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Dear Colleagues,

Even though we employed a similar device in the introduction to our last issue, it seems appropriate to open the spring 2012 edition of *Czech Language News* with an observance of the passing within the past year and a half of so many major figures from the world of Czech culture and politics. In addition to the passing of Jiří Dienstbier (January 2011), Arnošt Lustig (February 2011) and Jiří Gruša (October 2011), since our last issue went to press, we have also lost Ivan Martin “Magor” Jirous (November), Václav Havel (December) and Josef Skvorecký (January 2012). Each of these men made distinct contributions to literary art and, in the broadest sense, to the freedom of the Czech people. They all also belonged to approximately the same celebrated generation: those who as young people welcomed and promoted the democratization of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic in the 1960s, then went into internal and/or external exile in the 1970s and 1980s. Since much of the international reputation of Czech culture and statesmanship over the past several decades has been tied to prominent personalities of this generation, the passing of so many of them in the interval of just over a year has given Czechs and Bohemists cause to reflect on the question: who or what will guarantee the reputation of the Czech nation and the prestige of Czech culture in the rest of the twenty-first century?

For those of us who are committed to teaching Czech language, linguistics, literature and culture, the question of Czech national reputation and “brand recognition” is as essential as it is for the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The IATC website czechlanguageassociation.org/iatc/students.html provides a number of good preliminary answers to the question “Why study Czech?” but we would like to encourage all IATC members to share their thoughts about how we might improve those answers at a time when the Czech state can no longer be represented by the living face of Havel, Dienstbier or Gruša, and when contemporary Czech literature can no longer be represented by the work of Jirous, Lustig or Skvorecký.

As we look forward to your ideas about what makes the Czech Republic and Czech language enduringly relevant, the leadership of IATC is working on a number of initiatives to make our association ever more relevant and useful to its members. At the head of these initiatives is a membership drive. Since the first part of our mission statement is to facilitate contacts among international teachers of Czech, we want to encourage as many of those teachers around the world as possible to be our members, to be connected to our professional network, and to participate in our activities. Therefore, all present and former members of IATC will soon be receiving an appeal to renew their membership, update their contact information, and refer us to colleagues teaching Czech as a foreign language anywhere in the world who are not yet members of IATC.

Needless to say, more members will also bring more membership dues and more capacity to develop new programming. Two programs we would like to pursue within existing budgets are a student essay prize and the publication of an interdisciplinary volume of scholarly articles on the broadly defined theme of “migration”—e.g., Czech demographic and linguistic migration, migration in Czech history, or exile and migration in Czech literature and culture. The proposed prize will recognize the best essay written in Czech and submitted by the student of an IATC member, and it will carry an award of \$250. The volume on migration will include articles written in English or Czech and will be published in the Czech Republic. Complete details on both of these projects and how to submit material for consideration will be posted soon on the IATC website and published in the fall 2012 issue of *Czech Language News*.

All of the above initiatives were discussed and approved at the IATC annual meeting at the AATSEEL conference in Seattle in January 2012. IATC also hosted two very successful panels at the Seattle conference—one on Czech linguistics and one poster session on teaching less commonly taught Slavic languages—as well as a fascinating practical workshop by Václav Cvrček on using the Czech language corpora available at ucnk.ff.cuni.cz. We plan to reprise the linguistics and language pedagogy panels at AATSEEL 2013 in Boston, as well as a panel on Czech literature and culture, so we look forward to your proposals in these areas. We will also be electing a new executive board at our 2013 annual meeting in Boston, so we hope many of you will be present to run for office and to vote.

