

Sdružení Čechů a Slováků pro Uchování Národních Odkazů  
Združenie Čechov a Slovákov pre Zachovanie Národných Odkazov

Published by the Czech and Slovak Heritage Association

### The Presidents Corner.

*"We have to grow from our inner self, contribute toward our common goal, and cultivate what was given to us: our heritage."*



It is my impression that the annual picnic was well received by all who attended. A separate article covers this event. I just want to thank everyone who contributed to its success, from bringing in food to those who helped with its distribution or putting up the tent and carrying chairs where they were needed.

I am happy to inform you that an effort is underway to secure the visit of the cymbal ensemble from Moravia that brought so much joy to our members two years ago. If the group can secure visas, they will arrive in D.C. on October 16, 2007, and depart on October 29, 2007. The dates were selected based on the cost of tickets, which unfortunately is the major expense. At the present time we are putting together a calendar of their performances. If confirmed a concert will be held at the

Creative Alliance on October 24, 2007. Other performances are planned for at the Czech Embassy in D.C. and in Annapolis, and at other sites as they may become available.

The festival committee is busy at work evaluating last year's festival and making changes to leave off some of the less popular features and to add some new ones instead. You might be pleased to know that by popular demand, additional dancing is proposed before the official opening of the festival. You may remember last year we had a travel log of pictures and sounds from the "old countries".

Hope you all come in large numbers.

Recently our new editor Ms. Taborsky resigned and therefore a temporary emergency board was assembled to edit this issue of HLAS. A new permanent editorial board will be put in place to continue to publish HLAS as a high quality newsletter. If anyone amongst our members is interested to work on this new editorial board, please let us know.

Last I would like to mention that this year is an election year and ballots will be sent to you for your vote. While the ballot will contain names of candidates for all the posts, feel free to express your opinion by making changes as you see fit. Let the best persons acceptable to the most members be in charge of this extraordinary association.

Michael E. Krompholz

## CSHA PICNIC 2007



The morning of July 15th, 2007, was hot with temperatures expected to climb to the mid-nineties. However, this did not deter the large crowd of members and guests that attended the Annual Czech and Slovak Heritage Association Picnic, at the Belvedere Christian Church on Cheverly Road in Towson. By 1:00 p.m., the hamburgers and hot dogs were already on the grill fussed over by chefs, Zdenko Madro, Alex Vanicky and George Vransky.

Adjacent to a wooded, shady area, the large crowd of picnickers assembled under white tent-like coverings where picnic tables and serving tables stacked with salads, condiments, chips, sliced onions, tomatoes, and huge coolers of ice cold drinks tempted everyone.

While feather-like breezes circled in rhythm through the shady trees all afternoon, "This is so nice!" and "Isn't this heavenly?" were heard numerous times as folks chatted with friends, ate the good food and sang familiar Czech and Slovak songs that Mr. Zikan played on the accordion.

At 3:00 p.m. everyone was asked to congregate in the air-conditioned community room of the church where members discovered, to their surprise, all of the delectable desserts, and where a most productive quarterly meeting was held.

In grateful thanks for a wonderful afternoon, we must acknowledge President and Mrs. Krompholz, and also Hana Vransky, Lois Hybl, Anna Losovsky, and all those who pitched in to help, and especially Bob Losovsky, who brought the accordion and the Vanickys, who brought our youngest and cutest member, Dominick.

Sejdeme se příští rok !

*Dolores Gentes*

## A MEMORY

The following memory of her early years in Czechoslovakia was submitted by Jiřina Havliková (Georgina Havlik). We would love to know about one of your memories. Will you share it with us?

As one who was raised in Europe in what was then Czechoslovakia, I often have vivid memories of my life there. These memories often come to mind unexpectedly, as when I read Janet Gilbert's delightful article in Howard County's, The View, on May 4, 2006.

She wrote, "The standard European toilet tissue is similar in texture to 200 grid sandpaper and comparable in absorbency to generic waxed paper." I laughed heartily and thought to myself, "My good lady, you do not know the half of it". The standard European toilet tissue, as I recall, was a precious commodity handed out one piece at a time in public buildings to each person who then was expected to put change in a dish. It was handed out by the bathroom attendant called a *hajzl baba* in Czech.

Some European toilets, however, were coin operated. So there you were, completely dependent on strangers to give you either the correct change to use or to point out the coin that you must use to get into the stall. Once inside. . . Surprise! ...Surprise! . . . Surprise! No toilet tissue! That's right! None was provided.

