



CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF

SLAVISTS

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Report of the Managing Editor, *Canadian Slavonic Papers*, (June, 1998)

The basic statistical data provide us with a pretty good picture of our present situation, but let me expand it a little bit and add a few short observations.

We must note that as far as our financial resources are concerned our equity as of May 19, 1998 is somewhat lower than last year and there is reason for concern. I would like to take this opportunity and appeal to all our colleagues/slavists, quite a few of them active scholars who occasionally publish their articles or reviews in CSP and who are behind with their subscription and membership fees, to clear off their arrears. I would like to emphasize that if they had paid their dues we would be today in a much better financial shape and out of this rather unpleasant if not dangerous zone. To further support these alarming comments let me juxtapose the following numbers. Our annual income from all subscriptions/memberships should be \$28,700 yet our income from this source was in the past year (May 1997- April 1998) \$18,228.85. Fully 43% of our membership last paid their dues in 94, 95 or 96 (1994 - 12%; 1995 - 10% and 1996 - 21%).

As for the submissions, we have had fewer of them in the reporting period than in the last year. Even if we add papers submitted for the Congress of Slavists in Cracow, the total number will fall short of what we had last year. The papers submitted for the Congress have suffered particularly severe criticism. In the first round of assessments, out of eleven papers only two have been accepted for publication without any serious reservations. Consequently, as a result of readers assessments some colleagues decided to withdraw their contributions (2) and resubmit them at a later date and a few others, if included, will appear with substantial changes and improvements. Whatever the case, this special volume will be thinner than initially anticipated. Generally speaking, the proportion of submissions between Canadian and foreign authors is more or less equal (50/50) but the rate of acceptances is slightly higher on the foreigners' side.

As the Managing Editor, I have been involved in the preparation of special issue on Poland and fund raising, an extremely time consuming activity. I attached to this particular project a condition, namely that it must be completely financed by the Polish community (mainly in Edmonton) without any attempts on its part to influence in any way whatsoever the concept or the content of the volume. So far I have managed to collect \$ 3,500 and my target is to reach the total amount of \$ 6,000 which would be slightly more than the costs of a single issue. I would like to continue this experiment with other communities not only for the sake of improving our financial status which is extremely important, but also to provide in each case an objective, scholarly and comprehensive analysis, focusing on a single country, which would also help to understand its specificity in the ongoing process of transformation on a broader scale. This can also serve as a very useful tool for teaching in our classrooms. The "Polish" issue should be out next week. Some scholars have expressed interest in preparing similar issues devoted to other countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

In other related matters I would like to mention that we have a modest exchange program with other journals, such as for example *The William and Mary Quarterly*, *Ostereichische Osthefte*, *Slavistica* in Italy, *Acta neophilologica*, *Harvard Ukrainian Studies*. Complementary copies are mailed to Estonia (Tartu University), Institute of Philosophy of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, Canadian Federation for Humanities, Ukrainian Research Institute, Croatian Institute of History in Zagreb. New subscribers came from Cyprus, Greece, Budapest, Poland.

More importantly, we will catch up this year as promised last year with the dates of publication so that there will be no delay in mailing the journal on time. There will be, however, a slight change of order: the first issue of 1998 which is devoted to the International Congress of Slavists in Cracow will appear before the last issue of 1997.

Last but not least, you may have noticed the change of our cover. We hope you like it and if you don't, please let us know about it.

Edward Mozejko

Managing Editor