With best wishes for a productive summer,

Chris Harwood (Columbia University) and Susan Kresin (UCLA)
IATC Co-Presidents, 2011-2013

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Short Remark on Dating the Boskovic Bible (Tomáš Gaudek)	2
Brown Czech Literary Anthology	4
New York Remembers Václav Havel (Christopher Harwood)	5
AATSEEL 2012	6
Limericks on Czech (Charles Townsend)	7
Membership	8

A short remark on dating the Boskovice Bible

Tomáš Gaudek,
Charles University in Prague, ČR

Tomáš Gaudek's article argues for a new provenance and confirms the dating of the Czech Boskovice Bible (Research Library Olomouc, M III 3, c. 1414-1419). This medieval Bohemian manuscript is of interest to a wide variety of scholars of Bohemian culture due to its early use of Czech and the high quality illuminations on the eve of the Hussite movement. Gaudek engages a keen understanding of medieval manuscripts, their patronage, and significance within Bohemian culture in order to offer a convincing argument, which engages issues of history, culture, literature and art in late medieval Bohemia.

The Boskovice Bible (Vědecká knihovna Olomouc/Scientific Library Olomouc, sign. M III 3) is undoubtedly one of the most important monuments of Czech literary and pictorial culture. It consists of 537 folios (45.5 x 30 cm) and almost 90 illuminations, although not all of them are complete. Since the Bible is connected with Boskovice Castle only by a short 16th-century inscription on the flyleaf, it is not surprising that scholars have long sought to anchor it in an older historical context.

Bohemists usually date the codex to the period 1415-1420, considering it a remarkable example of the so-called Second Redaction of the Old Czech translation of the Holy Scripture, small parts of which made their way into the third volume of one of the extant manuscripts of the First Redaction: the Zmrzlík Bible (also known as the Litoměřice-Třeboň Bible or Leitmeritzer - Wittingauer Bibel, SOA Třeboň/State Regional Archives in Třeboň, sign. A 2), which was completed in 1414 by Matthew of Prague (Matěj z Prahy, *Mathias de Praga*). In comparison with the First Redaction, which was first attested in the third quarter of the 14th century in the Leskovec-Dresden Bible (Dresdner or Leskowitz-Bibel, which was unfortunately destroyed during World War I), the Second Redaction reflects a later state of development of Czech lexicon, orthography, etc. At the same time, the Second Redaction continues to prefer the somewhat archaic aorist—which then became a typical feature for Czech biblical style throughout the 15th century—as well as the passive voice, compound future tense, and other features that kept it close to the Latin model.

Art historians formerly dated the Boskovice Bible to the same period, but this position was challenged by Martin Číhalík in his 1998 study, which led to acceptance

of the period 1421-1425 as the work's date of origin, and of Čeněk of Vartenberk as the identity of its sponsor. This shift has had great significance for the chronology of linguistic monuments, so it is appropriate to examine its validity carefully.

From an art-historical point of view, the Boskovice Bible is fully consistent with other manuscripts from the second decade of the 15th century, so there is no visual-stylistic basis for moving its creation to the time of Hussite wars. On the other hand, between the books of Genesis and Exodus (fol. 20r-20v) we find a commentary on the Ten Commandments by Master Jan Hus. This has led scholars to the justifiable conviction that the work must have been commissioned by a sympathizer of communion in both kinds, *sub utraque specie*. The opening illumination for the book of Exodus on folio 21r presents further evidence to support such a theory: It shows both the Gathering of the Manna and the miraculous

fountain that God caused to spring forth from the rock at Horeb for Moses and the people of Israel. Josef Krása has persuasively argued that this combination of images was probably a deliberate reference to the practice of communion *sub utraque specie*.

At the same time, the commissioner of the Bible must have been a person of considerable means, since he could afford to finance such a large and richly decorated codex. Only the coats of arms in the border of folio 21r can lead us to a more specific hypothesis that would take all of these factors into account. In the left-hand border we see an *or* and *sable* (i.e., gold and black) coat of arms, *party per*

pale. According to heraldic tradition, the position of this blazon on the page indicates that it should be the more important one in the given context, i.e., quite likely the blazon of the male part of a married couple. A similar blazon was used by a group of prominent Bohemian families that traced its origin to a man named Markvart, a high official in the court of the Přemyslid duke and king Vladislav II. To this group belong, e.g., the House of Vartenberk (Vartemberkové, de Wartenberg), the House of Michalovice (although this one was associated with a different tincture: *argent* and *sable*, i.e., silver and black), the House of Lemberk, and the House of Zvířetice. The opposite shield in the right-hand border has a gold field with two crossed black heraldic figures that are called *ostrve* in Czech, or *Asten* in German (English heraldry uses a similar motif in the *cross raguly*, or *Burgundy cross*) and depict long tree trunks with the stumps of several

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(most often six) limbs branching off of each. In medieval times, such branched logs were used as primitive ladders during sieges. This type of blazon was used by several branches of the prolific Czech clan of the *Ronovci* (*de Ronow*), including the House of Dubá, the House of Lichtenburk, the House of Lipá and the House of Pirkštejn.

