

## ***Roads to Understanding* opens October 25<sup>th</sup>**

Nearly four years after *A Thousand Years of Czech Culture* returned to Prague, the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is proud to feature another special exhibition from the National Museum in Prague.

Designed specifically for the NCSML by C.H. Expo Ltd. and the Library of the National Museum in Prague, *Roads to Understanding* is comprised of books from the late 15<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The books tell amazing stories of exploration and discovery – a search for the essence of what it means to be Czech. To find the answers, *Roads* takes visitors on three 'Roads to Understanding.'

The first journey is religious. Due to their geographic position, the

Czech lands have historically been a meeting ground where the religious faiths of the Catholic South and the Protestant North mixed and amalgamated. Religious disputes between Catholics, Ultraquists, and Protestants were often conducted via the printed word (and saved for perpetuity) in books. Bibles and other religious books also illustrate how the Czech nation sought to find its own way to God.

The second path is the quest to understand the historical events that shaped the Czech lands. Early knowledge was handed down by oral tradition. Written accounts from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century through modern times include valuable information about early Czech leaders, genealogy,

and customs. However, as with the written histories of other countries, some accounts were diminished by censorship and/or embellished by their authors.

The final journey includes trips to far-away lands as Czechs strove to understand their place within the context of the world. Many early pilgrimages were to Palestine; religious zeal also inspired missions by Czech Catholic priests to Africa, Asia, and Latin America during the Baroque period. Later Czech explorers wrote of their experiences in South America, Russia, Africa, Indonesia, China, and even the United States.

C.H. Expo Ltd. and the Library of the National Museum in Prague prepared *Roads to Understanding* to illustrate early printing in Czech lands as well as these incredible journeys. The earliest book in the exhibition, a Czech Bible, was printed in 1488, less than 40 years after the early 1450s invention of the Gutenberg Press. Many books are embellished with exquisite copperplates, maps, and other colored images.

*Roads to Understanding* runs October 25, 2001, through January 20, 2002. Plan now to attend the special members' reception and exhibit opening at the NCSML and the annual Fall Dinner afterward at the Sheraton Four Points in Cedar Rapids on October 25, 2001. Librarians from the National Museum in Prague and representatives from C.H. Expo will also be our guests at the reception and dinner.



*Roads to Understanding* will offer early volumes of religion, history, and world travel, many containing exquisite copperplates and early maps.

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## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

October 25 marks the opening of a very special exhibit, *Roads to Understanding*, a project that was first discussed with Chexpo, a Prague exhibit design company, in 1997. Using some of the rarest printed material in Central Europe, all from the collections of the National Museum in Prague, this exhibit is essentially about identity. The Czech identity. This printed material – whether a Bible published in 1488, the first history of Czechs ever written, or the published work by a Czech that describes travels to other parts of the world – shaped the way Czechs viewed themselves and their relationship to an Almighty, to their ancestors, and to cultures different from their own.

These works were hugely influential on the shaping of a national and ethnic identity. For instance, the Bibles printed in Czech gave rise to a new literary style that would shape their literature for centuries. The histories include stories that modern historians tell us are apocryphal, good stories that have become so imbedded in a culture they are assumed to be real (like George Washington and the Cherry Tree, one of Parson Weems's fables). The travel stories shaped Czech opinions on fellow Europeans, Asians, or Northern Africans. Depending on the perspective of the author, Czech readers

might feel attracted or repulsed by these cultures, even though they will never meet.

The power and influence in these words multiplied because of their accessibility. These volumes are some of the earliest printed materials on record, and, therefore, are the earliest examples of mass-produced literature. What was once available only to the very scholarly now could find its way into many more hands.

The word "Understanding" is key, as it assumes knowledge and a higher sense of civilization. The poignancy and responsibility associated with "Understanding" is now even more abundantly clear. In our time, we take information for granted. A developing sense of identity seems quaint. Surely the world is now so much smaller, and we have a clearer understanding of each other.

Unfortunately, we learned September 11 that nothing is clear. That the differences between our religious interpretations, our shared histories, and our cultural understandings are as wide and deep as the Grand Canyon.

