

Canadian Slavonic Papers

A BRIEF HISTORY

The *Canadian Slavonic Papers* was founded in the year 1956 and became the official journal of the Canadian Association of Slavists. The *Canadian Slavonic Papers* was first edited by Professor George Luckyj of the University of Toronto and was published as an annual hard-cover volume by the University of Toronto Press. The original objective of *CSP* was to provide a vehicle for the publication of the best papers presented at the annual meetings of the CAS, plus other papers the editors felt should be accepted. In the early volumes an average of eight to ten papers, primarily by Canadian Slavic scholars, were published and the volumes averaged 125 pages each. Publication of the *CSP* was made possible by financial support extended to the Canadian Association of Slavists by a number of Canadian universities.

The year 1956 also witnessed the founding of a sister journal, *Études Slaves et Est-européennes*, edited by Professor Théodore Domaradzki of the Université de Montréal. *ESEE* was published as a French-English quarterly for the Eastern Canada Centre of Slavists and East European Specialists. In 1968, *ESEE* merged with the *Canadian Slavonic Papers* and today is published as an annual.

Professor Luckyj earned the gratitude of the Canadian Association of Slavists for his fine work as editor and for seeing the *Canadian Slavonic Papers* successfully through its early and difficult years. In 1964, at the annual meeting of the CAS at Université de Laval, Professor Adam Bromke of Carleton University was elected to succeed Professor Luckyj as Managing Editor. Professor Bromke saw his task as three-fold: (1) to publish on an annual basis; (2) to expand the size and scope of the journal; and (3) to strengthen its financial position. Volumes VI-VIII reflect the success of Dr. Bromke's editorship. The size of the *CSP* expanded to over 250 pages per volume, with each containing an average of twelve to fifteen papers. In addition, beginning with volume VII, new features were added to the journal. Volume VII contained two special sections on: "Ten Years of the CAS," and "Multiculturalism in Canada." Volume VIII contained a special section on "Canada and Eastern Europe." These special sections were very helpful in expanding the academic value of the journal and as a result increasing the readership of each issue. In 1966, the constitution of the Canadian Association of Slavists was altered to provide for the election of two

Assistant Editors to work with the Managing Editor on the production of the journal. Professors P. E. Uren and J. W. Strong of Carleton University were elected to those positions.

In 1967 when Professor Bromke stepped down as Managing Editor after three years, the *CSP* was firmly established and recognized as a major scholarly publication in Canada. At the Canadian Association of Slavists' meeting at Carleton University, Professor Philip E. Uren was elected as the new Managing Editor assisted by Professors G. Melnikov and J. W. Strong. Professor Uren immediately undertook a significant transformation of the journal: from an annual publication to a semi-annual in 1967 and to a quarterly format in 1968. This transformation was made financially possible by a generous donation to the CAS by Mr. Stephen Roman, President of Denison Mines Ltd., the continued and increased support of Canadian universities, and by an annual grant from the Canada Council. As negotiated and arranged by Professor Uren, the Canada Council's yearly grant has become the primary financial support of the *Canadian Slavonic Papers*, and has made possible its continued development as a scholarly publication.

Under Professor Uren's editorship, the practice continued of publishing a series of special sections in the journal. In Vol. IX, No. 1, there appeared a special section on "Slavic Studies in Canada." Vol. X, No. 4 became the first issue of the *CSP* to be devoted entirely to a single subject — "Czechoslovakia, 1968." In 1968 the overall business and editorial operation of the *Canadian Slavonic Papers* was expanded with the hiring of a full-time secretary, and a part-time editorial assistant. Miss Tamara A. De-Vreeze became the first person to hold the position of editorial assistant. The work of the editorial assistants has contributed greatly to the stylistic quality of the journal. In 1968, each volume was averaging 600 pages, and upwards of thirty papers were being published. Added to the journal was a small book review section, review articles and Notes and Comments.

The merger with *Études Slaves et Est-européennes* in 1968 was made possible by the close cooperation of its editor, Professor Domaradzki, with the editors of the *CSP*, and by the encouragement and support of the Canada Council.

In 1970 Professor Uren retired as Managing Editor and at the CAS meeting in Winnipeg, Professor John W. Strong was elected his successor, with Assistant Editors G. Melnikov and R. C. Elwood, both from Carleton University. The operation of the journal again underwent a

reorganization. Professor Elwood was made Book Review Editor, and Professor Melnikov assumed responsibility for all French content. The rapid expansion of the book review section attests to the success of Professor Elwood's efforts. By 1973, an average of 100 books were being reviewed annually. In 1971 French abstracts to all English articles were included and a greater effort was made to develop the bilingual character of the journal.

In 1970 the decision was made, for purely financial reasons, to end the long association between the *Canadian Slavonic Papers* and the University of Toronto Press. It should be noted that the successful development of the journal is indebted in no small way to the excellent editorial and printing services provided by Toronto University Press. Beginning in 1970 Beauregard Press, Ltd. of Ottawa undertook the printing of the *CSP*.

In 1971 Miss De-Vreeze left the *CSP* and was replaced by Mrs. Lydia Kasianchuk; Miss Penny Morton became the administrative secretary and business manager of the journal; and Professor William Couch of Ottawa University was appointed Associate Editor in charge of advertising and promotion. Mrs. Carol Shields succeeded Mrs. Kasianchuk as Editorial Assistant in 1973. The production of the *Canadian Slavonic Papers* at Carleton University since 1964 has been greatly facilitated by the cooperation of the university administration in providing office space, mailing services, financial administration and other aids. This has comprised a significant contribution to the journal's continued existence.

The practice was established in 1971 of publishing one issue per year devoted to a single topic. These special issues to date have included: "Alexander Solzhenitsyn" (Vol. XIII, No. 2 & 3), "Essays on the Ukraine" (Vol. XIV, No. 2) and "Poland in the 1970's" (Vol. XV, No. 1 & 2).

Although Canadian authors predominate, the pages of the *Canadian Slavonic Papers* have been increasingly open to foreign contributors. Articles from the USA, Great Britain, France, Israel, Japan, India, Poland, etc. have been accepted in recent years.

The history of the *Canadian Slavonic Papers* from 1956 to present has been one of continued growth both in quantity and quality. The *CSP* is now the leading journal in Canada in the field of Slavic studies, and is increasingly known throughout the world. An active exchange programme sends the *CSP* to many libraries in Eastern Europe, and subscriptions exist in practically all Western nations. More significantly,

the *Canadian Slavonic Papers* has brought increasing world attention to the breadth and scope of Slavic studies in Canada and to the activities of the Canadian Association of Slavists.

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