



CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF

SLAVISTS

ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE des SLAVISTES

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF SLAVISTS

1997-1998

In addition to routine organizational matters, the main activity of the year was a membership recruitment campaign carried out in universities in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario. This geographical focus was selected in order to capitalize on the location of the annual meeting as a magnet to attract additional interest in the association in this region. Quebec has traditionally been an area where our membership has been somewhat low, so we attempted to reach by mail every specialist in the field in Quebec universities through utilizing French and English language materials as appropriate. I hope that the holding of the annual meeting at Bishops University next year will allow us to build on the recruitment efforts we have undertaken Quebec in the past year.

As usual, a main activity in the latter part of this year has been the organization of the annual meeting. I am particularly grateful to Richard Sokoloski for taking on the role of programme chair and would like to applaud his contribution.

This year we have reinstated the Graduate Essay Contest. Following consultation with the Executive Board a decision was taken to nominate the winning essay for the AAASS Graduate Essay contest. We feel that this will provide even greater recognition to the excellence of our graduate programs and students in the field. This year we have also held our first regular election of the graduate student representative.

In the fall, Maxim Tamawsky represented the CAS at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the AAASS to discuss our concerns about membership dues. While not further progress was made on that issue, the meeting did further communication between the two organizations and a suggestion was made to designate an official liaison person from each of the associations to the other. This idea should be followed up next year.

The organization faces continuing concerns about the status of Slavic Language and Literature programs around the country. I hope that the Association can give attention to this problem in the coming year.

Joan DeBardeleben