We are still searching for *Roads to Understanding*.

Dan Baldwin, President/CEO  
dbaldwin@ncsml.org

### BUSINESS APPRECIATION NIGHT

*Business members, board members and friends who attended the museum's Business Appreciation Night on Sept. 5, 2001, enjoyed a last look at 20<sup>th</sup> Century Sensations and played Sensational Trivia.*



## Shop Your Museum Store for Holiday Gift Giving



P. Buckley Moss's "Remembering Homelands" depicts the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.

### Also at the museum store

16-point, paper-folded Moravian or Advent Stars - \$6.50.

### SPECIAL HOLIDAY OFFER: GIFT CERTIFICATE WITH PURCHASE OF P. BUCKLEY MOSS PRINT.

Purchase P. Buckley Moss's "Remembering Homelands" unframed, double signed print for \$95 before Dec. 31, and receive a \$20 gift certificate to spend on anything in the store excluding the Moss prints. Sorry, no museum membership discount can be given on the Moss print or on gift certificate purchases.

### REMEMBER THE MEMBERS-ONLY SALE

During January and February, NCSML members receive a 10% discount on books, cds, and cassettes, and a 20% discount on all other store merchandise.

### HAND-BLOWN GLASS ORNAMENTS

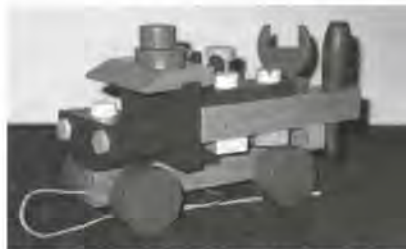
The Museum Store has a large selection of beautiful new hand-blown glass Christmas ornaments and tree toppers from the Czech & Slovak Republics. There are Santas, snowmen, animals, birds, clowns, balls, bells, the Christmas spider, beaded ornaments, and, of course, the famous Christmas pickles! To continue the Christmas pickle tradition, hide the glass pickle ornament in your Christmas tree. On Christmas morning, the first person who spots it will receive an extra gift. Ornament prices range from \$2.25 - \$21.

### GIVE ORNAMENTS ALL YEAR

Ornaments can be given as gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, and thank-yous. Parents and grandparents often buy ornaments as keepsakes for their children and grandchildren.

### MARJ NEJDL WILL PERSONALIZE ORNAMENTS

Local folk artist, Marj Nejd, will be at the museum to personalize your ornaments during open hours Nov. 23 & 24 and Dec. 1 & 8. For \$1.00, you may have a name and year inscribed on the ornament.



Wooden pull toys from the Czech or Slovak Republics are popular with youngsters.

### NEW BOOKS

"Bohemian Decorated Porcelain" - \$42.95

"Czechoslovakian Pottery" - \$37.00

"A Guide to Czech & Slovak Glass" - \$20.00

### NEW COOKBOOK

"Kolaches and Sweet Treats" - \$6.95  
Compiled by our own Museum Guild, this little book shares kolache secrets from the country's best bakers. A great stocking stuffer or exchange gift.

### CHILDREN'S TOYS AND BOOKS

One of our most-requested children's books is "The Children's Illustrated Czech Dictionary" for \$14.95 plus \$5 S&H. If you would like to teach your children or grandchildren the Czech alphabet and a few Czech words, this book would make a great Christmas gift.

Shipping extra. Shipping available to anywhere in the world.

We accept Visa, MasterCard, and Discover.

For more information, contact Museum Store Manager Shirley Rosencrans by email at [giftstore@NCSML.org](mailto:giftstore@NCSML.org); or call her at (319) 362-8500.