I do not know the history of toilet tissue from the beginning of time, just from the beginning of my time. In the days of WWII, the newspaper was the tissue to use. In good families, the newspaper was neatly cut into little pieces and stacked up in a box. In messy families the newspaper was all over. In the worst families there was nothing at all.

In my family, using the bathroom had an added bonus. There were always books to read there, since my mother read wherever she could. I read Edgar Allan Poe there while hiding from my chores. Normally, I preferred *Rodokapsy*, (trash literature banned by my father), which I could read there in peace. It was there that I also gained a good knowledge about the American Wild West. I wonder if we could increase literacy by placing books in bathrooms?

Jaroslav Hašek - from *Švejk*



vysiechnu."

Ve dveřích objevil se závodčí: „Pane vachmajstr, on chce jít na záchod.“

„Bajonett auf!“ rozhodl strážmistr. „Ale ne, přiveďte ho sem.“

„Vy chcete jít na záchod?“ laskavě řekl strážmistr. „Není v tom něco jiného?“ A upřel svůj zrak ve Švejkovou tvář.

„Je v tom opravdu jenom velká strana, pane vachmajstr,“ odpovéděl Švejk.

„Jen aby v tom nebylo něco jiného,“ významně opakoval strážmistr, připínaje si služební revolver, „já půjdu s vámi.“

„To je velice dobrý revolver,“ řekl po cestě k Švejkovi, „na sedm ran a střílí precizně.“

Nežli však vyšli na dvůr, zavolal závodčího a tajemně k němu řekl: „Oni si vezmou bajonett auf a postavějí se, až bude vevnitř, vzadu u záchodu, aby se nám neprokopal misgrubnou.“

Záchod byl malý, obyčejný domeček ze dřeva, stojící zoufale uprostřed dvora nad jámou s močůvkou vytékající z nedaleké kupy hnoje.



# CZECH AND SLOVAK LANGUAGE SCHOOL

sponsored by

**THE CZECH AND SLOVAK HERITAGE ASSOCIATION (CSHA)**

P.O. Box 20261, Baltimore, MD 21284-0261 ([www.czslha.org](http://www.czslha.org))

**Where can you find low-cost, intergenerational classes (well, ages 8-80+) in the Czech and Slovak languages, sample ethnic food during breaks, and learn about the history, culture, and current events related to this heritage here and abroad? Read on!**



Fall semester classes begin **September 8, 2007**. We encourage you to register in advance by mail.

In-Person Registration: 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., September 8.

Classes, ten **Saturdays**, Newcomer Hall, Maryland School for the Blind, 3501 Taylor Ave. Parkville, MD.

The following courses include grammar, conversation, reading, and writing:

Czech 101 (Introductory) 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Czech 102 (Second Semester Beginners) 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

**Czech 103 (Transition Class) 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

Czech 201 (Intermediate I) 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Czech 202 (Intermediate II) 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Slovak 101 (Beginning) 11:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Slovak 201 (Intermediate) 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

The following course emphasizes conversation with some translation and writing:

Advanced Czech Conversation 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Tuition: \$75 per course for non-members of CSHA, \$55 for members, plus cost of book.

For more information about teachers, classes, and detailed directions, call 410-435-1317 or 410-243-1710

or e-mail [lhybl@bcpl.net](mailto:lhybl@bcpl.net). For weather cancellations, call 410-243-1710 for a recorded message.

The language school is open to anyone of any age interested in learning about Czech and Slovak languages, history, and culture. We do not discriminate based on race, color, national or ethnic origin.

Class schedule is subject to change based on enrollment and teacher availability.

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Send to: Lois Hybl, CSHA--Language School, P.O. Box 20261, Baltimore, MD 21284 (410-243-1710;

e-mail: [LHybl@bcpl.net](mailto:LHybl@bcpl.net)). Or see website form at [www.czslha.org](http://www.czslha.org). Please note if you do not want any personal information in a directory.

*Continued on page 5)*

# LANGUAGE SCHOOL APPLICATION

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Last	First	Middle		
Address	Apt. #	City	State	ZIP+4
Home Phone	Work Phone	FAX	E-mail address	

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**Check course(es) for Fall 2007:**

Czech 101 (1st Semester Intro) \_\_\_\_\_  
Czech 102 (2nd Semester Intro) \_\_\_\_\_  
Czech 103 (Transition Class) \_\_\_\_\_  
Czech 201 (Intermediate I) \_\_\_\_\_  
Czech 202 (Intermediate II) \_\_\_\_\_  
Advanced Czech Conversation \_\_\_\_\_  
Slovak 101 (Beginning) \_\_\_\_\_  
Slovak 201 (Intermediate) \_\_\_\_\_  
2007 Member of CSHA\* (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_

Note: **New** memberships paid in **fall** 2007 will be good through Dec. 2008.

