.

Respected internationally as a moral force for democracy and civil society, Vaclav Havel has been President of the Czech Republic since 1993. On exhibit: Pieces of the lock from his prison cell.

The greatest Olympic distance runner in history, Emil Zatopek won the 5,000, 10,000 and marathon at the 1952 Helsinki summer games, a record never bested. On exhibit: Olympic medals and photos.

Nebraska Senator from 1952 – 1974, Roman Hruska was a strong supporter of the space program, and an icon to Czech fraternal and social organizations. On exhibit: Presidential awards, and Senatorial memorabilia.

Winner of Oscars for *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *Amadeus*, film director Milos Forman was born and began his career in Prague. On exhibit: shooting scripts and posters.

The dominant women's tennis player of her time, Martina Navratilova fled Communist Czechoslovakia to the West. On exhibit: tennis racket and trophies.

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National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT

In my five years at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library there has never been a period as busy and exciting as this spring. Between the highly successful History and Culture Conference (March 2 & 3), many musical and educational programs, special exhibits (especially *20th Century Sensations*, see page one), processing new acquisitions, and ongoing work on *Slovo*, the staff and volunteers have been challenged in ways that stretch our resources to the fullest. And that's how it should be. Even with all our tremendous success, we are still on the front edge of fulfilling the remarkable opportunity that exists for our organization.

The History and Culture Conference was an unqualified success. Registrants came from 20 states. Close to 250 people attended some part of the conference. The programs were excellent. Among the 18 speakers were university professors from across the country, the president of the Albin Polasek Museum, a former employee of the Bata Shoe Company in Zlin, the extraordinary writer and NCSML national advisory board member Michael Novak, and Ambassadors Martin Butora and Alexandr Vondra. Videos of the individual sessions can be purchased either by calling (319) 362-8500 or through our web site, www.ncsml.org.



At left, Martin Butora, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the U.S. Second from left, Mikulas Dzurinda, Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic. At right, Dan Baldwin, President, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. Dan attended a reception and exhibit opening Feb. 1 at the World Financial Center to kick off Slovak Month in New York City.

Word of the museum is growing at a remarkable rate. As president of a national institution my responsibility to act as the museum's ambassador in Czech and Slovak communities around the country is becoming a larger part of my job. The most rewarding aspect of this is the enthusiasm for the NCSML that I encounter in South Florida, Washington, Chicago, New York, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, just to name a few of the locales that I've been able to visit in the past year. *Slovo*, our award winning history and culture journal, is being enthusiastically received in these and other communities as a strong piece of programming museum members can receive no matter where they live.

As the museum has grown, so have the financial demands to keep its programs running. For instance, postage for *Slovo* is more than \$1 per copy, even at the bulk rate. It cost the NCSML close to \$15,000 to stage the history and culture conference. And while we seek major gifts to fund these initiatives, these gifts don't cover the staff time, facilities costs, and other overhead required to implement the many programs that you, our members, so enjoy. So while the costs have grown, so have the benefits of being a member. The two most significant new benefits are *Slovo* and our expanded exhibits program. *Slovo* provides you with a professionally designed magazine of original articles in your own home. The creation of our temporary exhibit gallery creates a 50% increase in the free admission benefit.

Beginning April 1, 2001, an increase of our membership rates began to show up on renewal forms, the first increase since 1995. These modest increases not only will help the museum sustain its record of providing you with the highest quality programs, but they will put our membership rates at a level comparable with other cultural organizations. Thank you for your understanding and your continued support.

Dan Baldwin, President/CEO
dbaldwin@ncsml.org

Shop the Museum Store for Unique and Educational Gifts

NEW BOOKS

The Philosophy and Politics of Czech Dissidence from Patocka to Havel, by Aviezer Tucker. \$20.95.

Albin Polasek: Man Carving His Own Destiny, by Emily Polasek. \$12.00.

A History of Slovak Literature, by Peter Petro. \$22.95.

Prague, My Love: An Unusual Guide Book to the Hidden Corners of Prague, by Hilary A. James and Jiri P. Musil. \$22.00.

Americane A Zapadni Cechy 1945 (Americans in West Bohemia 1945) by Zdenek Roucka. \$30.00.

