

**Report of the Editor, *Canadian Slavonic Papers / Revue canadienne des slavistes***  
**James Krapfl**  
**July 31, 2021**

After thirty years at the University of Alberta, *Canadian Slavonic Papers / Revue canadienne des slavistes* officially moved to McGill University on January 1, 2021. In practice, of course, a transition of this kind cannot be instantaneous. To facilitate what has actually been an extended process, I became an associate editor following the Association's Annual General Meeting last summer, while the previous editor, Heather J. Coleman, is now an associate editor. The journal's archive, bank account, and many books awaiting review remain in Edmonton, though we hope that they will be moved in the next two months. Just as Heather has remained available for consultation since January, Bradley Smith, the previous editorial assistant, has provided advice and practical help to both me and the new editorial assistant, Guillaume Sauvé, a post-doctoral scholar in political science at the Université de Montréal.

Thanks are therefore due to both the University of Alberta and McGill University for providing the institutional support necessary for the journal to operate over the past year. At Alberta, the Department of History and Classics provided financial administrative help and it continues to provide office space. At McGill, the Department of History and Classical Studies has granted me course releases over the period of my term as editor and it has enabled us to use university mail services.

Highlights of the past year are as follows.

**Publication**

Volume 62 (2020) of *Canadian Slavonic Papers / Revue canadienne des slavistes* appeared as two quarterly issues followed by a double issue, with a total of 556 pages. We published sixteen refereed articles; thirteen introductions, afterwords, or symposium contributions; one review essay and 22 book reviews; and a roundtable on the winner of the Association's 2019 Taylor & Francis Book Prize, Zina Gimpelevich's *The Portrayal of Jews in Modern Bielarussian Literature*. The volume included special sections "On the Epilogue of Dostoevskii's *Crime and Punishment*" (coordinated by Katherine Bowers and Kate Holland) and "Reimagining the Diocese (guest edited by Irina Paert and James M. White), as well as a symposium on "Orthodoxy and Autocephaly in Ukraine," orchestrated by Heather Coleman. Besides Canada, article contributors hailed from the U.S., Australia, Russia, Ukraine, Romania, Estonia, Germany, and Italy, representing the disciplines of literature, history, and theology.

James White won our 2020 Article of the Year Award, sponsored by Taylor & Francis, for "Russian Orthodox Monasticism in Riga Diocese, 1881-1917," his research contribution to the "Reimagining the Diocese" cluster. Maria Grazia Bartolini's article, "'Engrave this memory in your heart as if on a tablet...': Memory, Meditation, and Visual Imagery in Seventeenth-Century Ukrainian Preaching," received an honourable mention in the competition for Best Article Prize awarded by the American Association for Ukrainian Studies. The most frequently downloaded

scholarly contribution to vol. 62 was Irina Paert's and James White's introduction to the "Reimagining the Diocese" section.

## **Subscriptions and Readership**

In 2020, *CSP/RCS* had 181 individual members/subscribers and 108 institutional subscribers. These numbers mark a decline of roughly 8% for individual membership and 5% for institutional subscription. Membership attrition is worrisome with respect to our economic well-being, among other things, so we should encourage our colleagues and students—in Canada and abroad—to join the Association and keep their membership current. Taylor & Francis assures us that the steady fall of institutional subscriptions is of less concern, since libraries are simply tending to adopt package deals rather than maintain individual subscriptions. Libraries can, for example, subscribe to Taylor & Francis's online "subject collection" subscriptions and we are included in their "Politics, International Relations, and Area Studies" and "Social Sciences and Humanities" library packages. As a result, there were 2,833 institutions with access to the journal in 2020. This number has fluctuated since we began publishing with Taylor & Francis from a low of 2,308 to a high of 2,978, so it is good that we remain close to the high end of this range; definitely our journal is more internationally accessible than it was when we self-published, which means greater impact. Nonetheless, research centres and other small institutions that have been subscribing individually to the journal should be encouraged to renew.