Many scholars have tried to solve the puzzle posed by the coats of arms in the Boskovice Bible. Contrary to the assertion of one group of researchers, I believe we can fairly assume that the right-hand coat of arms indicates the house of the wife, interpreting the she-bear with a distaff above the shield as a curious but unambiguous reference to traditional female gender identity. For my line of inquiry, the first relevant authority remains F. M. Bartoš, who identified the three most probable initiators of this unique piece of art: Čeněk (*Winzenz*) of Vartenberk, Zdislav of Zvířetice and Jan (*Johannes*) Řitka of Bezdědice. The latter was Bartoš's favorite, but our present knowledge of Řitka's blazon excludes him from consideration. Unfortunately, no more about Zdislav is known today than seventy years ago; the identity of his wife, whom he married in 1421, remains a mystery. Turning to Čeněk, there is a problem with the coat of arms of his wife, Kateřina of Landštejn, whose heraldic figure was a rose. Martin Číhalík, who has devoted thorough study to the origin and dating of the Boskovice Bible, has correctly noted that the shield in the right-hand border, which has a slightly different shape and is positioned higher on the page than the left-hand blazon, was painted onto the manuscript at a later time. From this Číhalík concluded that only the left-hand border is relevant for determining the original commission, while the right-hand border figure attests only to a later owner of the Bible, about whom little can be adduced. He thus took into account only the left-hand blazon and, proceeding from Bartoš's designation of the three likely candidates, identified Čeněk of Vartenberk as the most probable commissioner, noting that work on the Bible ceased in 1425, the year of his death. He further argued that the banner on the trumpeter's horn in the initial R(adytse) on fol. 249v is gold and black, i.e., in the heraldic colors of the House of Vartenberk. However, the right-hand blazon is of the same tincture. I believe that Číhalík's dismissal of the right-hand coat of arms was premature. It is typically the case that a later acquirer of a codex would eradicate marks of its earlier provenance or decorate it with a large *ex libris* of his own, so that no one could doubt the identity of its current owner. In fact, it would be an altogether unprecedented example if a later

owner of the Boskovice Bible not only neglected to remove the blazon indicating earlier provenance, but actually put his own coat of arms in a subordinate position by placing it in the right-hand border.

I am convinced, then, that the right-hand coat of arms was painted immediately after the completion of the main part of the manuscript, or perhaps immediately after the artist realized his omission, i.e., failing to leave space for the blazon of the commissioner's wife. The fact that the right-hand blazon is positioned slightly higher can be explained by the artist's effort to situate it in the base of a stem, in a similar style to the left-hand coat of arms. The artist's intention was to disguise the correction and give the impression of a purely artistic motivation for the unconventional positioning and the slightly different shapes of the two shields.

From the adduced facts we can infer that Čeněk of Vartenberk is not the only possible commissioner of the Boskovice Bible; indeed, it appears rather that he could not have been the patron. I believe that one scion of the

Děčín-based branch of the House of Vartenberk has been improperly left out of the discussion. Namely, Jindřich (*Heinrich*) of Vartenberk seems to me a more plausible candidate for this distinguished role.