**Amount Enclosed:**

Language Tuition (\$55/75 per course)  
Membership (\$25) .....  
Czech Text/Tapes (\$60) .....  
Slovak Text and Workbook (\$58)..  
Slovak Tapes (\$45 per set, optional)  
Complete Slovak Set (\$80).....  
Other .....

**Total** .....

**(Make checks payable to CSHA with "Language School" on memo line):**

I do not want to register now, but keep  
my name on the language school  
mailing list. \_\_\_\_\_  
I learned about these classes from  
\_\_\_\_\_.

\*To check your membership status,  
contact Hana Vransky,  
410-323-1751,  
GHV45@yahoo.com.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR MORE INTENSIVE STUDY OF CZECH OR SLOVAK

by Lois Hybl

Of course, we invite you to register for CSHA's Czech and Slovak language classes on Saturdays, beginning September 8. See the application form in this newsletter.

However, many people want and need more intensive language study. Webmaster, Albert Hybl, has included some links to resources for summer study, which appeared in the Spring 2006 issue of "Czech Language News", distributed by the International Association of Teachers of Czech (IATC-NNTC). Go to [www.czslha.org](http://www.czslha.org) and move your cursor down to "HOME," then down to "CZSLHA Main Page," right to "Language School," and right again and click on "Other Czech Language Schools. You will want to check with the institutions about the current status of their classes.

You can also find links to Czech and Slovak universities to check out their language class offerings. For example, under "HOME" move your cursor down to "Embassy of Slovakia" and over to "List of Universities in Slovakia" and click. In the same way, you can find "List of Universities in the Czech Republic."

We welcome your suggestions of other links to language schools and information about your experiences with any of the schools. Contact Albert Hybl at [ahybl@bcpl.net](mailto:ahybl@bcpl.net).



### KDYBY OGDEN UMĚL ČESKY WHAT IF OGDEN COULD SPEAK CZECH

*Kdyby Ogden uměl česky. What if Ogden could speak Czech?* was put together by Věra Bořkovcová and translated into Czech by Jiří Weinberger, and was recently published in Prague by Baronet. Ogden Nash, one of America's beloved writers, is best remembered for his clever, whimsical poetry infused with sophisticated puns, play on words, satire and down-to-earth-wisdom.

To give you an idea of what it would like if Ogden could speak Czech, the following are examples of just two of his fifteen hundred poems.

#### SLOVO K MANŽELUM

Chceš-li uchovat lásky žár  
ve svém manželském kadlubu,  
svou chybu vždy uznej ihned.  
A když jsi v právu, drž hubu.

#### "A WORD TO HUSBANDS"

To keep your marriage brimming,  
With love in the loving cup,  
Whenever you're wrong, admit it;  
Whenever you're right, shut up.

#### LOVEC

Lovce bůhvíčím přikrytý  
v rafinovaném mimikry  
vykouzlí kvalitní kachní kvák  
rozparáděný dospělák  
mazaný všemi návnadami  
zvítězí nad kachnami.

#### "HUNTER"

The hunter crouches in his blind,  
Neath camouflage of every kind  
And conjures up a quacking noise  
To lend allure to his decoys.  
This grown-up man, with pluck and luck  
Is hoping to outwit a duck.

## AMAZING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

From early history to the present, Czechs and Slovaks have accomplished unprecedented fetes that have astonished the world and embedded in all of us a respect and love for the Czech and Slovak heritage.

### **Móric Beňovský 1746-1766**

The only Slovak to ever become a king was Móric Beňovský. He was born to a minor noble family in Vrbové, near Trnava, Slovakia. He started his career as an officer in the Austrian army. In 1768, he joined the Polish rebellion against the czar, was captured and sent into exile in Siberia. He escaped with other prisoners, and on a commandeered boat, navigated as one of the first Europeans to the northern Pacific.



In 1772, he arrived in Paris where King Louis XV appointed him as the French representative on Madagascar. There the local chieftains elected Beňovský as their king. Later that year, he returned to France and was awarded the rank of general. In Paris, he befriended Benjamin Franklin and Count Pulaski who carried to America his offer to use Madagascar as a base to fight England.

In late 1777, Benovsky returned to his castle in Slovakia, and Empress Maria Teresa elevated his status to Count.

In 1779, Beňovský traveled to America where he fought under Pulaski in the battle for Savannah, and in 1782 where he was introduced to George Washington to whom he offered to assemble an army in Germany to fight for the American Revolution. The Continental Congress did not accept this offer.

