

Report of the Editor, *Canadian Slavonic Papers/Revue canadienne des slavistes*
Heather J. Coleman
21 May 2014

Dear Colleagues:

Overall, the journal is in solid intellectual shape; finances continue to be a challenge, but measures taken this year are helping to restore a balance. Our major accomplishment this year was a special section, “Canadian Contribution to the XV International Congress of Slavists, Minsk, Belarus, 2013”. Assembled with the able assistance of Professor Olga Mladenova (University of Calgary), this issue features recent Canadian research in Slavic literature, linguistics, folklore, and cultural studies. We also published a lovely memoir by our former honorary president, Professor Norman Pereira, to which I draw your attention. A special double issue, “Moving Images: New Perspectives on Ukrainian Cinema,” guest-edited by Professor Serhy Yekelchuk (University of Victoria), will appear in June. We continue to seek ways to preserve and strengthen the journal’s financial position. A financial statement is included at the end of this report.

I would like to thank the University of Alberta, which has hosted our journal for over twenty years, for its continuing support. I am especially grateful to the administrative staff in the Department of History and Classics for their ongoing assistance, in particular Ms. Melanie Marvin for expert and efficient help in financial matters, and to Department Chair, Professor Kenneth Mouré, for his support and creative assistance during a year of financial challenges and an unexpected office move.

Here, in point form, are some highlights of the year:

Publication

Volume 55 of *Canadian Slavonic Papers/Revue canadienne des slavistes* appeared as two double issues in 2013. We published 16 articles and one memoir for a total of 587 pages:

- Vol. LV, Nos. 1-2 (March-June 2013)
- Vol. LV, Nos. 3-4 (September-December 2013)

Subscriptions

Currently, CSP/RCS has 225 individual member/subscribers and 218 institutional subscribers, for a total of 443. This represents a drop in both individual and institutional members for the fourth year in a row. On the membership side, this seems to be associated with declining conference attendance. A long-term decline in institutional subscriptions, something being experienced even by very prominent journals in the current economic and “electronic” climate, is a real concern (from 270 in 2011). Last year’s decision to raise rates did contribute to better membership and subscription revenues, however, at \$30,087.00 (compared with \$25,001.31 in 2012).

CSP/RCS Archive

The CSP/RCS archive continues to be updated; it now contains everything we have published between 1956 and 2013. The archive is searchable and individual articles are available for purchase via PayPal for non-members. Readers from North America and around the world continue to make use of this service, purchasing individual articles or back issues in PDF format, although since we joined JSTOR, use seems to be down a bit. CAS members can have complete and unlimited access to the archive for \$5.00 a year. We encourage all CAS members who have not already done so to explore the benefits that the archive offers by visiting <http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/~csparxiv/index.php> and subscribing.

Agreements with EBSCO and JSTOR

In 2009 CSP/RCS signed an agreement with EBSCO Publishing, the world's largest database aggregator, to include all our current and past content in their databases. We envisioned two benefits from this agreement: 1) authors are assured that their research is accessible to, and discoverable by, a worldwide reading audience; 2) CSP/RCS receives additional royalties. So far, EBSCO has not been a major source of royalties. However, we are convinced that the accessibility benefits of being part of EBSCO outweigh any potential danger to our subscriptions.

Our agreement with JSTOR to participate in its archive is now active: our archive is digitized and available. JSTOR is “an independent not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping the scholarly community discover, use, and build upon a wide range of intellectual content in a trusted digital archive.” It allows scholars “to browse, search and print materials directly from their desktops.” CSP/RCS is now part of a consortium of 6000 institutions and 700 scholarly societies and publishers throughout the world participating in JSTOR. In order not to jeopardize our subscriptions, we have not included current issues, creating instead a two-year “moving wall” that represents the gap between the last issue available in JSTOR and the most recently published issue of CSP/RCS. JSTOR also makes possible the sale of single articles to individuals unaffiliated with a JSTOR participating institution. Between June 2012 and March 2014, JSTOR reported 38,342 article views and 24,468 downloads for our journal. Users were found on every inhabited continent. JSTOR has become a good source of royalties; our 2013 earnings were \$4512.77.