The best measure we have of actual readership is full-text downloads. We had 12,996 downloads in 2020—an increase of over 8% from 2019. Readership evidently continues to grow; already in the first half of 2021 we reached nearly two thirds the number of downloads in all of 2020. The majority of downloads are through JStor, with most of the remainder through Taylor & Francis Online. EBSCO is a distant third and declining. Approximately 46% of downloads are in Europe with 39% in North America. Predictably, the U.S. accounts for the highest number of downloads, followed by the U.K., with Canada third; Germany and Austria account for nearly half the number of downloads as Canada, followed by the Netherlands, China, and Australia. Of the countries in the regions we study, most downloads (nearly 200 per year) are in Russia, with somewhat more than half that in Ukraine.

Taylor & Francis collects royalties and shares a portion with us. The full archive, updated to the latest issue, is available to all Association members at no charge on the journal's page on the T&F website. In order to ensure that we receive royalties, members are encouraged to download articles as often as they need them, and to provide links for students to download articles directly from the T&F site using their libraries' subscriptions, rather than providing PDF copies.

## **Indexing**

*CSP/RCS* is indexed by all the most important abstracting and indexing services in the humanities and social sciences. It is also important to be listed on sites that track citations, in order to attract European contributors. We are listed on the key Scopus site, which tracks citations by discipline; we are especially strong there in Literature and the Visual and Performing

Arts. Since 2016, we have also been on the Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI), which allows us to be found on Clarivate's prestigious "Web of Science" and, when we have sufficiently high citation rates, to be listed additionally on its Social Sciences Citation Index. Our Clarivate citation rates are rising, and CAS members are encouraged to reinforce the trend by citing *CSP/RCS* wherever possible.

### **Agreement with Taylor & Francis**

Last year we signed an addendum to our agreement with Taylor & Francis, which was set to expire at the end of this year, in order to extend the agreement until the end of 2022. T&F began publishing *CSP/RCS* at the beginning of 2015 and the arrangement has proven salutary. The journal and its contents still belong to the Canadian Association of Slavists, and all editorial decisions remain our own, but T&F holds the license to publish the journal. The agreement has stabilized our financial situation, since we can count on a defined contribution from T&F every year in addition to royalties. T&F's extensive marketing apparatus has increased our global visibility. The production support provided by T&F, moreover, lessens the burden on our editorial team substantially. At last year's General Meeting the Association approved a motion to allow our Executive to negotiate a new multi-year contract with T&F, but with the pandemic and the journal's impending move from Edmonton to Montreal, the parties agreed that 2020 was not a good time to do this and adopted the one-year extension instead. This autumn we will press ahead with negotiations for a contract to carry us through at least until 2028.

### **Administration**

The *CSP/RCS* editorial team manages both the journal and the affairs of our association. Throughout 2020 Bradley Smith served as a dependable and skilful editorial assistant, despite beginning law school in the fall of 2020, and he even found time to provide hours of training to his enthusiastic successor, Guillaume Sauvé. Brad has continued to answer questions and offer logistical support cheerfully in 2021, and he helped finish technical editing on those articles in the first issue of 2021 that he had begun working on in 2020. Guillaume Sauvé has thrived in his new role, and like all those who have had the pleasure of working with him, I have appreciated his unfailing efficiency, conscientiousness, and charming way with words. While she was still editor-in-chief, Heather Coleman inducted me into the secrets of our online manuscript submission platform, introduced me to our partners at Taylor & Francis, and provided tips on how to plan journal content and manage the editorial team. Since I have stepped into her shoes, I have come to appreciate more profoundly her apparently boundless patience and tact, and I am grateful for her willingness to pick up the telephone whenever I've had an urgent question. Finally, David Aitken, a doctoral student in history at McGill, has begun assisting us with the book review process. It has been a source of joy to work with such a devoted and good-humoured team.

Volunteer book review editors are to be thanked for coordinating an important service that *CSP/RCS* renders to scholarship. Kate Holland and Joseph Schallert, both of the University of Toronto, stepped down as review editors for Literature & Culture and Linguistics, respectively,

at the beginning of the year. We appreciate their service and welcome Katherine Bowers (University of British Columbia) and Olga Mladenova (University of Calgary) as their capable successors. Jeff Sahadeo (Carleton University) energetically coordinated book reviews in History (our largest category) until the end of June 2021, when he began a well-earned sabbatical. We are grateful to Eva Plach (Wilfrid Laurier University) for agreeing to succeed him. Elena Maltseva of the University of Windsor, finally, continues as book review editor for Social Sciences. We continue to work with Sergiy Kozakov in Alberta to develop a new book review database, which should help streamline the work of the entire editorial staff.