Jindřich of Vartenberk appended his seal to a charter of his brother, Petr of Děvín, dated 15 March 1398. This oldest known report about him establishes him as residing at Nístějka Castle, which he left around 1410 in favor of Valdštejn (Wallenstein) Castle, which he had had rebuilt in the meantime. His wife was Alena of Lipá, who had him enrolled in the *Desky zemské of Brno* (*die Landtafel Brünnener cuda*, an old legal register of aristocratic land holdings) in 1412 as a co-owner of inheritance rights to two villages, Slavětice and Vicenice. This often overlooked legal record is of crucial importance in this case, because it is, as far as I know, the only notice about Jindřich's wife, the bearer of the coat of arms with the crossed *ostrve*. In 1414-1419, Jindřich was the burgrave of Hradec Králové (*Königgrätz*) and as such the governor of whole the county of Hradec Králové. In 1415 he attached his name and seal to the charter sent by the Czech nobility to the Council of Constance in protest against the burning of Jan Hus. However, he observed subsequent developments in Bohemia with apprehension, and in this he was not alone. Many Czech noblemen soon lost their enthusiasm for the Hussite movement. In October 1419 he belonged to a faction that concluded an alliance with Queen Sophia; nor was his name absent from a charter, dated 6 November 1419, that condemned recent developments in Prague and

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declared war against the rebellious capital city. On 18 November Jindřich's brother, Jan of Ralsko, counted him among those noblemen who would stand faithfully by Emperor Sigismund and defend his interests. He held Valdštejn Castle only until 1424, because in that year the Hussites seized it from him, and in 1432 the former magnate was already documented as a refugee in Southern Bohemia. He died sometime after 1440.

This brief biography of the burgrave of Hradec Králové suggests that he was at the apex of his political career precisely in the second decade of the fifteenth century and so could very well have commissioned the Boskovic Bible, especially since he originally sympathized with the Hussite cause. The fact that his wife was Alena of Lipá, a member of the broader *de Ronow* clan, whose blazon we find depicted in the left-hand border of fol. 21r., strongly corroborates this hypothesis. I infer that the Bible remained unfinished because of the unexpected outbreak of Hussite wars, which led to the decline of Jindřich of Vartenberk's social and financial status. We can, then, safely attribute the origin of the Boskovic Bible to the period 1414-1419.

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On-line source:

The Boskovic Bible can be examined on-line at two websites: www.manuscriptorium.com and dig.vkol.cz/dig/miii3/index. The first source offers higher resolution images, but the pages are sometimes disordered.

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Brown Czech Literary Anthology has a new address:

www.brown.edu/Research/CZECH/index.html
Please change the URL in your bookmark!

VH ♥ NY; NY ♥ VH

New York remembers Václav Havel

Christopher Harwood
Columbia University

Václav Havel loved New York City. Havel's first and only trip to America prior to the Velvet Revolution was to see the U.S. premiere of his play *The Memorandum* (*Vyrozumění*) at New York's Public Theater in the spring of 1968. In *To the Castle and Back* (*Prosím stručně*), his 2006 book of memoirs, notes and documents from his presidential years, he vividly recalled his stay in the New York of hippies, student protesters, and the first Broadway season of *Hair* as an important time in his life and an experience that greatly influenced him. On February 21, 1990, newly elected Czechoslovak President Václav Havel famously visited Washington, DC, becoming the first head of state of a former Eastern Bloc country to address a joint session of Congress, but the next day he came to New York to receive an honorary doctorate from Columbia University. In fall 2006, three and a half years after stepping down from the presidency of the Czech Republic, Havel returned to New York to spend seven weeks as Artist in Residency at Columbia University, during which time he worked on writing his final play, *Leaving* (*Odházení*). During the 2006 residency, many events celebrating Havel's life and achievements, his art and ideas, were held at Columbia and around New York City. Among the most remarkable of these was the Havel Festival mounted by director Edward Einhorn, which put on theatrical productions of all of Havel's plays.

On October 5, 2011, Havel celebrated his 75th birthday at a private party at Prague's DOX Centre for Contemporary Art, which marked the occasion with a temporary exhibition of black and white photographs of Havel from all stages of his life. While Daniela Retková,

a former head of Havel's presidential press department, helped arrange the celebration and exhibition at DOX, her son Paul Linden-Retek, a JD/PhD candidate at Yale University, organized a public discussion on dissidence, human rights and democracy to honor Havel at the Czech Center New York on October 17, 2011. The discussion featured remarks by professors from Yale, Columbia and NYU as well as diplomats and journalists with expertise in human rights and in Czech culture and politics.

