

Volume 7, Number 1 - Spring 2001

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library Will Host History & Culture Conference

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library will host the second history and culture conference March 2-3, 2001. The conference title is The Czech & Slovak 20th Century in Retrospect: 1918-1938. Scholars and community-based researchers from across the United States will address topics including the arts and culture, industrial development, and political challenges of Czechoslovakia's First Republic. Conference speakers will also include individuals closely associated with historical, cultural, and industrial figures and events from the First Republic. Confirmed speakers include Gregory Ference, Martin Votruba, Pavel Cernoch, Thomas Hasler, James Felak, Dusan Neuman, Paul LeBloch, and others.

The conference will include an Ambassadors Forum centering on Slovakia's initiative to join NATO. The recent NATO process experienced by the Czech Republic will be a starting point for discussion by His Excellency Alexandr Vondra (Ambassador from the Czech Republic to the United States) and His Excellency Martin Bútora (Ambassador from Slovakia to the United States). Renowned scholar and author Michael Novak will moderate the discussion.

The conference will conclude Saturday evening with "Dinner with the Ambassadors." For more information or to register for the conference or for the Saturday evening dinner, please contact Jan Stoffer Tursi at (319) 362-8500.

Major support for *The Czech and Slovak 20th Century in Retrospect: 1918-1938* and the Ambassador's Forum is provided by Humanities lowa (the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities) and the CRST Donor-Advised Fund of the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation.



His Excellency Alexandr Vondra, Ambassador from the Czech Republic to the United States, will attend the conference March 2-3.



His Excellency Martin Bútora, Ambassador from the Slovak Republic to the United States, will participate with Ambassador Vondra in a discussion of NATO.

A National Collection Features Recent and "Old" Acquisitions

On February 8, 2001, we'll open the third exhibit in the NCSML's new gallery. A National Collection: Artifacts and Archives of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library showcases the growing depth of the collections, with an emphasis on many items that have never been exhibited before.

On exhibit will be a late 19th century baptismal font, used by Frances Zila (Naibert). Born in Rovečné, Moravia in 1879, Frances was just four years old when her mother died. At 12, Frances traveled to the United States to join her mother's brother

in Cedar Rapids. The fragile glass baptismal font was one of the few possessions the young girl was able to bring with her to the New

girl was able to bring with her to the New World. Her grandson, Lynn C. Naibert, donated it to the NCSML in 1999. Also on exhibit will be a man's long wool

coat from the Domažlice region. Tan with white embroidery, the coat was one of a pair donated in 2000. Donor Rebecca Bednar Smith acquired the coats, along with two complete kroje from the Domažlice region,

Continued on exhibits page ...

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT

A year ago in this space I wrote about the many exciting changes we anticipated in 2000 for the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. The creation of a new temporary exhibits gallery and its inaugural exhibit, *Czech Technology in Motion*. The renovation of our former museum building into the Collection Center, where our precious artifacts can be stored in an environment that meets museum standards. The creation of *Slovo*, our new history and culture journal that premiered in June. The doubling of our library holdings through acquisition of the Benedictine University collection.

All of these were achieved, making 2000 one of the truly momentous years in NCSML history. But it wasn't without some planning.

In 1999 the NCSML board of directors approved its long-range plan, a process that took approximately 18 months to develop. The board, in conjunction with staff and volunteers, settled on ten institutional objectives that were to be completed by the end of 2004. They were: 1. Transition half of Heritage Hall to full time exhibit use during March - May 2000; 2. Expand museum exhibits and attract traveling exhibits to effectively use added space; 3. Sustain high quality and frequency of program events with mix of traditional and contemporary history and culture; 4. Achieve library recognition as the leading U.S. research and reference center for Czech & Slovak culture; 5. Increase local/ national membership from 600/200 in 1998 to 800/1200 in 2001 and to 1000/2000 in 2004; 6. Through fulfillment of previous objectives, grow museum visitor annual attendance (from 18,000 in 1998) to 25,000 by 2000, and 40,000 by 2004; 7. Document a facilities expansion five-year plan by

September 2001; 8. Grow endowment fund to \$2M by 2002; \$5M by 2004; 9. Achieve museum accreditation by June 2004; 10. Actively participate with village businesses toward promoting NCSML and Czech Village as a major visitor destination.

