

Czech Language News

Spring 2002

International Association of Teachers of Czech (IATC-NAATC)

Number Eighteen

<http://www.language.brown.edu/NAATC/index.html>

ISSN 1085-2950

Message from the President

The masthead should give you a hint that new things are afoot: from February our name has grown by four letters, reflecting our belief that NAATC has an international, as well as a national role to play in Czech studies.

At the December business meeting in New Orleans, we agreed on a new name – International Association of Teachers of Czech / Mezinárodní asociace učitelů češtiny jako cizího jazyka – and resolved to consult as much of the membership as could be reliably reached by e-mail before the decision was binding. I duly circulated a memo to the 70 members for whom we have e-mail addresses, asking for comments and especially for objections. I received 19 messages expressing support for the change, and one against it.

For now we'll be keeping the old name alongside the new one to provide continuity. In the coming months, I will be publicizing our new role to Czech programs outside North America, and would be grateful for the names and e-mail addresses of anyone you think might be interested in learning about us (n.bermel@sheffield.ac.uk).

IATC-NAATC will continue to have its center of operations at Brown University, and its annual meeting will continue to be at the AATSEEL conference in December. Last year's New Orleans conference, which saw reduced attendance in some areas due to the aftereffects of September 11, witnessed a considerable rise in Czech studies papers: we sponsored five panels – possibly a record – on Czech language teaching methods, Czech literature, Czech linguistics, Czech and Slovak music, and Czech language heritage in Nebraska. A grant from the National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages allowed us to invite a Czech participant, Dr. Jitka Kramářová, to present a paper acquainting members with methods and materials used at the Ústav bohemistických studií FF UK, the text of which you'll find in this issue.

The 2002 New York conference thus has a difficult act to beat, especially with only one panel – on translating Czech literature – declared so far. Anyone who wants to propose a sponsored panel, with or without a list of participants, can contact me or other IATC-NAATC officers for instructions on how to proceed, and can submit individual paper proposals as per the instructions on the AATSEEL website (<http://clover.slavic.pitt.edu/~aatseel>). The deadline for proposals is 1 August 2002.

This next year looks to be an exciting one for us, with new members, new ideas and new activities (see Susan Kresin's call for contributions in this issue for some of our plans). I hope you'll contribute to these ventures and help us live up to the promise of our new name.

Neil Bermel
University of Sheffield

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**Czech Literature In and Out:
A New Program for Students
Who Do Not Speak Czech**

**Petr Bílek, PhDr., CSc.
Chair, Dept. of Czech Literature
and Literary Criticism**

The Department of Czech Literature and Literary Criticism of the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy of the Charles University (FAP CU) in conjunction with the Faculty's Center for Slavic and East European Studies and the Center for Gender Studies is introducing a foreign instruction program entitled *Czech Literature In and Out* in the 2002/2003 academic year. The aim of the program is to offer non-Czech speaking applicants, especially university students, the possibility to study literature in its historical, regional and theoretical contexts. The program will concentrate on the problems of literary theory, literary history and the Slavic and Central European cultural landscape in which Czech literature developed and continues to develop.

The program is composed of different types of courses taught by the FAP CU's instructors, specialists from other universities, the Czech Academy of Sciences and other academic institutions. The courses will last one semester and require a certain level of professional experience and knowledge. They are intended mainly for students in M.A. and Ph.D. programs. An integral part of the program will be to acquaint the students with everyday life in the present Czech Republic (excursions, exhibits, trips). The languages of instruction are English, German and eventually French.

The course format and grading system were designed to meet European Union criteria for credit transferability, to facilitate the recognition of these courses at the students' home universities. You can find more detailed syllabi for all the courses on our departmental web site:

<http://cl.ff.cuni.cz>

Thank you in advance for taking the time to check out this program and distribute the information to your students. We will be more than grateful for any program/topic suggestions, and welcome the opportunity to incorporate your lectures/classes into the program if you happen to be in Prague any time the course is run (October-December; March-May). We hope as well to offer a platform for students and scholarly exchange under the umbrella of this program.

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Call for contributions

In the upcoming issues, we'd like to invite our Czech colleagues to contribute articles to the newsletter on various aspects of life in the Czech Republic. Even just a paragraph or two would be most welcome. Some possible topics—though we hope you'll have ideas, too:

- What's popular reading among Czech kids and college students these days?

Is the rage for Harry Potter as strong with Czech kids as it is elsewhere?

- What's new in the theater, not only in Prague, but also in other cities? What playwrights are especially popular these days? What changes have there been in Czech theaters since 1989?

- Czech holidays and traditions: Christmas holidays, Easter, Dušičky...

- What is a typical curriculum for students at Czech universities who are studying Czech literature, history, linguistics and other related fields?

What is a typical curriculum for future teachers of Czech language and literature in Czech schools?

- What study abroad programs are available in the Czech Republic? What courses and language programs are offered in these programs?

- What do foreign students of Czech in the Czech Republic typically study? What reasons do they give for choosing to study in the Czech Republic?

- What are typical jobs held by foreigners living in the Czech Republic?

In addition, we'd love to hear from colleagues all over the world about your Czech programs. Who are your typical students, and what do they tend to study, in addition to Czech?

Susan Kresin, UCLA
kresin@humnet.ucla.edu

Kurz o české kultuře na Brownu

**Jana Vlčková
Visiting Lecturer, Brown University**

Na Brown University ve státě Rhode Island na východním pobřeží Spojených států amerických se vyučují různé jazyky, mezi nimiž je i čeština, jako součást undergraduálního programu na katedře slavistiky. Pro dobré zvládnutí jazyka je však nezbytná rovněž znalost odpovídající kultury a proto katedra nabízí i kurz o české kultuře v angličtině.

Příležitost vyučovat tento kurz (kromě českého jazyk) jsem získala v jarním semestru 2002. Jako rodilá Češka jsem si vybrala knihy reprezentující nejen současnou, ale i dřívější českou literaturu. Mým cílem bylo ukázat studentům díla na pozadí doby, seznámit je s historií českého národa v co nejširším časovém měřítku, ale také se zvyky, tradicemi a svátky které jsou neodmyslitelně spjaté se současnou českou kulturou.

Jako příklad lze uvést dvě významná díla, pro která jsem se rozhodla, a to *Labyrint světa a ráj srdce* od J.A.