### A WORK IN PRAGUE DRESS

All summer long, visitors flocked to Cedar Rapids to enjoy the 30 "Overalls all Over" statues sited around the downtown. In homage to Cedar Rapids artist Grant Wood, the figures depicted Wood's "American Gothic" couple, but were imaginatively decorated by local artists. The Czech community sponsored nationally acclaimed Czech-American folk artist Marj Nejd's decoration of one of the figures for placement under the museum's clock tower at the corner between the Bridge of the Lions and the Czech Village. Titled "A Work in Prague Dress," the kroje-dressed couple attracted viewers and photographers in large numbers

The project was supported by CSA Rad Prokop Velky #137, Czech Cottage, Czech Heritage Foundation, Czech Village Association, Federation of Czech Groups, NCSML, Sokol Cedar Rapids, Two-Star Detective Agency, WFLA #262 Cedar Rapids Lodge, and Zindrick's Czech Restaurant.

Photo courtesy of Joan Liffing-Zug Bourret



## **"911"**

### **An American Spirit Project**

The events of September 11, 2001, will haunt the citizens of the world for years to come. The American Folklife Center in the Library of Congress has submitted a nationwide request for written and oral histories. To date, the State of Iowa is the only state to coordinate museums and libraries in collecting these histories. The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is pleased to be a participating organization. Everyone wishing to have his or her story documented and archived by the Library of Congress is invited to contribute. The deadline to submit your entry is October 31, 2001. To receive a copy of the questionnaire or to make an appointment to have your entry recorded, please contact Jan Stoffer Tursi at (319) 362-8500 or by email at [JAN@NCSML.ORG](mailto:JAN@NCSML.ORG).

#### **CALENDER CORRECTION**

Film historian and Jan Svankmajer fan, Natasa Durovicova, will introduce Svankmajer and interpret his films to viewers on Saturday, Oct. 20, at 7 pm; and Sunday, Oct. 21, at 2:00 pm. Please note the Oct. 21 program will begin at 2:00 pm, not 7:00 pm as advertised in the calendar sent last month.

## *NCSML Celebrates Volunteers*

To celebrate and advocate volunteerism around the world, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2001 the International Year of Volunteers. The International Year of Volunteers challenges Americans to recognize our shared traditions of volunteering and commit to volunteering as a unifying force to build stronger communities.

In recognition of the International Year of Volunteers, a committee including Patricia Hikiji, Volunteer Coordinator at the NCSML, coordinated the first annual VolunCHEER, A Community Celebration, to honor and show appreciation to our area volunteers. Volunteers from nearly 300 organizations were invited to stop by Bruce more mansion on September 20<sup>th</sup> and enjoy live entertainment, refreshments, and family activities. Thirty-five agencies, including the NCSML, set up display booths to "show and tell" about the volunteer opportunities at their organizations.

A bingo tent gave the 600 attendees a chance to play for prizes. The Scouts, Camp Fire, Boys & Girls Club and Metro High School Clowns group arranged activities for children. There were refreshments in the Food Tent, and performances by the "Red Devil Down" Band. The Grant Wood All-City Drum and Flag Corps led a parade of sports mascots and clowns to Bruce more's Visitor Center Courtyard where a welcome and proclamation

signing ceremony was held and community leaders addressed the audience.

The NCSML has a dependable and dedicated group of volunteers numbering more than 200. On average, about 100 people volunteer each month, contributing more than 8000 hours of service in the first eight months of this year. Our volunteers fill many positions in the galleries, library and museum store. They are, most often, the first people our visitors meet. They are in the spotlight, again, leading school tours, manning information display booths, presenting programs, demonstrating traditional arts and crafts, and hosting receptions. Volunteers also work behind the scenes in any number of supporting roles – serving on the Board of Directors, addressing invitations, weeding the garden, baking, distributing brochures, sewing, preparing bulk mailings, housing museum guests, and answering telephones. We are proud of them and the fine work they do for our institution.

The NCSML's annual volunteer appreciation event will be held in November. More information will be available in "Docent Doings," the museum's volunteer newsletter. Anyone interested in joining the outstanding group of NCSML volunteers should contact Patricia Hikiji at (319) 362-8500. We would be happy to match your talents, skills, and abilities with our needs.