ATLASES & MAPS

for travelers and genealogists

Czech Republic atlas or map
\$17.95, \$11.95

Slovak Republic atlas or map
\$35.95, \$11.95

Bratislava atlas or map
\$15.95, \$8.95

Prague, Bruno, Karlovy Vary
\$8.95 each

FLAGS

Celebrate your heritage by flying a flag! We offer Czech, Slovak, and U.S. flags in three sizes: 4"X6", 2'X3', and 3'X5'.

JUST FOR FUN

Czech or Slovak

- car bumper decals \$3.00
 - country magnets \$3.00
 - flag key chains \$2.50
 - parking signs \$6.00
- Parking for Czechs (Slovaks) Only
All Others Will Be Towed.*

Look for more exciting new merchandise in conjunction with the May opening of *20th Century Sensations*. We accept VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER. Shipping is available.



NEW ITEM!

The NCSML store now offers beautiful Genuine Blue Onion Pattern Hand Painted China. Because it's so durable, Blue Onion is highly prized as family china, and handed down generation to generation. We have complete dinnerware sets, serving pieces, teapots, coffee pots, cream & sugar sets, salts & peppers, and more.

NCSML Sponsors Motor Coach Trip June 29 – July 2 to See a Sokol Slet

Sokol is a traditional organization dedicated to the physical, mental, and cultural advancement of each person. A *slet* is a gathering or gymnastic festival or celebration where participants come together for individual competitions on gymnastic apparatus, culminating with the famous mass calisthenics set to beautiful music. The four-day trip includes an entire day set aside for the pageantry of the *Sokol Slet*, as well as visits to the Kellogg Cereal Interpretive Center, the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village in nearby Detroit, and a wine-tasting at the Julian Winery. Quad, triple, double, and single accommodations are available, from \$549 - \$799. Deposit of \$100 due with reservation, balance due June 1. For more information, or to make reservations, please contact Shirley Rosencrans at (319) 362-8500 or at giftstore@ncsml.org.

NCSML Sponsors a Trip to the Czech and Slovak Republics in September

An adventure in the Czech and Slovak Republics awaits you! Destinations Unlimited and the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library have joined forces to create a special travel experience. Join NCSML President/ CEO Dan Baldwin Sept. 11-22, 2001, for *Highlights of the Czech and Slovak Republic*. On this 12-day trip, you will visit Prague, České Budejovice, Brno, Olomouc, Telč, and Bratislava. The \$2,685 tour fee includes round trip air transport from Cedar Rapids, accommodations in first and superior class hotels, a daily buffet or continental breakfast, nine dinners including wine or beer, transportation by deluxe motor coach, the services of an experienced tour director, and admissions to St. Vitus's Cathedral, the Moravian Caves, Strahov Monastery, several castles, the Budweis Brewery, ceramic shopping in Modra, museums, wine tastings, and much, much more! A deposit of \$250 is due upon booking. Final payments are due July 15, 2001. For more information, or to register, contact Shirley Rosencrans at (319) 362-8500 or at giftstore@ncsml.org.

"New" Collection Center Moves NCSML Closer to Accreditation

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is nearing completion of a major project that moves our organization much closer to accreditation. The project goals were straightforward: Computerize the artifact collection database and improve artifact storage conditions. Computerizing the records improves accessibility and intellectual control of the collection; improved storage conditions help ensure the longevity and safety of the collection.

The project began in 1999 when Curator Carmen Langel hired assistant Stefanie Kohn to finish

cataloging the artifact collection and to computerize the collection records.* By the time renovation of the former museum building began, Stefanie had already entered almost 90% of the collection records into the computer.

Renovation of the former museum building into a climate-controlled and secure facility specifically for collection storage began in August 2000.** The building was finished in September and soon after, museum-grade cabinets and shelving were