Not all of the objectives are as quantifiable as others. How does one gauge if we have sustained a high level of programming? Perhaps we can't, but programs such as the History and Culture Conference (see page one), are spawned in part by our drive to always be presenting new and excellent programs.

With objectives one and two completed, the board approved the following two replacement objectives and extended the plan to encompass 2005: 1. Initiate capital expansion to achieve a Signature Research Center that will include the library and archives, and an auditorium seating 200 – 250, and, in so doing, free another 2000 square feet for remporary exhibits; 2. Upgrade office areas to fully accommodate the professional staff and expand the museum store.

These are aggressive plans; however, they must be if the NCSML is to take advantage of the tremendous opportunities in front of it. Our priority over the next two years is to achieve our endowment goals. Without a robust endowment providing extra resources for program growth, we will not be able to meet our remarkable potential.

I am happy to discuss these plans via phone or e-mail (dbaldwin@ncsml.org). This is your museum. Feel free to tell us how we're doing and where you think we can grow.

Dan Baldwin, President/CEO

Left to right: Joe Senko, Slovak Honorary Consul in Pittsburgh Igor Otcenas, Cultural Secretary of the Embassy Tom Sokolowski, Director, Andy Warhol Museum Dan Baldwin, President, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library



NCSML Sponsors Motor Coach Trip to Chicago Opera

This is a wonderful opportunity to see the opera inspired by one of Europe's literary masterworks, currently being translated and reinterpreted by NCSML's Fall Dinner keynote speakers, Zenny Sadlon and Mike Joyce. The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is sponsoring a motor coach trip to Chicago to see the opera **The Good Soldier Svejk** on Sunday March 25, 2001. Reservations are required by February 17, 2001. The cost of the trip is \$80.00. Currently, 27 people are signed up to go.

Adapted from Jaroslav Hasek's satirical anti-war novel of the 1920s, *The Good Soldier Svejk* is an unusual comedy following the misadventures of a naïve, happy-go-lucky Czech soldier caught up in the Austro-Hungarian war machine of World War I. The Chicago Opera Theater is proud to produce Cicero-native Robert Kurka's masterpiece, which premiered in Chicago in 1981. The new production, directed by Harry Silverstein and conducted by Alexander Platt, will provide a long-awaited opportunity to reassess the work of this colossally gifted composer. The opera is in English.

The motor coach will depart from Tri-State Tours office, 144 32nd St. Dr. SE, at 8:00 a.m. A lunch stop is planned. The opera is scheduled to begin at 3:00 p.m. and is 2 hours long. For \$80.00, travelers will receive safe transport to Chicago and back, a ticket to the opera, and dinner at a sit-down restaurant. For more information, contact Shirley Rosencrans at (319) 362-8500.

New Merchandise

It's cold outside, but the museum store is warm and friendly! During January and February, the store will offer our annual 20% discount on all in-stock, non-music, non-book merchandise for all sales of \$10.00 or more. Books and music are discounted 10%, and if you're buying gifts, we're more than happy to ship your order. Stop in!



Volunteer Leni Stastny admires the glassware in the museum store.

Czech & Slovak Language Tapes, Dictionaries, Books, Maps

If you're planning a trip to the Czech or Slovak Republics in the near future, or joining the museum- sponsored trip September 11, 2001, you might appreciate these language helps.

Eggs and Egg Decorating Supplies

It's not too soon to purchase your supplies to decorate those beautiful eggs for the Easter season: egg dyes, one-hole egg blowers, egg stands and hanging egg stands, egg wraps, egg dying kits, books, and more. If you're too busy to decorate your own eggs, the store has a nice selection of eggs already decorated for you.

Video

A videotape of the American Friends of the Czech Republic *Civil Society Vision Award Dinner: Tribute to Madeleine K. Albright* is now available in a package that includes the video, an invitation, a program, and a newsletter from the American Friends of the Czech Republic. The event was held in New York City Sept. 7, 2000, and emceed by Tom Brokaw, NBC News anchor. \$29.95.

