

The International Canadianist



International Council for Canadian Studies

Spring 2004

Canadian Studies Benefactor, Henry Slaby



The Canadian Studies Program at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow has recently developed a Canadian Studies Chair (Zakład kanady) thanks to the generous support of Henry Slaby who contributed \$100,000 toward an Endowment Fund for Canadian Studies. Since its establishment in 2002 the fund has supported the

purchase of computer equipment for students, books, maps, CD-ROMS, video-cassettes, etc., and this year allowed a visiting professor (Sam Solecki, University of Toronto) to give a series of lectures on Canadian literature.

Born in Poland in 1925, Henry Slaby was involved in Polish underground military operations during World War II. He was interned in Auschwitz, but escaped and joined the Polish Army in Italy. When the war ended he settled in Great Britain and studied to become a Chartered Accountant. In 1955 he moved to Canada, establishing a successful accounting business in Toronto. Since the 1970s he has been active in community service and politics, chairing multiple fundraising committees for projects both in Poland and in Canada. Among his many achievements are a multimillion dollar fundraising campaign for the John Paul Collegium Building at the Catholic University of Lublin in Poland and the establishment of the Slaby and Ungar Fund for the Polish Language and Literature Program at University of Toronto.

Henry Slaby has been honored with the Queen Elizabeth II Outstanding Citizen Medal; the Catholic University of Lublin Gold Medal for services, the Doctor Honoris Causa and the title Protector Universitatis; the government of Poland Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit with Star; and by Pope John Paul II, the Honor of Knight Commander of the Order of St. Gregory the Great.

Baltic Conference in Canadian Studies

Canadianists from the Baltic and Nordic countries, Russia and the United States gathered in Riga, Latvia from October 10-12, 2003 for the 2nd Baltic Conference in Canadian Studies. This year's

conference was organized by Professor **Edgars Osins**, Dean of the Faculty of Foreign Languages at the University of Latvia and President of the Latvian Association for Canadian Studies. Entitled "Translating Canadian Experience," the conference included some thirty papers which focused on literature in its various forms of translation, as well as identities through the lenses of multiculturalism, language policies, etc. It concluded with a panel discussion on some of the headlines that occupy the political and social stage in Canada today. The Nordic Association for Canadian Studies continues to support and encourage Canadian Studies in the Baltics and NACS president, **Keith Batterbee**, and vice-president, **Gudrun Gudsteins**, attended the conference, along with other members of NACS. Accompanying Keith Batterbee was Canadian author and professor, **Richard Van Camp**, a member of the Dogrib Nation from the Northwest Territories. Both had also participated at a Canadian Studies seminar at the University of Lapland in northern Finland, organized in conjunction with the Governor General's visit to Finland. Representing the Canadian Embassy in Riga was Mr. **Dominique Rossetti**.

Yugoslav Association for Canadian Studies organizes first conference

The Yugoslav Association for Canadian Studies (YACS) organised the First International Canadian Studies Conference in Belgrade October 18-20, just prior to the Belgrade International Book Fair which featured Canada as "Guest of Honour." The organisation of the conference "Other Language: Otherness in Canadian Culture" was supported by the Embassy and the University of Belgrade, with financial support from **Academic Relations Division** of the **Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade** as well as by the Serbian Ministry for Science and Technology. More than sixty academics including Belgrade University students participated in the conference, with forty presenting papers in English or French on a wide variety of Canadian Studies topics. Guest speakers included **Naïm Kattan**, **Ljubica Milicevic**, and **Maurice Lemire** who officially opened the conference and delivered a plenary lecture on contemporary trends in Canadian literature, which was followed by a cocktail reception at the Embassy's Residence. The Conference was preceded by a Central European Steering Committee meeting, and followed by a General Assembly meeting of YACS. The

Assembly elected its new Presidency as well as the Proceedings editorial board. Prof. **Vesna Lopivic** was re-elected president of YACS and Prof. **Ljiljana Matic** and Prof. **Radojka Vukcevic** were elected vice-presidents. The Assembly agreed upon making a Canadian Studies conference organised by YACS biennial event.