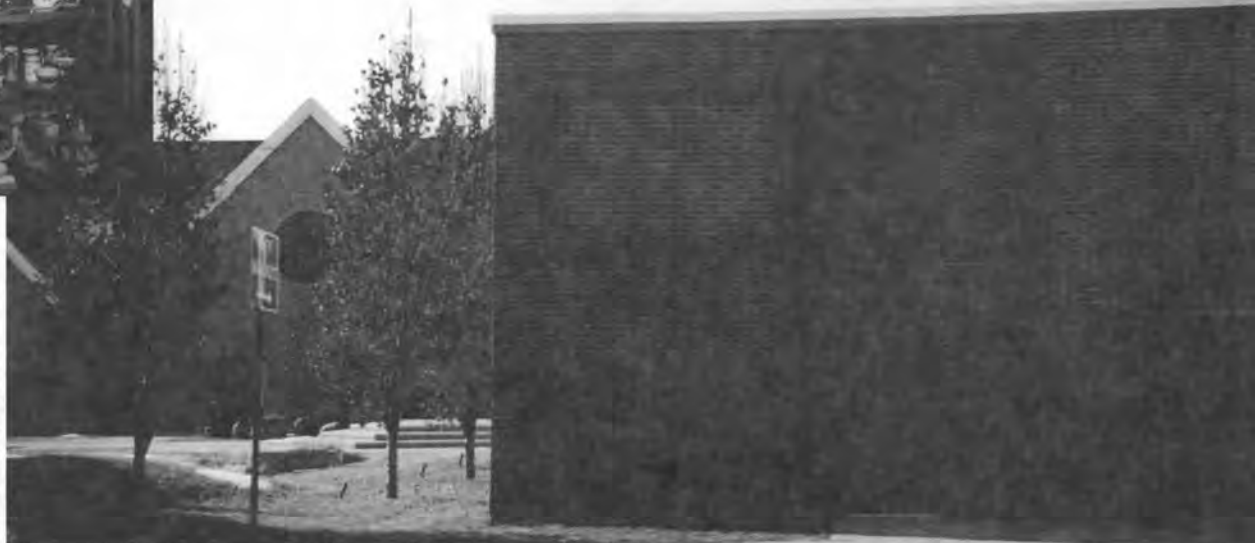
Library materials formerly occupied the building's second floor balcony. The balcony now accommodates wire shelving for our large textile collection.



Several very large cabinets are used for storing glass, ceramic, and wood pieces. This cabinet containing ceramics is nearly full already. Each object's location (cabinet designation and shelf number) is now recorded in the museum's computer database.



Natural sunlight is detrimental to most artifacts, so bricking in all the windows on the front of the building eliminated this hazard and potential security risk.



EXHIBITS AND COLLECTIONS

installed. Over the past few months, Stefanie has been moving the collection back into the facility. As she moves each object, its permanent storage location is entered on the computer.

We plan to provide our members with a tour of the facility this fall. Until then, these photographs illustrate some of the project's accomplishments.

*Computerization of the collection records was funded in part by a REAP-Historic Resources Development Program grant from the State of Iowa.

**Renovation of the former museum building was funded, in part, by a Historic Sites Preservation Grant from the State of Iowa.



The drawers of a small jeweler's cabinet are perfect for jewelry, pins, and buttons.

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The greatest hitter in National League history, Stan Musial is a hero to baseball fans everywhere. On exhibit: Silver bat, uniform, ball, and glove.

The inventor of fast food, Ray Kroc founded McDonald's and forever changed the way the world dines. On exhibit: Early McDonald's memorabilia.

A National Hockey League Hall of Famer, Peter Stastny and his two brothers made up the famous "Stastny line" for the Quebec Nordiques in the 1980s. On exhibit: hockey gear.

The astronaut James Lovell commanded the Apollo 13 mission, and uttered the famous words, "Houston we have a problem." On exhibit: Signed patch worn during the Apollo 13 mission, a medal presented to Lovell by the Czech government.

20th Century Sensations will also present the video *Enduring Spirit*. Produced by the American Friends of the Czech Republic, the video features George Halas, Eugene Cernan, James Lovell, Madeleine Albright, Martina Navratilova, and Ray Kroc.

Whether you are Czech or Slovak, a film buff, sports fan, art lover, or follower of world politics, *20th Century Sensations* will surprise, entertain, and illuminate as to the origins of Czech and Slovak influences on our contemporary culture.

Volunteer Opportunity at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

Library volunteers literally have the opportunity to put their hands on history. Like all NCSML volunteers, library volunteers have the opportunity, too, to expand their knowledge and experience of Czech and Slovak history and culture.