In 1785, Beňovský turned to the English for support of an expedition to Madagascar. This was provided, and he returned to the island. There he laid out plans for a new capital and got involved in the slave trade. In 1786, he was killed in the fight against an invading force sent by the French.

In 1996, the Slovak mint issued a 200 Sk. coin in honor of the 250th anniversary of the birth of Moric Beňovský.

*Source: the internet*

### **Jan Welzl 1868-1948**

Jan Welzl was one of the greatest Czech adventurers. He was born in Zabřeh, Moravia, and left home at the age of sixteen, essentially penniless. After traveling through the Balkans, he arrived in Russia where he first worked in a shipyard and later on the Trans Siberian Railroad. Alone, without a compass, he traveled for four years with horse and cart to the Arctic North, where he lived among the Eskimos on the New Siberian Islands.

At one time, he became an Eskimo (Inuit) chieftain and High Judge on the islands.

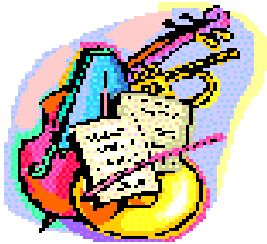
On one of his trips to San Francisco his boat was shipwrecked and, subsequently, he was deported from the United States to Europe. There he related his experiences to a few known Czech authors like Těsnohlídek, Valenta, and Golombek, who published these in several books. Consequently, he earned enough money to return to the American continent, but was again denied entry.

He eventually settled in Dawson, Canada where he died. Many doubted his many adventures and actually dismissed them. Over the years, however, most of his experiences were proven to be true. The asteroid 14525 Welzl was discovered in 1998, and named in his honor

*Welzl, Jan. Thirty years in the Golden North. Tr. By Paul Selver. N.Y. 1732.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### September 23, Slovak Heritage Festival



Held at the PNC Bank Arts Center,  
exit 116 Garden state Parkway,  
Holmdell, NJ 07733

### September 30, SOKOL *Vinobraní*



The annual Grape Harvest Dinner/Dance at Turners Hall.

Admission \$ 30.00. Purchase tickets before September 25, 2007. Send checks payable to "Sokol Baltimore" to Mr. Frank Huber, 514 Sellrus Court, Fallston, MD 21047.

### October 14, Czech and Slovak Heritage Festival



From 12:00 noon till 6:00 PM at the Baltimore 45 Association (formerly Tall Cedars Hall);  
2501 Putty Hill Ave., Baltimore, MD 32334

*All of the above events are listed on our website with driving directions*

### October 24, *Cimbálová Muzika Jaroslava Čecha*



At 8:00 PM at the Creative Alliance at The Patterson, 3 1 3 4 Eastern Ave., Baltimore, MD 21224  
The popular folklore group we enjoyed two years ago is coming again!

### December 8, *sv. Mikuláš* Party for children



Traditional Czech and Slovak St. Nicholas party for our children from 1:00 to 5:00 PM.

Where? At the Belvedere Christian Church, 1301 Cheverly Rd., Towson. MD 21286.

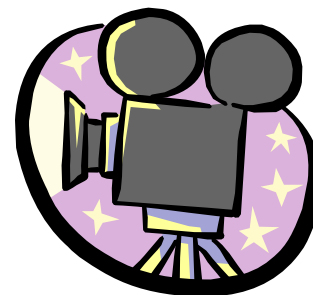
### December 9, Czech and Slovak Heritage Singers



Annual Christmas Concert 3:00 PM at the St. Wenceslaus Church, 2111 Ashland Ave., Baltimore, MD 21205.



## **Czech movies at the Avalon Theater, 5612 Connecticut Ave., Washington, DC**



### **September 12, 8 PM; Some Secrets (*Výlet*)**

A road comedy centered on a family trip to Slovakia where the ashes of father are taken to be buried in his native village.

### **October 10, 8 PM Faithless Games (*Nevěrné hry*)**

A composer and his musical performer wife move to a small village on the Slovak-Hungarian border where Peter finds peace to compose but Eva feels very limited.

### **November 14, 8 PM (Restart)**

A Czech-Finnish co-production. Takes place in contemporary Prague and its nightclubs.

### **December 12. 8 PM (*Fimfarum*)**

A series of fairytales based on the book of the same name by the legendary Jan Werich.

