

CAS President's Report June 2020

In this most unusual of times, I would like to begin my report by saying how sorry I am that we are not meeting in person and that our annual conference will not happen this year. Like many I am sure, I miss seeing old friends and learning about their varied research projects. However, the health and safety of all CAS members is more important, so we shall all just have to look forwards to 2021 when we will hopefully be able to gather again.

Now on to the business at hand.

CAS Student Essay Prizes – The winners of the 2019 prizes were as follows:

- *Graduate prize* – The graduate prize was not awarded this year.
- *Undergraduate prize* – The prize was awarded to Yaroslav Gouzenko (McGill University) for his essay “Shaimiev and the Tatarstan Model: A Successful Highjack.”
- The committee also wished to give an honorable mention to the paper by Sarah Kirker (UBC), entitled “The Power of Innocence, Honesty, and Purity: The Edmée Character in Dostoevsky’s Novels.”

Thank you to Antony Kalashnikov, Daniel Pratt, and Andriy Zayarnyuk for volunteering to serve on the prize committee.

CAS/Taylor & Francis book prize – this year’s prize was awarded to Zina Gimpelevich for her monograph entitled, *The Portrayal of Jews in Modern Bielarussian Literature*. Thank you to James Krapfl, Paul Robinson and Serhy Yekelchuk their work on the committee that decided the award. Most submissions for the next prize have come in and I know the new committee is already hard at work reading the titles. I would like to thank Taylor & Francis for the \$500 prize that comes with this award.

CAS/Taylor & Francis article prize – the CSP Article of the Year award has been given to Jack J.B. Hutches for his essay, “Julian Strykowski: Polish, Jewish, queer”, which was published in Volume 61 No. 1 of *Canadian Slavonic Papers*. Thank you to the members of the jury for their service. Taylor & Francis should also be recognized since they are providing \$250 to the winner and making his article available for free downloading at the following link:

https://think.taylorandfrancis.com/journal-prize-canadian-association-of-slavists-article-of-the-year-award/?utm_source=CPB&utm_medium=cms&utm_campaign=JOA08027#

Moving On...

Canadian Slavonic Papers – As always, CAS members owe a great debt to Heather Coleman, who is slowly winding down her time as Editor-in-Chief of CSP. She works extremely hard to make our journal a success and to maintain the fruitful relationship that has been built with our

publisher. It is a testament to her efforts that the journal is on sound financial footing, something I am sure our new editor will appreciate. Thank you, Heather. I would also like to single out her assistant Bradley Smith. Brad handles much of the day-to-day correspondence for CAS and CSP and he does so with great efficiency. This year he also revitalized the layout and design of the annual CAS newsletter, which if you have seen the issue that was distributed a couple of weeks ago, looks fantastic.

ICCEES – As CAS members will remember, we are rolling our next annual conference into the 10th ICCEES world congress, which will now be held at Concordia University in Montreal from 3-8 August, 2021. We will have our AGM and the book celebration as part of the congress. Thank you to all CAS members who have submitted proposals for the program and who rolled those over to 2021 when the original event was postponed owing to the Covid-19 pandemic. Another call-for-proposals will go out this fall so it is not too late to participate.

Concerning the logistics of where we are in the planning process, I will let Andrii Krawchuk, Co-Chair of the Organizing Committee, give you an update in his report, but I can say we are in capable hands. The team in place at Concordia continues to work hard to make this a successful event – one that will, among other things, showcase the achievements of CAS members to the wider community.

Finally, other people to thank:

Maryna Romanets & Volha Isakava – There were some difficulties with the secretary-treasurer position this year since one of the financial institutions that CAS uses would not agree to transfer authority for the account to Volha. Volha tried hard to get things sorted and, when she could, she ably handled CAS business. We were fortunate that Maryna Romanets was there to help when Volha was stymied and CAS could not have functioned without Maryna this year. She was a trooper to step into the gap and I want to thank her for her efforts.

Elena Baraban, Mark Conliffe and Svitlana Kryz – The members of the Nominating Committee faced an additional challenge this year: sorting out a new editor for *Canadian Slavonic Papers*. I thank them for everything they have done to ensure the continued appearance of our journal as well as for their regular work making sure that our organization functions smoothly.

Members of the Executive – I cannot underscore strongly enough how good it feels to have the support of the members of the CAS Executive, especially when we are dealing with significant issues that require lengthy exchanges. The dedication these people have shown to our organization – often over years and decades – should be recognized, so in addition to those people whom I have already mentioned, I would like to thank:

- Natalie Kononenko
- Serhy Yekelchuk
- Joy Demoskoff
- Katherine Bowers
- Lyudmila Parts

- Marko Stech
- Megan Swift
- Alex Averbuch
- Emma Murray
- Joseph Schallert
- Andrii Krawchuk