## *Students Arrive by the Busload*

*October always sees a number of students in the halls and galleries of the NCSML. Before the end of the month, more than 1,000 area elementary and high school students will have visited us. Now, more than ever, we need volunteers dedicated to interpreting Czech and Slovak history, the Czech Village, and the immigrant experience. Information is available and training can be arranged to fit your schedule. If you have an interest in teaching today's young people about the role Czechs and Slovaks have played in shaping our community, please contact Jan Stoffer Tursi at (319) 362-8500 or by email at [JAN@NCSML.ORG](mailto:JAN@NCSML.ORG).*

**Fall Dinner and Exhibit Opening October 25th**

11 NCSML members and friends are invited to attend the Seventh Annual Fall Dinner on Thursday, Oct. 25. A reception preceding the dinner will be held at the museum to celebrate the opening of *Roads to Understanding*, an exhibit of rare and beautiful printed works from the special library collections of the National Museum in Prague. Following the reception, the Fall Dinner will be held at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel. Czech Jazz pianist Emil Viklicky will play after dinner. Dinner attendees will also receive a free ticket to Viklicky's full-length concert the following evening. If you would like to attend the Fall Dinner, and did not receive an invitation by mail, please call the office at 362-8500 by Oct. 19 to order your tickets.

**MUSEUM HOURS**

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is open

Tuesday through Saturday, 9:30 am to 4:00 pm

Sunday, noon to 4:00 pm.

Closed Mondays.

Admission is FREE to members.

**Emil Viklicky  
in concert at the museum Oct. 26**

On Friday, Oct. 26, the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library will present Czech jazz pianist-composer Emil Viklicky in concert. Blending jazz with folk music motifs, Viklicky's debut album in 1977 was a tribute to his birthplace, the town of Olomouc in northern Moravia. Since then, Viklicky has been in constant demand for film, theater and other functional music, both in the Czech Republic and abroad. In the 1970s, Viklicky studied at the Berklee College of Music in Boston. His

American sojourn led to opportunities to play with American jazz artists, and he has performed with Bill Frisell, James Williams, and Benny Bailey, among many others.

The concert begins at 7:00 pm in the Roman Hruska Grand Hall. Tickets are \$8 for members and \$10 for nonmembers, and are available at the NCSML. Viklicky will also present a short program at the Fall Dinner on Oct. 25.

**Red Cedar Chamber Music Plays  
5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert at NCSML**

Red Cedar Chamber Music opens its fifth season with "Quintessentially Czech," a concert of early nineteenth-century trios for flute, viola, and guitar, in the Roman Hruska Grand Hall at 8 p.m. on Saturday, November 3, 2001.

Tickets are \$12 and are available at the museum, or by calling 362-8500.

Guest violist David Miller returns to share the stage with Red Cedar Chamber Music's core ensemble, Jan Boland, flute, and John Dowdall, guitar, exactly five years to the day from his first appearance at the museum with them in 1996.

Since then, this masterful trio has released two award-winning compact discs, featuring the music of Czech composer Wenceslaus Matiegka. "Quintessentially Czech" will highlight the trio's favorite music by Matiegka, and complement it with selections by his contemporaries, Mozart, Molino, and Molitor. This is a concert that promises to be M.M.M.M. good!

Audrey Linge-Ovel sponsors this landmark performance, featuring authentic nineteenth-century instruments. Don't miss this opportunity to hear "Chamber music as it should be - intimate, bonding, and conversational." -The American Record Guide. Plan to stay and visit with the performers and enjoy refreshments provided by the Czech Guild following the concert.



The artists of Red Cedar Chamber Music are, from left, Jan Boland, John Dowdall, and David Miller.

## Swisher Native Lisa Volesky is Crowned Miss Czech-Slovak USA

Lisa Volesky, 20, daughter of Dennis and Debra Volesky of Swisher, was crowned Miss Czech-Slovak USA, Sunday, August 5, 2001, at the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Wilber Czech Festival in Wilber, Nebraska. She is the first Iowan to win the crown in the 15-year history of the pageant. Volesky, Czech Heritage's Czech Princess in 1995-96, was one of 14 competitors from 13 states. She is a student at the University of Northern Iowa, majoring in biology and education.