CSP/RCS is also available digitally on ProQuest Canadian Periodicals and ProQuest CBCA Complete, from 1996 onwards, to subscribing libraries.

Administration

This year, the CSP/RCS office was once again in the hands of our Assistant Editor, Dr. Svitlana Krys. I would like to express my deep appreciation for her truly excellent work and commitment to CAS and its journal. Svitlana remains a constant source of editing expertise, advice, institutional knowledge, and moral support. The Department of History and Classics provided a 6-hour/week Editorial Assistant, Ms. Shona Allison, whom Svitlana trained and co-supervised. Furthermore, my research assistant, Ms. Oksana Vynnyk, helped with various administrative

tasks cheerfully and efficiently. I should note that this dynamic team of women also made it possible for the journal to move offices on two weeks' notice during the last week of term and the beginning of exams in December!

Our book review editorial team this year again included Christina Kramer, University of Toronto (Language and Linguistics), Mark Conliffe, Willamette University (Literature and Art), and Alison Rowley, Concordia University (History and Social Sciences). I am deeply grateful to all of the book review editors for their hard work, collegiality, and skilful editing.

Our members have, as always, been faithful in their service to the journal as book reviewers and article referees. I would especially like to thank those who acted as an anonymous reviewer. In the last year alone, approximately 60 scholars from Canada and throughout the world generously contributed their time and expertise to evaluate articles submitted to CSP/RCS. Without their unsung help, the high standards of our collective enterprise would be impossible to maintain.

As I begin my fourth year as editor, I continue the process of rethinking the editorial and advisory boards to better serve the needs of the journal, most especially in providing me with intellectual support as editor. We are also moving forward slowly to realize my objective of making CSP/RCS truly bilingual both in presentation and in fact. We received some funding through SSHRC to assist in this process and were able to hire a graduate student, Ms. Genia Boivin, to translate English-language article abstracts into French.

Finances

The CSP/RCS Financial Report appears on the next page. The Report reflects our fiscal year cash flow, i.e., income and expenses. Currently our annual equity stands at a deficit of -\$764.47 (last year, the deficit was -\$7,333.48, in 2011 it stood at -\$8,219.54, and in 2011 it was -\$7,309.70.) We have a back-up savings fund called the CAS Reserve Fund, a balance that carries over from year to year but is not part of annual operating expenses or income. These continuing deficits have been covered by our Reserve Fund. Our current equity stands at \$69,400.30 (this includes our SSHRC installment for 2013-14 of \$21,450).

Overall, our budget has been feeling pressure from some drop in income and increased salary costs over the last few years. As I reported last year, it has become clear that, even with our SSHRC grant, we have a long-term chronic deficit that will eat away at our savings if we do not take action. With your support, we raised rates on memberships and institutional subscriptions for 2014, made the standard member subscription an electronic one (with an additional fee for hard copy), and cut our Assistant Editor's hours in half. This latter move obviously has very serious consequences for workflow. Some of the research assistant time I have through my Canada Research Chair grant was used to provide an internship position for a student; and the Department of History and Classics provided us with a six hour/week student assistant. Finally, I applied for and received a one-time grant of \$8000 from the University of Alberta, which will cover some unexpected mailing and salary costs in 2012-13. Although we are still reporting a small deficit, I am happy that we came close to balancing the budget this year, while continuing to produce the journal on schedule. I remain committed to both balancing the budget and preserving a professional position (Assistant Editor) for a scholar in our field in Canada.

We have just submitted our application to the Aid to Scholarly Journals programme at SSHRC. This is a very time-consuming project, but SSHRC funding of approximately \$21,000 per year has been a major component of our budget. We hope to have good news to report next year!