Books

- Bohemian Decorated Porcelain by Dr. James D. Henderson \$42.95
- A Guide to Czech & Slovak Glass by Diane Foulds \$20.00
- Eva's Summer Vacation, book/doll package \$16.95
- Iowa Cookbook II-Turning the Pages of Time \$21.95
- The Fateful Adventures of the Good Soldier Svejk, a new English rendition of Jaroslav Hasek's original book, translated by Zdenek Sadlon & Emmett M. Joyce \$17.50

EXHIBITS AND LIBRARY

Bricks, Mortar, and the Countryside: Slovak Architecture and Images of Nature opens at the NCSML in February

Opening February 22, 2001, is a special exhibition by photojournalist Lil Junas. Junas is of Slovak descent; all four of her grandparents emigrated from Slovakia in the 1880s. She was born in the Slovak community of Hazleton, Pennsylvania, also known for its rich anthracite coal deposits.

Junas earned two journalism degrees from Penn State University and a Ph.D. in educational communications and photographics from Ohio State University. Over the past 35 years, she has worked for newspapers, taught at eight universities and colleges, and freelanced in many countries, including Slovakia, Ecuador, Poland, Croatia, Slovenia, and Austria. Her experience in Slovakia also includes a year teaching English. She currently teaches in the communication arts department at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. Bricks, Mortar, and the Countryside reflects Junas's pleasure in photographing culture, architecture and nature. She says, "Traveling has been one exciting facet of my life. Sharing lifestyles with people. Finding designs of nature while hiking through the woods. Observing panoramas of life, from mountain landscapes to stretches of cornfields. The challenge is always to say something with my photographs."

Visitors can enjoy Lil Junas' beautiful photographs of Slovakia at the NCSML February 22-May 13, 2001.



Visitors will see this intricately carved shell depicting Mr. Frank Bogataj holding a fish, in A National Collection.

...Continued from front page

from the estate of Henry Novotny of Playa del Ray, California.

Visitors will also see two small Czechmade handguns donated by John Jacobs and Henrietta Bartizal Pons in 1999, a mid 19th century religious icon in a bottle, a dudy (goat skin bagpipes), and letters written by a Czech immigrant during his service in the Civil War.

A National Collection also marks the completion of two exciting projects, the renovation of our 'new' collections center, and the computerization of the artifact collection records. We now know exactly what our collection's strengths are, have better access to individual objects, and have more secure and ideal storage conditions. All are necessary for our future goal of accreditation.

A National Collection will be open February 8 through April 22, 2001. Join us at the members' reception on February 22, 2001, when we will also celebrate the opening of a photography exhibit by Lil Junas.

Providing Access to Library Materials a High Priority

With the voluminous Benedictine University collection in place, we are focusing our attention on accounting for what we have. Volunteer Bob Drahozal is using the Benedictine catalog cards to conduct an inventory. Books that do not pertain to Czech and Slovak studies are being pulled from the collection to go to more appropriate libraries. Next, we will integrate our other cataloged materials in with the Benedictine collection. Once that's done, we intend to convert the catalog cards for these books into electronic catalog records and make them available in an online catalog, a project for which we're seeking grant funding.

Providing access to materials in our archival collection is also a priority. We are now creating indexes that will allow researchers to identify and locate items that are filed away in archival boxes. Volunteer Bernie Drahozal has been working over the last few months preparing our large Lyra Society sheet music collection for indexing. This fall we also had the good fortune to have a student intern from University of Iowa, Nate Basinger, who spent much time entering information about our growing 78-rpm record collection into a database. Nate's work will allow devotees of popular Czech music to find song titles and performers in our collection.

Access to some of our non-book materials is made difficult due to their format. For instance, music lovers need special equipment to listen to our 78-rpm record collection or to view microfilmed newspapers. Recognizing this problem, two museum volunteers gave the library a year-end cash gift that will allow us to buy equipment to meet these needs.

We know that acquiring and preserving the relevant library materials is not enough: To satisfy their information needs, researchers need to be able to identify and locate specific library materials, too. The work we are doing now ensures that researchers will have better access to library materials in the future.