Miss Czech-Slovak USA contestants are judged on personality, talent, beauty, and costume. Allowed to wear three pieces of an authentic Czech *kroj* (folk costume), Volesky chose to honor her great-aunt, the late Leona Poduska, by wearing pieces of Leona's *kroj*. She hired a dress-maker to make the rest of her costume. The competition required her to interpret the costume to the judges. For the talent portion, Volesky chose a dramatic telling of the life of famed entertainer Karel Hasler. Hasler is best known for writing "Písnička Česká" ("Our Czech Song"). He died in a Nazi concentration camp in 1941.

"The competition was really stiff this year. Anybody could have won," commented Lisa's proud grandmother, Adeline Volesky, an NCSML volunteer.



Lisa Volesky (center) of Iowa was named Miss Czech-Slovak USA 2001 at the Wilber Czech Festival. At her side are first runner-up Karina Vanovsky (right) of Minnesota and second runner-up Rhonda Ptacek from Kansas. (Photo by BJ Fictum/The Crete News)

In addition to a crown, flowers and a trophy, Volesky received a scholarship to Florida Gulf State, a trip to the Czech Republic, a crown-shaped compote from the Bohemian Crystalware Company in the Czech Republic, a \$2,000 bond, and jewelry from the Czech Republic. She will attend a number of Czech festivals throughout her reign and will be a hostess at next year's Czech Festival in Wilber, where she will crown the next queen.

Wilber, located 32 miles southwest of Lincoln, was settled by Czech pioneers in the 1850s, and is consid-

ered the Czech Capital of Nebraska and the U.S. Nebraska has the highest percentage of people claiming Czech ancestry in the nation; Iowa is second.

In 1961, a group of businessmen organized the Wilber Czech Festival to preserve the customs and traditions of their Czech ancestors. Every year, this small community of 1,500 plays host to 20,000 – 30,000 visitors who come to celebrate Czech heritage. One of the festival's highlights is the Miss Czech-Slovak National Queen Pageant.

## President/CEO and Librarian Present Papers at SVU Conference

NCSML President/CEO Dan Baldwin and Librarian David Muhlena presented papers at the 2001 Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU) conference, held the first week in August on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus. The conference was scheduled to coincide with the Wilber Czech Festival, allowing many of the conferees to attend the Wilber festivities. Staff members at UN-L

and the members of the Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln provided local assistance.

Dave's paper was entitled "A Proposal to Create a Czecho-Slovak Library Consortium." The paper was intended to elicit support toward forming a working group of libraries and archives with important collections of Czech and Slovak materials as well as feedback on how this might be accomplished. The proposal was

well received; listeners agreed that such a working group is needed.

Dan gave presentations at two sessions. His first presentation, for a session concerning Czech and Slovak museums, focused on the operations of the NCSML. Dan's second presentation was part of the Presidential Symposium; he discussed the NCSML's role in the preservation of Czech and Slovak culture.

### Artifacts Added to Homelands Exhibit in 2001



Additions to the *Homelands* exhibit include Bohemian folk costumes and Communist-era pennants.



The NCSML's core exhibit, *Homelands: The Story of the Czech and Slovak People*, was designed so any exhibited object could be replaced without altering the story line or exhibit floor plan. This was an important element of the design both for conservation purposes and to entice repeat visitors.

This summer Curator Carmen Langel and Curatorial Assistant Stefanie Kohn replaced all of the ceramic pieces in the largest case in the "Wow Room" (entrance to the gallery). Because it's a difficult case to open, this was the first modification to this case since *Homelands* opened in 1998. Earlier this year, staff also installed a small statue of St. Wenceslaus in this section. On loan from George Drost of Chicago, it was the model for the statue in St. Wenceslaus Square in Prague.

Several textiles were changed in the Folk Art section and in Costume Square. The small lace case was changed earlier this spring and two complete Bohemian folk costumes were replaced as well. Unfortunately it's difficult to find time to change them as it can take up to a full day to change one complete costume!