*All movies have English subtitles.*

## **TEACHING IN PRAGUE, WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY!**

*by Margaret Supik*

When my friend and colleague, Dr. Barbara Vann, chair of the Dept. of Sociology at Loyola College, invited me to be her assistant with a summer program in Prague, it is a bit of an understatement to say I jumped at the chance. So on June 29, I found myself in Prague moving into a small, but very comfortable flat *na Starém Městě*.

The students, eleven in all, arrived on July 1, and almost immediately the questions began. "How do you say water?...bathroom?...What is *losos*? ...What does *kolej* mean?..." and many, many others. We are pleased with the fact that the students' interest level remained so high. They had a pretty full schedule. Ethics from 9 to 11:30 each morning and Czech language and Introduction to Czech History and Culture in the afternoon. The Ethics class was taught by Fr. Libor Ovečka from the Theology Faculty of Charles University. The students found him not only interesting, but entertaining as well, and soon got over their initial shyness and peppered him with questions about what it was like to be a priest here under the Communist regime. Of course his English is very good, and he was quite forthcoming about his experiences. The afternoon classes were less structured; sometimes they took the form of a field trip, a walking tour or even a scavenger hunt.

Our first trip out of Prague was to Terezín where the students saw first hand the evidence of Nazi atrocities. The comments we heard most often were: "Why did they do this?" and "How could somebody do something like this to anybody?" Of course, there really is no good answer for those questions.

We showed the group the Church of Saints Cyril and Methodius, where the Czech parachutists hid after assassinating Reinhard Heydrich, and told them about the reprisals that followed. I wish we could have taken them to Lidice, but there just was not enough time.

We took a trip to Kutná Hora, which the students liked very much, but which paled in comparison with the little church in Sedlec, outside of Kutná Hora. *Sedlecká kostnice* has a macabre fascination all its own, and our students were certainly fascinated. Every time the subject of Kutná Hora came up, the topic “bone church” was next.

They were very impressed with *Karlštejn*, and easily saw the wisdom of Charles IV’s decision to site his fortress there. It seemed that after our trip to *Český Krumlov* the students began to develop more



*Český Krumlov*

appreciation for the depth of history all around us. For Americans, 250 years ago is ancient history, so when we attended the celebration of the 650th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of Charles Bridge, our group was pretty impressed. Of course, the sword-carrying, costumed knights and the mounted knights jousting with one another were pretty impressive too. Add in fireworks and a huge crowd packed into a small square, *Křižovnické náměstí*, and that was [one heck of a] celebration.

The students weathered our first and only encounter with Czech bureaucracy with patience and good humor. With the help of our wonderful Czech facilitator, *paní Marie Černá*, we were able to procure, with a discount, eleven student identification cards and transit passes in less than an hour and a half. Only one of those standing in quite a long line was audibly angry...and he was an *američan* (we think). Go figure!



## AMAZING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

cont.

### Otto Wichterle 1913-1998

Otto Wichterle was the inventor of the soft contact lens. He was born in Prostějov, Moravia. After earning his degree in chemical engineering, he remained with the Bohemian Technical University in Prague as an Assistant Professor. In 1939, when the Nazi occupiers closed all the universities in the country, Wichterle joined the Bata Company as a researcher.



In 1941, he discovered the process of extruding and spooling synthetic polyamide fiber, which was a process used in the textile industry.

After WWII, Wichterle was nominated as full professor at his alma mater, where he continued his research on polymers. This led him to discover a plastic gel in 1953, and subsequently, to discover the very first contact lens in 1961. In spite of his successes he was dismissed from his position by the Communist regime in 1956.

A year later, he was "paroled" and allowed to found and direct the Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry. This did not mean that his troubles with the regime were over. Behind his back the government sold his patent for soft lenses to Bausch and Lomb for a fraction of its value.

Wichterle became active in the Prague Spring, and after the Soviet occupation in 1968, he openly criticized the government and signed the famous "Two Thousand Words" document; He was again dismissed from all his positions. After the velvet revolution, in 1990, he was appointed President of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences.

Otto Wichterle died in 1998 after publishing over two hundred scientific papers and producing over one hundred fifty patents. The asteroid number 3899 was named after prof. Wichterle in 1993. High school in Ostrava (district of Poruba), Czech republic was named after him in September, 1st, 2006.

