

CAS President's Report, 2007

25 May 2007

Dear Colleagues:

CAS has continued its activities through another quiet but productive year. Under the capable leadership of Oleh Ilnytzkyj, with the help of his assistant Svitlana Kryś and the book review editors, Heather Coleman, Gary Toops, and Allan Reid, our journal is a shining example of how a scholarly journal should be run. It is, first of all, a journal of excellent scholarly quality and considerable interest (as far as Slavic scholarship can be interesting). It is also on time and within its budget. Oleh and his team deserve high praise.

CAS finances are also in good order, as everyone will see from Zina and Oleh's reports. Zina has kept all the wolves at the door except for one, the Canada Revenue Agency, which she finally hunted down, shot, skinned, boiled, quartered and sent off as a poisoned present to her favorite Belarusian dictator. In short, our charitable status is restored. Perhaps its time for us to consider how we can make use of it. In all my years at CAS we have never done so.

My greatest thanks and compliment, however, goes to Elena Baraban, our program chair this year. For a number of reasons, her job was particularly difficult and stressful this year. She has performed heroically. And this even before we actually look at her work, which is a very interesting and very well-managed conference.

The CAS essay prize for the best graduate essay is awarded this year to Auri Berg of the University of Toronto for an essay entitled "From Town to City: Urbanization and Social Integration in late 19th Century Nizhnii Novgorod." The submission was supervised by Prof. Robert Johnson. The undergraduate prize goes to Talia Zajac of the University of Toronto for an essay entitled "Silk and Crosses: Contextualizing the Rus' Conversion of 988 in Byzantine and Rus' Sources." The submission was supervised by Prof. Nicholas Everett. My personal thanks and the gratitude of all the members of CAS goes to the essay prize jury, which consisted of Carter Elwood, Alison Rowley, and Kees Boterbloem. Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to all those who helped in the process and the very many volunteers who responded to my call for evaluators.

The duties of the president of CAS are not many, so I did not have a very busy schedule. The president's role in CAS is mostly to smile. So I shall keep smiling while the capable members of the executive continue to perform their functions so well.

Maxim Tarnawsky
President