Negotiations with Routledge/Taylor & Francis

Last year, I reported that we had been approached by the British publisher, Taylor & Francis (a division of Routledge) with a very interesting proposal to publish our journal. With your approval, I have been negotiating with them and we now have a revised proposal to publish our journal beginning in January 2015. It has received final internal approval from the Global Publishing Director at Taylor & Francis. The journal and its contents would still belong to the Canadian Association of Slavists, and all decisions about content would remain our own, but Taylor & Francis would take charge of the production, marketing, and distribution of the journal. I recommended to the Executive that the CAS accept this offer and they have unanimously supported this proposal. I thus plan to sign a seven-year preliminary contract with them in the near future. There are risks to this move, of course, but the potential benefits in terms of greater financial stability, the protection of being part of a larger enterprise, and the greatly expanded potential distribution of our journal outweigh the uncertainty about what this may do to our Assistant Editor's hours (there is no doubt that we will continue to require her expertise and services). There will be no change in membership fees and all members will receive both print copies and electronic access to the journal. Institutional rates will rise substantially.

**CSP Financial Report
April 1, 2013 - March 31, 2014: 2013 Fiscal Year**

| <i>April 1 2013-March 31 2014</i> | <i>April 1 2012-March 31 2013</i> | <i>April 1 2011-March 31 2012</i> |
|--|--|--|
| INCOME | INCOME | INCOME |
| Advertisements 0.00 | Advertisements 250.00 | Advertisements 95.00 |
| Archive Subscription 50.45 | Archive Subscription 95.90 | Archive Subscription 40.90 |
| SSHRC 21,450.00 | SSHRC 20,600.00 | SSHRC 22,750.00 |
| Other Grants 0.00 | Other Grants 0.00 | Other Grants (Canadian Printing Industries Sector Council - salary subsidy for the Assistant Editor) 5,326.23 |
| Membership and Subscription 30,087.00 | Membership and Subscription 25,001.31 | Membership and Subscription 28,688.12 |
| Other: Permissions 411.64 | Other 0.00 | Other (Cash from book sale) 65.00 |
| Royalties 8,289.93 | Royalties 452.36 | Royalties 1,318.97 |
| Sales 617.02 | Sales 341.31 | Sales 301.75 |
| TOTAL INCOME 60,906.04 | TOTAL INCOME 46,740.88 | TOTAL INCOME 58,585.97 |
| EXPENSES | EXPENSES | EXPENSES |
| Uncategorized 0.00 | Uncategorized: Advertising at the 2011 Congress Book Fair (\$50) and Membership in Canadian Association of Learned Journals (\$195) 245.00 | Uncategorized: Advertising at the 2011 Congress Book Fair; paid through Canadian Association of Learned Journals 50.00 |
| Bank Charges 100.21 | Bank Charges 72.72 | Bank Charges 75.02 |
| CAS Transfer 1,785.43 | CAS Transfer 1,874.21 | CAS Transfer 4,882.82 |
| CAUS Transfer 1,092.61 | CAUS Transfer 621.74 | CAUS Transfer 0.00 |
| Computer Equipment and Maintenance 66.41 | Computer Equipment and Maintenance 1,741.20 | Computer Equipment and Maintenance 40.00 |
| Office Expenses 346.57 | Office Expenses 439.48 | Office Expenses 685.49 |
| Postage and Delivery General 4,891.02 | Postage and Delivery General 3,166.50 | Postage and Delivery General 7,047.02 |
| Printing and Paper 12,995.34 | Printing and Paper 4,177.43 | Printing and Paper 9,990.57 |
| Salary, Wages 40,152.18 | Salary, Wages 41,700.06 | Salary, Wages 44,034.59 |
| Cancellations / Refunds 240.74 | Cancellations / Refunds 36.02 | Cancellations / Refunds 0.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES 61,670.51 | TOTAL EXPENSES 54,074.36 | TOTAL EXPENSES 66,805.51 |
| Equity April 1 2014 -764.47 | Equity April 1 2013 -7,333.48 | Equity April 1 2012 -8,219.54 |

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CSP Editor