

**Report of the Editor, *Canadian Slavonic Papers / Revue canadienne des slavistes*
James Krapfl, May 14, 2022**

Canadian Slavonic Papers / Revue canadienne des slavistes has now been based in Montreal for nearly a year and a half. The move from Edmonton has been more drawn out than anyone expected, with the last boxes scheduled to arrive next week and wrinkles in the transfer of financial responsibility still to be ironed out. Fortunately, our colleagues in Edmonton have remained on call throughout this time, and everyone has managed the situation with good cheer. Thanks are due, therefore, not just to McGill University for hosting the journal, but also to the University of Alberta for technical and logistical support. At McGill, I am particularly grateful to the Department of History and Classical Studies for granting me one course release for each of the three years of my initial term as editor.

Intellectually, administratively, and financially, 2021 was a very good year for *CSP/RCS*. Highlights are as follows.

Publication

Volume 63 (2021) of *Canadian Slavonic Papers / Revue canadienne des slavistes* appeared as two double issues with a total of 526 pages. We published sixteen refereed articles, two research reports, two introductions (one quite extensive), a meeting report, a document collection, an obituary, 30 book reviews, and a roundtable on the winner of the Association's 2020 Taylor & Francis Book Prize, Jeff Sahadeo's *Voices from the Soviet Edge: Southern Migrants in Leningrad and Moscow*. The first double issue was a special issue on "The Commemorative Legacies of State Socialism" (guest edited by Antony Kalashnikov) while the second featured a special section on "The Belarus Uprising, 2020-2021" (guest edited by David R. Marples). Besides Canada, article contributors hailed from the U.S., the U.K., Romania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, France, Kazakhstan, Poland, and Ukraine, representing the disciplines of cultural studies, history, political science, literature, film studies, and anthropology.

Ronan Hervouet won our 2021 Article of the Year Award, sponsored by Taylor & Francis, for "Dignity, Arbitrary Rule, and Emancipation in an Authoritarian Regime: Ethnographic Remarks on the Uprising in Belarus," his contribution to our special section on Belarus. The most frequently downloaded contribution to vol. 63 has been David Marples's introduction to the Belarus special section, entitled "Changing Belarus."

Subscriptions and Readership

In 2021, *CSP/RCS* had 203 individual member-subscribers and 97 institutional (or "core") subscribers. These numbers mark an increase of nearly 15% for individual membership and a decline of 10% for stand-alone institutional subscription. The increase in membership reflects a bit of a recruitment drive that Guillaume Sauvé and I conducted, and it is good news for our economic well-being, among other things. It is necessary to add, however, that so far this year

we have only 177 members, so it is important that we encourage our colleagues and students—in Canada and abroad—to join the Association and keep their membership current. The steady fall of stand-alone institutional subscriptions is not a concern, since libraries are simply adopting package deals rather than maintaining 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, 2,744 institutions had access to the journal in 2021. This number has fluctuated since we began publishing with Taylor & Francis from a low of 2,308 to a high of 2,978, and while the number is down somewhat from 2020, we remain close to the high end of the 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 should be encouraged to renew.

The best measure we have of actual readership is full-text downloads. We had over 64,890 downloads in 2021—a slight increase from 2020. Readership continues to grow; downloads from Taylor & Francis Online in the first four months of 2022 are up 36% compared to the same period last year. The war in Ukraine is driving much of this increased readership. Nearly three quarters of downloads are through JStor, with most of the remainder through Taylor & Francis Online. EBSCO is a very distant third and declining. Approximately 45% of downloads are in Europe with 40% in North America. Predictably, the U.S. accounts for the highest number of downloads, followed by the U.K., with Canada third; China accounts for roughly two fifths the number of downloads as Canada, followed by Germany, the Netherlands, Australia, Russia, Turkey, and Ukraine. The largest number of downloads by institution is from the University of Toronto, followed by Oxford University, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University College London, and McGill University.

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 and Impact

CSP/RCS is indexed by all the most important abstracting and indexing services in the humanities and social sciences. 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 (SSCI). Listing on the SSCI is necessary for our journal to receive an “Impact Factor,” which is an important criterion for many potential contributors in Europe. Increasing impact is like investing: the more you have, the more you can get. CAS members are therefore encouraged to help maximize our returns by citing *CSP/RCS* wherever possible.

Agreement with Taylor & Francis

In 2020 we signed an addendum to our agreement with Taylor & Francis, which was set to expire at the end of 2021, 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 the 2020 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. Since last autumn we have been negotiating the new contract and we expect to sign it this summer.

Our contacts at Taylor & Francis have been uniformly pleasant to work with, and we appreciate the many services they offer, from marketing and distribution to typesetting and supplementary copy-editing. Readers may have noticed that while the first issue of 2022 has been available online since March, the print version has yet to be delivered. This is a result of a technical malfunction resulting in a temporary shutdown of the printer responsible for our journal, but I am happy to report that the issue finally went to press on May 11, so it should be reaching our mailboxes soon.