In one of the first public reactions in New York to Havel's death on December 18, 2011, hundreds of visitors came to sign a book of condolences that the Czech Consulate General made available in the Bohemian National Hall during the three days of national mourning for Havel that were observed in the Czech Republic from December 21st to 23rd.

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On March 27, 2012, a commemorative exhibition entitled *Václav Havel: The Power of the Heroic Imagination* opened at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. Curated by DOX Artistic Director Jaroslav Anděl, the exhibit featured photographs of Havel and quotations from his seminal 1978 essay *The Power of the Powerless*. On March 30, the



Photo by permission of the Czech Center
New York

Czech Center New York hosted a commemorative evening for Havel with a title borrowed from a Lou Reed song, "Love Is Here to Stay." The event was emceed by actress Zuzana Stivínová (who had played the lead female role in the original 2008 Prague production of Havel's *Odházení*) and featured live musical performances by Suzanne Vega, Ivan Král and The Fugs;

a reading by Lou Reed; and reflections and reminiscences by Martin Palouš, Edward Einhorn, and Wendy Luers. As Czech Center director Pavla Niklová observed, the main performance space at the Bohemian National Hall had probably never before been so full.

Another commemorative evening was held on May 8 in the foyer of the Vivian Beaumont Theater at Lincoln Center, both to “Celebrate Havel” and to announce the opening of a U.S. branch of the Havel Library. At this event Zuzana Stivínová shared introductions with Wendy Luers; Martin Palouš discussed the mission and aspirations of the Havel Library; Suzanne Vega performed “The Queen and the Soldier,” a song about the abuse of power from her 1985 debut album; and reminiscences and other remarks were offered by former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Carnegie Corporation President Vartan Gregorian, Václav Havel’s brother Ivan, and former Czech ambassador to the U.S. and present ambassador to the U.K. Michael Žantovský. Žantovský, who was also once a spokesman for Občanské fórum and later for President Havel, opened his remarks by confessing that since 1968 he and Havel had had the same secret love without ever having entered into a rivalry: namely, they had both been in love with the City of New York. Given the reception Havel has enjoyed in New York over the years—from 1968, when his play *The Memorandum* won an Obie Award, up to the present days and months since his passing, when so many New York celebrities and ordinary citizens alike have gathered to remember and celebrate his legacy—it seems fair to say that New York loved—and still loves—Václav Havel.

havel.columbia.edu/
www.untitledtheater.com/havel/havel-festival.html
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News from the 2012 AATSEEL Conference

At the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages, held in Seattle, WA (January 5-8, 2012). IATC sponsored a poster session on teaching less commonly taught Slavic languages, a Czech linguistics panel, and a workshop on the Czech National Corpus.

The poster session on Teaching Less Commonly Taught Slavic Languages (chaired by Christopher Harwood) featured diverse aspects of teaching Slavic languages, with a focus on Czech:

- teaching Czech prosody through film (Matthew Dame, USC)
- reinforcing vocabulary and grammar through Czech songs (Natalie Dame, USC)
- issues remaining to be solved in technology-assisted teaching for Czech above the first-year level (Masako Fidler, Brown U)
- applications of technology for differentiating instruction of less commonly taught languages (Susan Kresin, UCLA)
- fostering language development and critical thinking through writing (Viktorija Lejko-Lacan, UCLA)
- UJOP and professional development opportunities for instructors of Czech (Dana Hůlková-Nývltová (Charles U in Prague)
- the Czech language vitalization project in Nebraska (Marshall Pierce, U of Nebraska-Lincoln)
- rethinking the format of teaching Czech to the heritage community (Mila Šašková-Pierce, U of Nebraska-Lincoln)
- an interactive online multimedia center for learning Macedonian (Biljana Belamaric Wilsey, North Carolina State U)