Coming Events

FEBRUARY

Feb. 16, 2001: Druha Tráva. Bluegrass concert at the CSPS Hall, 8:00 p.m. Tickets \$12.00 For more information, please call (319) 364-1580.

Feb. 21, 2001: Learn at Lunch.

Caring for Your Heirlooms by Carmen Langel, NCSML curator. Bring a sack lunch and your questions and learn about the care and preservation of your treasured possessions. Noon. Heritage Hall. Free.

Feb. 25, 2001: Life Long Learning Series.

NATO and Its Effect on the Czech Republic by Pavel Černoch, Assistant Professor, Jean Monnet Centre for European Studies, Faculty of Social Studies, Charles University, Czech Republic via Grinnell College. This lecture will provide background information for those interested in the Ambassadors' Forum to be held at the History and Culture Conference. [See below.] 2:00 p.m. Heritage Hall. Free.

MARCH

Mar. 1, 2001: Storytelling.

Jo Stone, Taylor Elementary, will tell stories for kids of all ages to kick off Community of Readers' Month. Free. 7:00-8:00 p.m. Heritage Hall.

Mar. 2-3, 2001: Czech & Slovak History & Culture Conference *The Czech and Slovak* 20th Century in Retrospect: 1918-1938. [See page 1 for more.]

Mar. 4, 2001: Concert. MOST, a music trio from Chicago will perform Bohemian, Moravian and Slovak folk music. Clarinetist, vocalist and occasional accordionist Marc Smierciak along with vocalist, dulcimist, and accordionist Mazurka Wojceichowska will share their undying passion for central and eastern European folk music. \$3 for members and \$6 for non-members. 1:30-3:30 p.m. Heritage Hall.

Mar. 10, 2001: Muzika Muzika (Music Music). McKinley Middle School Orchestra concert. Free. 2:00 p.m. Heritage Hall.

Mar. 11, 2001: Sunday Lecture. NCSML intern Nathan Basinger will discuss the sheet music and records in the museum archives. Free. 2:00 p.m. Heritage Hall.

Mar. 12, 2001: Káva a Knihy (Coffee and Books). Reading Discussion Series, *Stories, Tales, Legends and Lore* with selected readings from *Prague Black and Gold* by Peter Demetz, *Legends of Old Bohemia* by Alois Jirasek and other fairy tale collections. 7:00-9:00 p.m. Free.

Mar. 15, 2001: Storytelling.

Jo Stone, Taylor Elementary, will tell stories for kids of all ages in celebration of Community of Readers' Month. Free. 7:00-8:00 p.m. Heritage Hall.

Mar. 21, 2001: Learn at Lunch.

Dave Muhlena, NCSML Librarian, will discuss the changes that have occurred in the library and the benefits to researchers. Noon. Heritage Hall. Free.

Mar. 25, 2001: Life Long Learning Series. Museum Collections and Exhibits: Curatorial Dilemmas. Carmen Langel, NCSML Curator, will explain the NCSML's mission regarding current policies on museum collection and exhibit management. The program will include a tour of the temporary exhibit as seen through the eyes of its curator. 2:00 p.m. Free, Heritage Hall.

APRIL

Apr. 7, 2001: Egg Decorating Classes.
9:00-noon. Batik Easter egg decorating. Master artist Marj Nejdi, instructor.
1-4:00 p.m. Straw-decorated Easter eggs. Egg decorator Frank Novonty, instructor. Both classes in Heritage Hall. \$20.00 each. Class sizes limited to 15. Reserve a seat by calling Jan before April 2, 2001.

Apr. 9, 2001: Káva a Knihy (Coffee and Books). Reading Discussion Series, I Could Tell You Stories by Patricía Hampl. 7:00-9:00 p.m. Free.

Apr. 17, 19 & 24, 2001: Porcelain Painting II. For students who have taken the initial porcelain painting class. Instsructor JoAnne Neff leads students to draw and paint a design on tile. JoAnne will fire them 3 times and frame them for a more finished product. Class size limited to 15. Please enroll by April 10. 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$20.00. Heritage Hall.

Apr. 18, 2001: Learn at Lunch. Apron Strings by Lenore Watson. Noon. Heritage Hall. Free. Bring a sack lunch and learn about Czech and Slovak aprons and apron dances.