Administration

The *CSP/RCS* editorial "office" manages both the journal and the affairs of our association. The "office" exists in quotation marks, since the physical space is only a spare desk and a shelf in my own office, and our editorial assistant works entirely offsite. A wonderful staff makes up for the spatial deficiencies. Guillaume Sauv , a postdoctoral scholar in political science at the Universit  de Montr al, continues to serve as our gracious and efficient editorial assistant, my right-hand man responsible for monitoring CAS and CAUS membership, keeping track of our finances, liaising between book review editors and publishers, technical editing, and maintenance of our website, listserv, and social media presence. Bradley Smith, Guillaume's predecessor in Edmonton, continues to provide back-up support when questions arise, and he kindly volunteered to prepare this year's CAS newsletter. David Aitken, a Ph.D. candidate in history at McGill, and Natalie Cornett, a postdoctoral scholar in history at McGill, have handled books coming in and out for review, while Natalie has also assisted with technical editing. Since Russia's February invasion of Ukraine, Sydney Shiller, who is graduating from McGill this month with an honours degree in history, has been managing the CAS's "Support Ukraine" webpage.

I have appreciated being able to rely on three competent associate editors: Heather J. Coleman, who continues to draw on her decade of experience as the previous editor-in-chief to answer questions as they arise; Megan Swift, whose expertise in the field of literature compensates for my own disciplinary limitations; and Piotr H. Kosicki, a Montreal-based fellow historian of

central Europe who is “on the same page” when it comes to copy-editing and has provided hands-on assistance with proofreading and working with authors to improve their manuscripts.

Our team of volunteer book review editors consists of Katherine Bowers for Literature & Culture, Elena Maltseva for the Social Sciences, Olga Mladenova for Linguistics, and Eva Plach for History. It is thanks to their remarkable dedication that our book review section continues to expand. Elena Maltseva will be stepping down soon and I am currently in conversation with a potential successor. Throughout the past year we have been working with Sergiy Kozakov in Alberta to develop a new book review database, with migration of data from the old database to the new scheduled to commence next week. Once the migration is complete, the new database will help streamline the work of the entire editorial staff.

A major accomplishment of the past year was a restructuring of our editorial and advisory boards. The new editorial board has fourteen members representing all the major disciplines in which *CSP/RCS* publishes, with expertise on most of the regions we cover, and I am particularly pleased that a quarter of the board is francophone. Our advisory board now consists of seven emeritus members of our association, again representing multiple disciplines and areas of expertise, all with a long history of service to the journal. Thanks are due to those who stepped down in 2021 after years of service on these boards and to those who agreed to join. Already both boards have provided significant assistance and advice. Dejan Guzina, Brigitte Le Normand, and Norman Pereira deserve particular acknowledgement for volunteering to serve as this year’s Article of the Year jury.

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 \$27,055.42, including the \$850 we collected for the Canadian Association of Ukrainian Studies. The Report shows 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 \$17,202.28 in January 2021. Royalties decreased from 2020 despite increased downloads, to \$13,004.21, likewise reflecting exchange rate vagaries. 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 self-published). The remarkable increase in revenue from membership fees is the result of last year’s recruitment drive and several new \$1000 life memberships. Again, it is important to maintain high membership levels in order to sustain our financial health. Overall, our finances remain in excellent shape; our total equity on March 31, 2022 was \$211,203.20.

CSP/RCS Financial Report
April 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022: 2021 Fiscal Year

<i>April 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022</i>	<i>April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021</i>	<i>April 1, 2019 - March 31, 2020</i>
INCOME	INCOME	INCOME
T&F Transfer 17,202.28	T&F Transfer 17,681.32	T&F Transfer 17,432.82
Membership and Subscription 15,957.50	Membership and Subscription 9,733.26	Membership and Subscription 12,730.16
Interest 3.57	Interest 3.44	Interest 2.60
Royalties 13,004.21	Royalties 14,371.33	Royalties 13,990.01
	Book Prize 500.00	
TOTAL INCOME 46,167.56	TOTAL INCOME 42,289.35	TOTAL INCOME 44,155.59
CAUS Dues 850.00	CAUS Dues 380.00	CAUS Dues 681.16
EXPENSES	EXPENSES	EXPENSES
Bank Charges 115.92	Bank Charges 169.02	Bank Charges 138.06
CAS Transfer 1,740.00	CAS Transfer 2,816.02	CAS Transfer 16,633.00
CAUS Transfer 0.00	CAUS Transfer 0.00	CAUS Transfer 200.00
Computer Equipment and Maintenance 0.00	Computer Equipment and Maintenance 68.24	Computer Equipment and Maintenance 6,918.07
Office Expenses 465.34	Office Expenses 336.00	Office Expenses 637.26
Postage and Delivery General 349.13	Postage and Delivery General 277.41	Postage and Delivery General 379.36
Members' Copies 2,415.00	Members' Copies 4,591.57	Members' Copies 10,212.73
Salary, Wages 13,526.75	Salary, Wages 21,015.30	Salary, Wages 30,207.97
Book Prize 500.00		
TOTAL EXPENSES 19,112.14	TOTAL EXPENSES 29,273.56	TOTAL EXPENSES 65,326.45
Equity April 1, 2022 27,055.42	Equity April 1, 2021 13,015.79	Equity April 1, 2020 -21,170.86