Library volunteers help by:

- Writing descriptions of incoming library materials for museum permanent records.
- Processing new materials into the library collection.
- Creating finding aids or indexes to materials in the collection.

Library volunteers learn on the job. If you have good oral and written communication skills, and are familiar with a keyboard, can pay attention to detail, and have the ability to follow through on projects from start to finish, please give Librarian Dave Muhlena a call at 362-8500 or email him at dmuhlena@ncsml.org. Volunteer opportunities are available Monday – Friday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Hours are flexible; however, we encourage volunteers to establish and keep to a set work schedule.

The National Czech & Slovak Library is a repository for historically significant materials that document Czech & Slovak history and culture. The work done by our volunteers helps make these materials accessible to researchers and the general public.

Museum Welcomes Children's Groups

One of the most fun, and most challenging, facets of museum interpretation is working with children's groups. Recently, a core crew of dedicated docents and I have had the pleasure of leading several school groups and scout troops through the NCSML.

A Nation's Collection: Artifacts and Archives from the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is a wonderful exhibition for kids' groups. One section of this exhibit focuses on immigration, a topic most teachers want the NCSML to cover with their students. There are three trunks and a photo of a child who immigrated to the U.S. at the age of seven. To give the children a sense of what an immigrant child would have experienced, we do an activity with them: The children are told they are moving to the Czech Republic tomorrow and they will never return to the United States. Because of the limited amount of time, their parents have decided they will only be able to pack one box. One box must hold the belongings of a family of four. Remarkably, most of the children choose to pack items similar to what

the immigrants packed in their trunks: clothes, blankets, food, books, photo albums, a favorite toy, a pot to cook with, and something precious. In doing this exercise, the kids have to make some tough choices and realize just how much would be left behind.

Of course, every museum docent hopes the children will remember their visit. Thoughtful teachers help their students write thank-you notes, which are very much appreciated and, sometimes provide very entertaining reading material! Students who take the Village Tour often comment on the pigs' feet they saw at Polehnas Meat Market or the cookie they got at Sykora's Bakery, but they also remember the museum and what they did there. Usually that includes a sentence regarding how immigrant children would have to leave their pets behind, how colorful the *kroje* are, or how they loved going through the immigrant home. Teachers and students are very appreciative of the personal touches included on a docent's tour. 2001 is the Year of the Volunteer—a hearty 'Thank You!' to all of the NCSML docents.

Calling All Members

If you have an interest in working with youth or other special tour groups, consider joining the Legacy League. The Legacy League is a group of volunteers who meet the week or so before the opening of a temporary exhibition to acquire the information necessary to interpret the gallery to visitors and groups. Legacy League members learn new interpretative techniques, explore interactive possibilities, and get to see some of the behind-the-scenes activities that go on before an exhibition opens. The next training meetings of the Legacy League are scheduled for Wednesday, May 16, 2001, at 9:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m., and 7:00 pm; participants need attend only one session. If you think you'd like to be a member of the Legacy League, please contact Jan Stoffer Tursi at (319) 362-8500 or email her at Jan@ncsml.org.

Museum educator Jan Stoffer Tursi explores *A Nation's Collection* with a group of third-graders from Johnson Elementary.



Communications Changes Coming

Each quarter, it gets more and more difficult to fit all the NCSML news into the pages of *MOST*. Increasing numbers of programs and exhibits demand lots of words. Naturally, we also want to devote space to welcoming new and renewing members, and to thanking our generous donors. To address these challenges, and to make sure our members receive up-to-date information about programs and exhibits, we're going to try a new publications plan.

- *MOST* will continue with three issues a year, and include news of the museum/library's goals, plans, developments, exhibits, collections, and accomplishments. This year, *MOST*'s mailing dates are January 7, April 23 and Sept. 24.

- A separate activity calendar will take the place of the *MOST* calendar page. We'll mail the activity calendars May 4, June 15, Aug. 31, and Nov. 16.

- We'll list all the NCSML members and donors in an annual report that will be published in July, and will sum up the year's accomplishments and high points as well.

- *Slovo* will arrive in your mailbox twice a year, probably in March and August.

- And, of course, you'll continue to receive four to six invitations each year to exhibit openings, dinners, and conferences.

- If you're a volunteer, you'll receive the volunteer news each month as well.