Together with my predecessor, Heather Coleman, I am grateful to the editorial and advisory boards for their advice. Bohdan Harasymiw, Allan Reid, and Christine D. Worobec deserve special thanks for volunteering to serve as the jury for the Article of the Year award.

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 generously contributed their time and expertise to evaluate manuscripts submitted to *CSP/RCS*. Without their anonymous work, the high standards of our collective enterprise would be impossible to maintain.

## **Finances**

The *CSP/RCS* Financial Report appears on the next page. The Report reflects our fiscal year cash flow (i.e., income and expenses). Our annual equity for the past year is \$13,015.79, including the \$380 we collected for the Canadian Association of Ukrainian Studies. The Report shows clearly how much we benefit from the agreement with Taylor & Francis. Each year we receive an editorial expenses payment from T&F, set in British pounds and so fluctuating with the exchange rate. It amounted to \$17,681.32 in January 2021. Royalties increased slightly from last year, to \$14,371.33. Taylor & Francis manages production, distribution, and mailing; we continue to manage our own membership list and pay a set rate of \$25/member plus sales tax per volume for our individual membership subscriptions (significantly less than we would pay if we were self-published).

T&F support is particularly important in light of decreasing membership revenue (a phenomenon that has affected the CAUS as well as the CAS). It may be hoped that this decline is a pandemic-related blip, but in any case members should encourage their colleagues to join the Association, and those whose membership has lapsed should renew it.

**CSP/RCS Financial Report**  
**April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021: 2020 Fiscal Year**

| <i>April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021</i> |                  | <i>April 1, 2019 - March 31, 2020</i> |                   | <i>April 1, 2018 - March 31, 2019</i> |                  |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                         |                  | <b>INCOME</b>                         |                   | <b>INCOME</b>                         |                  |
| T&F Transfer                          | 17,681.32        | T&F Transfer                          | 17,432.82         | T&F Transfer                          | 17,670.51        |
| Membership and Subscription           | 9,733.26         | Membership and Subscription           | 12,730.16         | Membership and Subscription           | 14,318.71        |
| Interest                              | 3.44             | Interest                              | 2.60              | Interest                              | 1.25             |
| Royalties                             | 14,371.33        | Royalties                             | 13,990.01         | Royalties                             | 15,400.04        |
| Book Prize                            | 500.00           |                                       |                   |                                       |                  |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                   | <b>42,289.35</b> | <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                   | <b>44,155.59</b>  | <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                   | <b>47,390.51</b> |
| <b>CAUS Dues</b>                      | <b>380.00</b>    | <b>CAUS Dues</b>                      | <b>681.16</b>     | <b>CAUS Dues</b>                      | <b>999.07</b>    |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                       |                  | <b>EXPENSES</b>                       |                   | <b>EXPENSES</b>                       |                  |
| Bank Charges                          | 169.02           | Bank Charges                          | 138.06            | Bank Charges                          | 160.65           |
| CAS Transfer                          | 2,816.02         | CAS Transfer                          | 16,633.00         | CAS Transfer                          | 0.00             |
| CAUS Transfer                         | 0.00             | CAUS Transfer                         | 200.00            | CAUS Transfer                         | 0.00             |
| Computer Equipment and Maintenance    | 68.24            | Computer Equipment and Maintenance    | 6,918.07          | Computer Equipment and Maintenance    | 140.00           |
| Office Expenses                       | 336.00           | Office Expenses                       | 637.26            | Office Expenses                       | 1,915.72         |
| Postage and Delivery General          | 277.41           | Postage and Delivery General          | 379.36            | Postage and Delivery General          | 179.80           |
| Members' Copies                       | 4,591.57         | Members' Copies                       | 10,212.73         | Members' Copies                       | 0.00             |
| Salary, Wages                         | 21,015.30        | Salary, Wages                         | 30,207.97         | Salary, Wages                         | 31,006.11        |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                 | <b>29,273.56</b> | <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                 | <b>65,326.45</b>  | <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                 | <b>33,402.28</b> |
| <b>Equity April 1, 2021</b>           | <b>13,015.79</b> | <b>Equity April 1, 2020</b>           | <b>-21,170.86</b> | <b>Equity April 1, 2019</b>           | <b>13,988.23</b> |