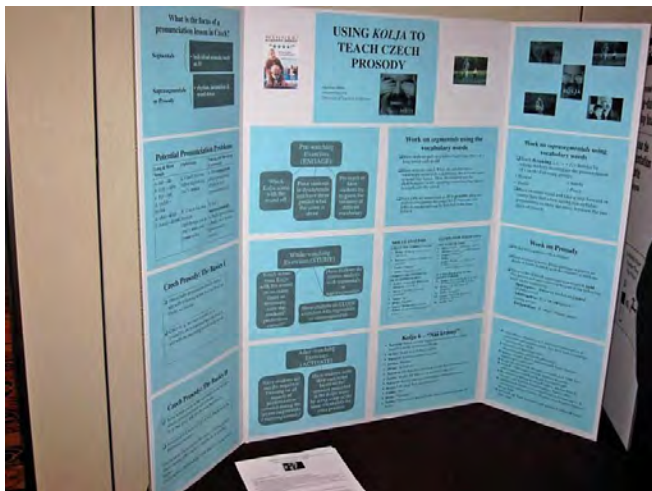
The session included presentations on Czech, Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian, and Macedonian. By holding this poster session, the IATC was instrumental in supporting presentations related to language teaching in other less commonly taught Slavic languages, and in promoting communication across related fields.



A scene from the IATC poster session at the AATSEEL annual conference

The IATC-sponsored panel entitled Czech Linguistics: Varieties of Czech (chaired by Susan Kresin) showed aspects of diversity within Czech. Lida Cope (East Carolina U) and John Tomeček (Texas A & MU) reported on a large archive documenting the variety of

Czech within the Texas heritage community, its relation to the community, and its revitalization. Václav Cvrček (Charles U, Prague) presented a tool recently developed at the Institute of the Czech National Corpus to explore and track language variability in Czech. Masako Fidler (Brown U) showed how an apparently peripheral group of linguistic forms (onomatopoeia) inform some aspects of the structure of grammar.



A scene from the IATC poster session

Czech National Corpus for linguistic and literary research and language teaching.

Some IATC members also presented papers at other panels: Inchon Kim (Hankuk U of Foreign Studies) reported on shifts in case usage in Czech in the West Slavic Linguistics Panel, and Kyuchin Kim (Hankuk U of Foreign Studies) gave a talk on the reception of Czech literature in South Korea in the panel on Slavic Culture and Translation. IATC concluded its activities at the AATSEEL with its annual meeting and a dinner.

Abstracts of all of the poster and panel presentations can be found at www.aatseel.org/program/past_conferences/conf_sessions_2012.



IATC also found Czech beer in Seattle



*IATC dinner with *halušky*, *guláš* and other great food*

IATC sponsored a workshop entitled Czech Language Corpora: Tools for Learning, Teaching and Research). Václav Cvrček, a Fulbright Research Fellow from the Institute of the Czech National Corpus at Charles University in Prague, gave a hands-on talk on the

**Limericks on Czech
Charles Townsend
Princeton University**

The complexities of Czech declension
Cause its students unbearable
tension.

And Czech conjugation
Is pure flagellation,
And aspect's too gruesome to
mention.

Čeština řeč elegantní
Má strukturu velmi markantní.
Tak kdo se mu naučí
Přes tolik obtíží
Má právo být dost arogantní.

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CzLN is a newsletter published by the International Association of Teachers of Czech. The editorial office is currently at the Dept. of Slavic Languages, Brown U. and serves the diverse Czech language community as a forum for information on research, teaching, and organization of Czech language instruction. CzLN's mission is to contribute to the promotion of interdisciplinary and international cooperation as well as the integration of theoretical and applied aspects of language study. CzLN is an open exchange of information and ideas and the editorial board welcome ideas and submissions for inclusion in the next issue.

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The Thirteenth Annual Czech Studies Workshop will be held at Columbia University in the City of New York
April 26-27, 2013

The official call for papers will be posted in summer 2012.
Preliminary inquiries may be submitted to Chris Harwood
at
cwh4@columbia.edu

IATC membership form can be
downloaded at:

www.czechlanguageassociation.org/iatc/membership.html