Even the best-laid plans can go awry, of course, and it's been brought to our attention that sometimes our bulk-mailed publications do not arrive in your mailbox on time. If this happens to you, please let Laurie Robinson know at 319.362.8500 or at lrobinson@ncsml.org.

We would love to hear what you think of the new publications plans, and whether they work well for you.

Zelniky Recipe

On March 25, more than 45 members of the NCSML took a coach to Chicago to see the opera *The Good Soldier Svejk*. Along the way, NCSML member Mary Ann Lunseth treated everyone to her homemade zelniky. By request, Mary Ann shares her recipe here.

- 1 quart sauerkraut
- 1 medium onion finely chopped, sautéed in 1 T. bacon grease
- 1/2 - 3/4 C. sugar
- 1 T. caraway seed
- 1/2 tsp. each salt & pepper
- 2 1/2 - 3 C. flour (more or less depending on moisture of cooked, drained sauerkraut)

Slow-cook sauerkraut and all ingredients except flour in a pan with water to cover. Drain well. Sprinkle a big board well with flour; pour cooled, drained kraut on it and start adding flour 1 cup at a time. Mix well with hands. Add just enough flour to make a ball; mixture will be sticky. Cut ball in half, press out with hands and finally with a rolling pin to about 1/8 in. thickness. Sprinkle with flour as needed to roll out. With a knife, cut into squares on the board and use flat spatula to lift squares onto a greased cookie sheet. Spray squares lightly with Pam. Bake in pre-heated 375° oven about 15 minutes - watch carefully so outer ones don't burn. When lightly golden on top and bottom, remove, cool and enjoy.

Dobrou chut! from Mary Ann Lunseth

Book Project Seeks Contributions

The Federation of Czech Groups in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, continues its Educational Book Project. Begun in 1998 as part of the Cedar Rapids Sesquicentennial Celebration, the Project collects English-language children's books from private donors and sends them to schools and libraries in the Czech Republic for use in teaching English. Contributions of books and of funds for shipping are welcome. For more information, please contact Michael Papich, President, Federation of Czech Groups,

SHOP YOUR CULTURAL TREASURES IN JUNE

Recognizing that museum stores are unique sources of cultural treasures, the museums of Cedar Rapids* invite you to *Shop Your Cultural Treasures* each Thursday in June.

- Visit any participating museum store on a Thursday in June!
- We'll welcome you with refreshments, shopping, a 10% discount and fun!!
- Show your membership card from any of the participating museums to receive an additional 10% discount!
- Pick up your free *Shop Your Cultural Treasures* punch card at any participating museum store. Visit all the participating museum stores in June to be eligible for the grand prize drawing.

***Shop Your Cultural Treasures Participants:**

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library
 Cedar Rapids Museum of Art
 Bruce More
 Science Station
 History Center
 African American Historical Museum & Cultural Center

101: Czech Artists of the Post-Revolution Decade

Opens May 24

For a decade following the Velvet Revolution in 1989, photographer Chad Evans Wyatt took portraits of artists at work in the Czech Republic. His images of musicians, writers, actors, painters, and photographers are startling and evocative, revealing the subject's character as well as Wyatt's compositional skill with camera and film.

101: Czech Artists has already received rave reviews in the Czech Republic and in Washington, D.C.

The NCSML is pleased to feature 40 of Wyatt's images in conjunction with *20th Century Sensations*. Like *20th Century Sensations*, *101: Czech Artists* examines individuals and their achievements, focusing on people whose achievements will transcend time and have an effect well into the 21st century.

In conjunction with the exhibit, Wyatt's book, *101 Artists in the Post-Revolution Czech Republic*, will be offered for sale in the museum gift shop. Members will have the opportunity to meet Chad Evans Wyatt and hear him talk about his work on Thursday, May 24, at a 10 am gallery tour and an 11 am book-signing. The exhibit, *101: Czech Artists*, continues at the NCSML until Sept. 2, 2001.



Frantisek Skala, Artist.
Photo by Chad Evans Wyatt

MUSEUM HOURS

Tuesday – Saturday, 9:30 am to 4:00 pm.
Sunday, noon to 4 pm.
May 31 – Sept. 23 only,
open Thursdays 9:30 am to 8:30 pm.



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