## **Anton Mrkos 1918-1996**

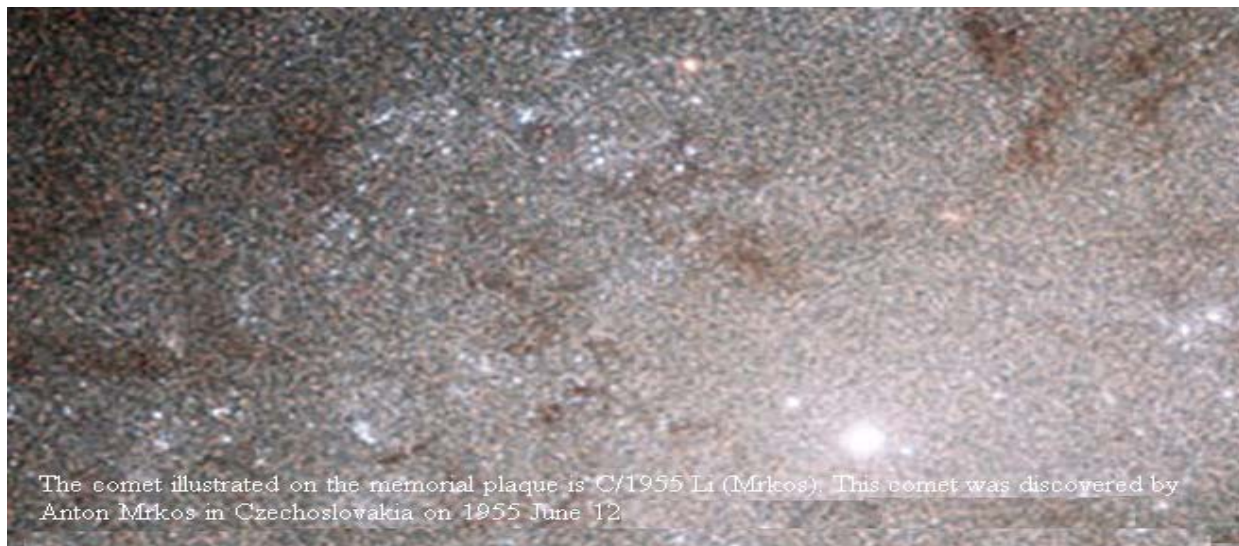
Anton Mrkos, who was born in Střemchoví, Moravia, became a well-known astronomer, but started his career in an entirely different direction. He graduated from the Catholic Teachers' Institute, which was not really a college, and started to teach school. While at the institute, he showed an interest in astronomy and frequently visited the observatory in Prague. He also learned how to grind lenses and miraculously built his very own first telescope.

After WWII he left teaching and moved to Slovakia where he attended the Comenius University to receive a degree in astronomy. After completing his studies, he moved to the top of Lomnický Štít in the High Tatras. While there he was invited to join a Soviet expedition to Antarctica, which lasted eighteen months. Having proven himself, he was invited for a second expedition.

In 1965, Mrkos returned to Bohemia where he was asked to build an observatory on Mt. Klet' near České Budějovice, which he also managed. In addition, he taught at the universities in Prague and České Budějovice.

During his career, Mrkos discovered thirteen comets and sixty planetoids. Dramatically and with his own hands, he built a glass lens that weighed 155 pounds, measured twenty-five and one half inches in diameter and possessed a tolerance of .00004 an inch. He was able to accomplish this in four thousand hours.

Tono Mrkos, as he was known in Slovakia, was also an accomplished mountain climber, who as a



The comet illustrated on the memorial plaque is C/1955 Li (Mrkos). This comet was discovered by Anton Mrkos in Czechoslovakia on 1955 June 12.

# STUDENTS FROM SIX COUNTRIES GATHER IN DOBRUŠKA

by Margaret Supik

On a very hot Friday, August 24, about fifty strangers gathered in Prague opposite the main railroad station to wait for the busses which would carry them to the north-east Bohemian town of Dobruška and the 17th annual Czech language course for *krajany* (Czechs living abroad). They represent all six inhabited continents on earth. Most of the students are from Europe, especially Central Europe where Czech villages are still to be found. Asia has sent students from Siberia, Syria, and for the first time ever, from Palestine. Africa is represented by students from Egypt, South Africa and Tunisia. There are two women from Australia, one from Mexico, a sizeable group from South America, and an unusually small group from North America. In this group Canadians outnumber the Americans two to one.



School building

After the first weekend trips, we ceased to be strangers and we are now friends and fellow students.

Our studies began that Friday evening after the business of room assignments and moving in. After dinner each student was asked to introduce himself, in Czech if possible, to the group. It is on the basis of this introduction that the students are assigned to one of the five levels of competency in Czech. English translations, as well as Spanish, are provided for the beginner level groups, but everyone is



Serious study

urged to use as much Czech as possible. The program is quite intense. We have a total of ninety hours of classroom instruction, five hours daily and many field trips and programs in addition to the formal classes. The classes are university level and conducted by professors from the language faculty of Charles University. For those who are working toward a degree, there is the possibility of earning ten college credits.