Canadian Studies in Portugal

A new Canadian Studies programme was launched in March 2003 at the Portuguese Open University (Universidade Aberta), beginning with a Canadian Studies course for M.A. students. Invited guest professor **Roy Todd** (University of Leeds) lectured to approximately forty students in Lisbon, including some in Oporto who were connected by video-link. The topics of the lectures covered social stratification, changes in the family, women and gender roles, and the situation of Aboriginal people.

Discussions are continuing on further teaching and research links between the Leeds Centre for Canadian Studies and the Universidade Aberta. On March 24, 2003 the first meeting of Canadianists in Portugal was held at the Canadian Embassy in Lisbon. About a dozen Canadianists from Portuguese universities attended the meeting which was hosted by **Jacques Bélec**, Chargé d'Affaires and **Mercedes Rufino**, Cultural, Public Affairs and Communications Officer at the Canadian Embassy.

Canada Days in Nis, Serbia

The publishing house "Clio" recently partnered with the Canadian Embassy in Serbia to hold "Canada Days" in Nis, the second largest city in Serbia. Local partners were the Student Cultural Centre, the Cultural Centre and the Media Centre Nis.

Canadian Ambassador in Belgrade His Excellency **Donald McLennan** paid a visit to the Nis City Hall and University of Nis and was interviewed by the local TV station TV5 evening news, which covers an audience of about 2 million people. He also gave several detailed interviews on various subjects related to the embassy's academic, cultural and local initiative programs as well as to the Canadian foreign policy.

Other notable events of Canada Days included the opening of an exhibition on April 22, 2003 by Canadian graphic artist Francine Turcotte; the presentation of four Canadian books translated into Serbian and published by "Clio" — **Jane Urquart's** *The Underpainter*, **Gaëtan Brulotte**, *L'Emprise*, **Aki Shimazaki**, *Tsubaki*, and **Ying Chen**, *L'Ingratitude*; and a retrospective of contemporary Canadian film.

Canadian Studies Developments in Croatia

The inaugural meeting of the **Croatian Chapter** of the **Central European Association for Canadian Studies** was held February 10, 2004 in the Board Room of the Philosophy Faculty of the University of Zagreb.

Prof. Dr. **Ivo Josipovic** of the Law Faculty was unanimously elected President. Josipovic has a long-standing interest in Canadian Studies. He has played a significant role in the CIDA-funded "Judges' Training Project" that is being run by Justice Rivet of the Quebec Bench and in that context has researched the Canadian Charter of Human Rights and introduced it into course work in the Faculty of Law. He founded a law library based on donations from Canada which he offered as the Center for the Canadian Studies Croatian Chapter.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ✳ *Canadian National Librarian **Roch Carrier** was awarded with an honorary Doctor of Letters at Bowling Green State University in February 2003 and gave a reading to an audience of 160 followed by a dinner with BGSU dignitaries. Carrier's remarks were made at the Pallister French-Canadian Lecture Series organized each year by the Canadian Studies Center.*
- ✳ *The **University of Vermont** established the first comprehensive Canadian Studies Program in the United States forty years ago, in the academic year 1963-1964. Today the program offers an undergraduate major and collaborates with several departments to offer master degrees. Not including language acquisition curricula, 200 students enroll in Canadian Studies course each academic year.*
- ✳ *The **British Association for Canadian Studies** (BACS) has ten specialist groups: Aboriginal Studies Circle; Canadian Business and Economic Studies Group; Canada in Schools Group; Canada/UK Architecture Group; Forum on Community and Social Issues in Canada and Europe (FOCASICAE); Le Groupe de recherche et d'études sur le Canada français; History Group; Library and Resources Group; Literature Group; UK/Canadian Legal Studies Group.*
- ✳ *The **Canadian Studies Group** of the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies of Science & Culture at **Kyoritsu Women's University** in Tokyo organizes each year a special lecture and symposium on Canada which attracts some 200 students.*



The International Canadianist (ISSN 0847-5792) is published three times a year by the **International Council for Canadian Studies (ICCS)** as a service to Canadian government, Canadian universities, business, foundations, the media and the international community of Canadianists. **Editor:** Linda Jones, ICCS, 75 Albert St., S-908, Ottawa K1P 5E7. Telephone: (613) 789-7834. Email: reception@iccs-ciec.ca. Further information on Canadian Studies is available through ICCS's weekly electronic newsletter, *Contact ICCS-CIEC*. In order to receive it, please send an e-mail to gleclair@iccs-ciec.ca.