



CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF

SLAVISTS

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Report of the Managing Editor, *Canadian Slavonic Papers*, (June, 1997)

As in the past, throughout the reporting period of the academic year 1996–97 *Canadian Slavonic Papers* remained a vital publishing forum for Canadian scholars in the field of Slavic studies, attracting at the same time academics from Europe, North and South America, Russia and Australia. noteworthy is the publication of the 1995 issue 3–4 (vol. XXXVII). It contains papers from a conference organized by Professor Stefania Szlek-Miller and Professor Caroline Bayard at McMaster University and devoted to the question of the disintegration of Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. It includes articles by such prominent authors as Petr Pithart — the former premier of post-communist Czechoslovakia, and currently a Senior Research Fellow of the Institute on Nationalism at the Central European University in Prague. In general, it can be said that we have hosted on the pages of CSP some world class scholars (another example is André Liebich, Professor at the Centre of Contemporary Historical Studies in Geneva and the author of recently published book *From the Other Shore: Russian Social Democracy After 1921*, Harvard University Press, 1997; the manuscript of this book was awarded the Frankel Prize in Contemporary History, Wiener Library in London, Great Britain), but the number of submissions in the area of social and political sciences remains low; although in terms of published papers one may infer that there is a slight increase in the research activity of social and political scientists, such statistical speculation would be misleading. Let us hope that at the time of crucial changes taking place in Slavic countries of Central and Eastern Europe this trend will be reversed in the near future.

One of our most important tasks in the coming year will be the preparation of a special issue on the occasion of the World Congress of Slavists in Cracow (Poland) in 1998. So far there are eleven submissions to be evaluated by independent reviewers. While Prof. TMS Priestly is in charge of administrative and practical matters related to the Congress, the above mentioned process of assessment is being conducted from our editorial office. In addition, in the past year we have received 39 papers to be considered by CSP for publication. Out of this number, two have been accepted for publication, three urged to

be resubmitted, nine have been rejected and the rest still awaits a final assessment and decision.

We are still trying to catch up with the delay in publishing our journal and to close the gap between the number of a volume and the year in which it should appear. This task turned out to be more difficult to implement than we initially anticipated. It should be mentioned that recent negative developments in Canadian academia in connection with severe budgetary cuts and the lack of a congenial atmosphere surrounding humanities (and Slavic studies in particular) at various universities in the country did not bypass the University of Alberta. In fact, in the past three years, University of Alberta experienced some of the most devastating financial cuts. Needless to say, this situation bore an adverse effect on staff morale and performance. Overloaded with teaching duties, our colleagues have been faced with the additional task of defending the discipline of Slavic studies. Consequently, it was at times difficult to coordinate all aspects of the journal's operation. We hope that this period of turmoil and uncertainty is behind us. In spite of these obstacles we are coming closer to achieving our goal and hope that in 1997/98 we will succeed in closing the above mentioned delay in publishing the journal.

In other developments, it ought to be reported that thanks to the efforts of Dr. G. Olson, CSP has now its Web page on the Internet (web site address is: <http://www.ualberta.ca/~csp>) It provides information about the journal, including titles of books received in our office and meant to be reviewed on the pages of *CSP*. On the side of other more positive aspects of late, it should be noted that the SSHRCC has revoked its harsh austerity program aimed at learned journals, and although the previous level of financial support for the journals has not been reestablished and it is doubtful whether it ever will, one can look to the near future with a cautious degree of optimism,

As of May 1997 our equity stood at \$26,154.80 in Canadian funds and \$4,584.21 in US dollars. A detailed breakdown of the Journal's expenses prepared by Dr. G. Olson is attached to this report.

Attachments:

- [Submissions, 1997](#)
- [Financial Report, 1997](#)
- [Membership, 1997](#)

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Managing Editor