Singing and dancing are a big part of the after class activities. We learned the mazaruka and *Červený šatečku* the first week, and five or six more Czech folk songs as well. We have also met the mayor of Dobruška, the *hejtman*, or governor, of this region, and various representatives of the ministries of foreign affairs and education.

The very first weekend here we visited a *Narodní památník*, somewhat like a national park, called



Dobruska

*Adržpašské skály*. In an area not unlike our Shenandoah National Park, wind, rain, frost and rushing water over centuries sculpted the limestone into fantastic shapes. Generations of tourists have given them fanciful names such as “Madonna and Child” and “Krakonos’s Tooth.” From there we visited the Baroque Abbey of Broumov. Once a thriving Benedictine abbey, it is now more parish church and museum. Its most venerated relic is a 1651 copy of the Shroud of Turin, discovered in 1999 secreted behind a gilded wreath high above an altar dedicated to the Holy Czech martyrs, St. Ludmila, St. Vaclav and St. Jan Nepomuk. The Baroque church, which suffered years of neglect after the Benedictines were expelled from Czechoslovakia, is now undergoing extensive restoration.

It is the work of Kilian Ignac Dientzenhofer, one of the best-known architects of the Baroque era.

In addition to an all day trip to Prague, we have visited the towns of Opočno and Nové Město nad Metují, both the scenes of lively street fairs. Opočno holds a traditional *porcincule* or *pout'* the first weekend in August for the benefit of the poor cared for at the monastery. Opočno is noted for its lovely and beautifully preserved Renaissance *zámek*. It would be a perfect film set for *Romeo and Juliet*; one can almost see Juliet calling to her Romeo from one of the arcades. Nové Město nad Metují also boasts a Renaissance *zámek*, but one that was extensively remodeled during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Textile magnates Josef and Cyril Bartoň called upon the best Czech artists and artisans of their time to rebuild and decorate what had been only a ruin left behind after a fire.

There will be many other activities and trips as well: to the ancient city of Litomyšl, birthplace of Bedřich Smetana, to Chrudim and the Museum Loutek, marionette museum, to Pardubice, center of horse-breeding in the Czech Republic and many other fascinating places.

Each time I am here, in the Czech Republic, I can only continue to marvel at the richness of history, culture and beauty of this lovely land, which is truly the heart of Europe. My husband, Charles, said it best when we visited the Czech Republic for the first time in 1990, "It makes you proud to be Czech."



*The Class*



## VÍTÁME VÁS

We send a warm welcome to Dalibor, who is visiting his cousin, Robert Gabany. Robert is a current CSHA member and student in our Czech and Slovak Language School. Dalibor is here from Slovakia reacquainting himself with Robert who had previously taught English in Brno for one year.

## KITCHEN TREASURES

Feeling the great pride in our heritage is often stirred up by great tasting foods that originate in the land of our forefathers. Brigita Kromholz kindly shares with us the following dessert recipe which is very popular in Slovakia. Enjoy this most delicious and melt-in-your-mouth dessert!

### Prague Squares (Pražské řezy)

Mixture:

9 tbsp. butter  
1 1/4 cup flour  
1/3 cup sugar  
4 egg yolks  
1 tsp. baking powder  
1 tsp. vanilla extract  
grated lemon rind from 1/2 lemon

Top:

1 cup sugar  
4 egg whites  
2 cups ground walnuts  
1 jar Trappist currant jelly

In a bowl, mix egg yolks with sugar until well blended. Add softened butter, vanilla, lemon rind, flour and baking powder. One tablespoon rum may be substituted for the vanilla. Line a 9x13 baking dish with parchment paper. Carefully spread mixture over it.

This is a tedious process and requires patience. Place in refrigerator.

Beat four egg whites well. Fold in sugar and nuts. Spread currant jelly, but not heavily, over the mixture. Cover with the egg whites, sugar and nut mixture.

Bake 40 minutes at 350 degrees F.

When cooled, cut into 1½ x 1½ inch squares.

*Submitted by Brigita Kromholz*

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Another Kitchen Treasure recipe is submitted by Anna Losovsky whose exceptional baking and cooking have earned her great praise. A native of Slovakia,

she shares with us this exceptional recipe of a Czech and Slovak favorite.