Apr. 22, 2001: Opera. Willowwind School of Iowa City performs *Brundibar*. This opera was originally composed for children to perform in the Nazi concentration camp known as "the City for the Jews," Terezin, Czechoslovakia. Apr. 22, 2001: A National Collection: Celebrating the Artifacts and Archives of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library closes.

Apr. 29, 2001: Life Long Learning Series. Author Pat Martin to discusses her recently released book on Prague's Charles Bridge and the history behind the statues. 2:00 p.m. Free. Heritage Hall.

MAY

May 14, 2001: Káva a Knihy (Coffee and Books). Reading Discussion Series, *The Year* of the Frog by Martin Šimečka. 7:00-9:00 p.m. Free.

May 16, 2001: Learn at Lunch. Noon. Heritage Hall. Free. Bring a sack lunch and learn about Czech and Slovak traditions.

May 18, 2001: Taste of Czech & Slovak. The Museum Guild of the NCSML invites you to indulge in their favorite Czech & Slovak foods. A great way to kick off Houby Days weekend! 4:30 – 7:30 pm. Heritage Hall. Ticket prices are \$5 for 20 samples or \$1 for 4.

May 19 & 20, 2001: Houby Days.

May 24, 2001 – September 23, 2001. 20th Century Sensations. In what should prove to be one of the most popular exhibitions ever staged at the NCSML, Sensations will use personal artifacts, works of art, and memorabilia from celebrated Czechs and Slovaks to illustrate the diverse ways they have shaped our culture.

May 24, 2001: Tour and Book Signing. Photographer Chad Evans Wyatt will guide tours through his photographic exhibition on display at the museum. Time to be announced.

To enroll for classes, or for more information, please check out our web page at www.ncsml.org or contact Jan Stoffer Tursi at (319) 362-8500 or Jan@ncsml.org for more information.

All events take place at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 30-16th Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA, unless otherwise noted. Times and events are subject to change.

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New and Rejoined Corporate Memberships September 23, 2000 to January 10, 2001 Appleby & Horn Tile Company Barlow Investments Barron Motor Supply Blahnik Construction Bradley & Riley, PC Brenton Bank Brosh Chapel, Inc. CSA Lodge Woodrow Wilson #337 CSA Rad Prokop Velky #137 Centro, Inc. Coldwell Banker Hedges Realty CornerHouse Gallery & Frame Czech Cottage Czech-Slovak Society of Indiana Divine Engineering, Inc Dominion & Company, Inc. H & R Block Hawkeye Convenience Store Hawkeye Fire & Safety Henry Russell Bruce, Inc. Highway Equipment Company Howard R. Green Company Novak Design Group Papich-Kuba Funeral Service Primus Construction, Inc. Rexco Equipment, Inc. Robert Bodnar Company Smulekoff and Lipsky Fund Squaw Creek Village Home Sales, Inc. Travel Advisors of Cedar Rapids True North WFLA Cedar Lodge #7 ZCBJ WFLA Lodge #500 WFLA Lodge Colorado 431 Zindrick's Czech Restaurant

IN BRIEF

Calendars Available

The Cedar Rapids-based Federation of Czech Groups has compiled a calendar for 2001 with dates, times and meeting places for the many area Czech organizations that belong to the federation. Calendars are \$3 and available at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library store.

LOOKING AHEAD TO JUNE

NCSML will be sponsoring a trip to Detroit, Michigan, for the XX American Sokol National Slet June 29-July 2. This four-day trip will include tours of the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village and more. Registration and deposit deadline is June 1, 2001. For more information, or to sign up, call Shirley Rosencrans at (319) 362-8500.

COMING UP IN SEPTEMBER

NCSML will sponsor a trip to the Czech & Slovak Republics September 11-22, 2001. Details coming to you soon.

Opportunity for Study Abroad

The Anglo-American College in Prague offers a low-cost alternative for visiting students that includes course work, accommodations, and day trips and events with local students. For more information, visit the AAC online at *www.aac.edu*.

> A religious icon in a bottle is one of the central artifacts on display in *A National Collection*. A tag in the bottom suggests it was made in 1864.





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