Two original paintings by Ondrej Zimka were added to the Arts and Letters section. Donated by Peter and Tatiana Lizon, they are fantastic colorful paintings on wood planks by this respected Slovak artist. Another

painting added to *Homelands* was the depiction of a dancing Moravian couple by F. Cermak. Before going on exhibit, this painting was restored and stretched last winter by the Chicago Conservation Center. Special thanks to the generosity of Steve and Karen Anderson for making this possible.

A variety of changes in the Technology section of *Homelands* included installing the interactive stations from *Czech Technology in Motion* into this area, replacing some of the garnet jewelry, replacing all the glass in the largest case, and exchanging the glass decanters for Slovak Modra.

Finally, a set of Communist-era pennants, donated by John Kuba, was added to enhance the Three Struggles section and a case in the Immigrant section now displays Sokol material.

As mentioned before, these changes are necessary to continually "renew" *Homelands* and to protect some items from prolonged exposure to light and dust. There are a variety of other changes scheduled for this fall, including the addition of firearms to the Technology section. Elements from *20th Century Sensations* will also be incorporated into *Homelands*.

If you haven't visited the NCSML recently, please call a friend and stop in for a few hours to see the new additions to *Homelands*.

#### DEDICATION

More than 150 members and friends gathered May 25, 2001, for the grand opening of *20th Century Sensations: Czechs, Slovaks and Popular Culture*, and the dedication of the museum's Robert J. Petrik Exhibit Hall. A highlight of the evening was Mr. Petrik's inspirational speech linking his Czech and Slovak heritage to his gift in support of the gallery renovation.



**NCSML Celebrates Sv. Mikuláš Day Saturday, Dec. 1  
with Puppets and Sokol Performances**

In the morning, Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre will present "Hansel and Goosel." Based on the Grimms' Brothers familiar tale, "Hansel and Goosel" is the tale of two goslings who feel displaced because their mother is hatching new eggs. They run away and are trapped by an evil fox. See what happens when Goosel decides to take matters into her own hands! Tickets at the door.

After the performance, families are invited to participate in a puppet workshop. Children make their own pop-up puppets and put on their own show. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged, as the workshop is limited to the first 50 children.

The afternoon will feature the Slovak Catholic Sokol teams of Franklin, WI, who will perform their gymnastic routines at 2:00 p.m. at the NCSML. Sokol is a many-faceted organization guiding its members throughout life to physical and moral health, good citizenship and responsible patriotism, combined with continuous self-improvement.

With demonstrators in the galleries and music throughout, Sv. Mikuláš Day at the NCSML will be one you won't want to miss. Our thanks to Re/Max and Associates for sponsoring the day's activities. For more information, or to register for the workshop, please call Jan Stoffer Tursi at (319) 362-8500 or see the web site at [WWW.NCSML.ORG](http://WWW.NCSML.ORG).

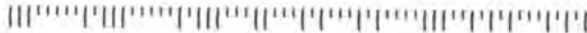
**AUTHOR SEEKS RECOLLECTIONS OF  
THE MEN WHO SERVED IN SIBERIA IN  
THE CZECHO-SLOVAK LEGION**

*"The pages of history," Winston Churchill said of the Czech-Slovak Legion, "recall scarcely any parallel episode at once so romantic in character and so extensive in scale." Yet the pages of history have not done justice to the Legion, according to Kevin McNamara.*

*A former newspaper reporter and congressional aide, McNamara is writing a book about the Legion that will be based on the personal reports of the legionnaires. He is seeking photocopies of diaries, letters, and other first-hand recollections of the men whose exploits during the Russian Civil War nearly changed the course of the 20th century.*

*Currently an Adjunct Scholar of the Foreign Policy Research Institute, as well as Associate Vice President of Drexel University, both in Philadelphia, McNamara has published extensively. If you think you may have materials of interest to his research, you may write to him at*

*call (weekdays) or  
(nights and weekends). His e-mail address is:  
[mcnamara@drexel.edu](mailto:mcnamara@drexel.edu). He is willing to pay  
photocopying and postage costs.*



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