### Nut Roll (Orechový závin)

Dough:

1 yeast + 1 tsp. sugar + 1/4 cup warm water  
3 cups flour  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1 stick butter  
1 Tbsp. Crisco  
1/2 cup milk (warm)  
1/2 cup sugar  
2 eggs  
1/4 tsp. grated lemon peel

Filling:

1 lb. walnuts  
1/2 cup sugar  
1/3 cup warm milk  
2 Tblsps. vegetable oil  
1 tsp. grated lemon peel  
2 tsps. vanilla

Sprinkle yeast and 1 tsp. sugar into 1/4 cup warm water. Let set until it starts to bubble and doubles in volume.

Melt butter and Crisco in warm milk and sugar and lemon peel. In large bowl, place 3 cups flour. Pour in liquid mixture and 2 eggs. With wooden spoon, mix until all the ingredients are mixed well. Continue to knead, and to sprinkle more flour on the dough if needed until the dough is smooth and elastic and not sticky.

Let set in warm place until double in volume.

Remove dough to floured surface. Divide dough into three parts. Roll out each part into a rectangle about 9 inches wide, 13 inches long and 1/4 inch thick.

Spread nut mixture over rectangle of dough.

Starting with the 13 inch side, roll the dough like a jelly roll. Carefully place the rolls on a greased pan 3 inches apart. Allow them to rise 10 minutes in a warm place.

Brush them with a beaten egg.

Bake for 30 minutes at 350 degrees F. or until golden brown.

## The Czech “koruna”

The first coins in use in the territory of Bohemia were Celtic coins known as “rainbows” at about 400 B.C. The biggest trove of these coins, known as the “*Podmokly treasure*”, was found in 1771. As result of ‘interstate’ commerce also Roman coins *denarius* and *obolus* and Greek *stater* have been found.



Silver Denarius

The first silver coins, also called *denarius*, were minted in Bohemia during the rule of Duke Břetislav I, sometimes after 970 A.D. Then, after 1220 A.D. King Přemysl Otakar I. introduced a new silver coin, called “*brakteat*”, replacing the strongly devalued denarius.

It was King Wenceslaus II. on whose order the best known Bohemian coin, the *Grossus Pragensis* (*Pražský groš*) was minted in Kutná Hora starting in 1300. At that time also all seventeen mints in Bohemia were transferred to Kutná Hora. This coin became a recognized international legal tender. From about a ½ lb of silver 60 coins were minted. As it happens so often with monetary units, over the years the coins were getting smaller in size, lighter in weight and the silver less pure. [*Did I hear the word inflation?* ]

Later, in the 1620’s, when the market demanded coins of higher denomination, a new coin was put into circulation, the so-called “*Joachimsthaler Guldengroschen*”, or “*Thaler*” (also “*tolar*” in Czech) as it was abbreviated. Since there was not enough gold available for gold coinage, these were silver coins minted from silver mined in Joachimsthal, or Jáchymov in Czech. Smaller coins continued to be minted in Kutná Hora. Through interstate commerce several million of these coins spread through Europe.

It is worth mentioning that the Jáchymov mines became once more famous with the discovery uranium, contained in the ore mined there, by Madam Curie-Sklodowska. Also the designation “*Thaler*” became the source of the name for the US Dollar.



Golden Dukat

It was during the reign of Empress Maria Theresa when conventional currency was introduced: the golden “*Dukat*”. This was divided into smaller coins were called “*Kreuzer*”, from the German Kreuz or cross. In 1747 one silver *Thaler* was equal to two gold *Dukats*. However, as result from economic downturn following the war for the Hapsburg succession, a new copper coin was put into circulation, the *Groschen* or *Pfenig*. Paper currency was introduced in 1762 for bigger denominations.

These banknotes were issued by the Vienna Municipal Bank. And then again, following the Napoleonic wars the currency in circulation increased from 32 million Gulden (*Dukats*) to over one billion. The result was state bankruptcy of 1811. The value of all the currency dropped to 1/5 of its face value. In 1856 again a new currency was introduced. The base unit was called Golden (*zlatý* in Czech) and was divided into 100 parts (*Groschen*). The last change came in 1892 when the *Krone* (crown, *koruna*) was introduced. A currency exchange followed with one new *Krone* equaling two Golds. Therein lies the origin of the Czech word “*pětka*“, or “five” for the ten koruna bill: the exchange rate 10 korun = 5 golds.

Finally, in 1919 the new Czechoslovakia accepted the “koruna” as the legal tender and so it is today in the Czech Republic. The currency in Slovakia is also called “koruna”.

Source: internet

**Podzim 2007**

**Fall 2007**

# **HLAS**

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## **HLAS**

The VOICE of The Czech & Slovak  
Heritage Association  
Post Office Box 20261  
Baltimore, MD 21284-0261  
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