

**Report of the Editor, *Canadian Slavonic Papers / Revue canadienne des slavistes*
James Krapfl, May 28, 2023**

The past year has been one of downs and ups for *Canadian Slavonic Papers / Revue canadienne des slavistes*. Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine had immediate consequences for scheduled issues, with authors telling me they would be delayed with their revisions either because they were too busy helping refugees or because they were themselves fleeing violence. Some reviewers backed out of their commitments altogether. We therefore had to postpone to the fall a special section that had been planned for the summer, and we were left scrambling for summer content. Since the journal's office is simultaneously the office of the Canadian Association of Slavists, we also had to dedicate resources to the Association's own response effort. Due to a decline in submissions by about half from 2021 to 2022, I again had to scramble to conjure up content for *CSP/RCS*'s spring 2023 issue. On the bright side, our readership nearly doubled in 2022 compared to 2021, and the summer 2022 issue, which included a "flash forum" addressing Russia's invasion, has already become the most successful issue since Taylor & Francis began publishing *CSP/RCS* (and tracking downloads) in 2015.

Other highlights of the past year include signing a new contract with Taylor & Francis, the establishment of an investment strategy for *CSP*'s significant savings, at last receiving the COVID-delayed shipment of books and records from Edmonton, finally getting the Royal Bank of Canada to change the journal's mailing address from Edmonton to Montreal, and searching for a new editor to succeed me in January 2024. These and other developments are detailed below. Thanks are due, as always, to the journal's dedicated staff and volunteers, to fantastic colleagues in the CAS Executive, to McGill University for hosting the journal, and to the University of Alberta for technical and logistical support.

Publication

Volume 64 (2022) of *Canadian Slavonic Papers / Revue canadienne des slavistes* appeared as two single issues and one double issue with a total of 538 pages. We published 21 refereed articles, two introductions (one quite extensive), a review article, two obituaries, 53 book reviews, and a roundtable on the winner of the Association's 2021 Taylor & Francis Book Prize, Megan Swift's *Picturing the Page: Illustrated Children's Literature and Reading under Lenin and Stalin*. The summer double issue featured the forum on Russia's invasion of Ukraine while the fall issue contained a special section on "Histories of Emotion in Communist and Post-Communist Europe," guest edited by Jan Arend and Franziska Davies. Due to the fact that all forum authors were Canadian, vol. 64 was the first in a long time when a majority of article contributors were based in Canada; the second highest number came from Germany, followed by the U.S., Italy, Lithuania, Poland, and Norway. Literature and political science were the disciplines most represented, followed closely by history, with cultural studies, philosophy, and theology in the train.

Jeff Hayton won our 2022 Article of the Year Award, sponsored by Taylor & Francis, for "Wutanfall: Emotional Entanglements in the East German Punk Subculture," his contribution to

the history of emotions section. The most frequently downloaded contribution to vol. 64 and the most downloaded article of all since the beginning of our partnership with Taylor & Francis has been David Marples's contribution to the Ukraine forum, "Russia's War Goals in Ukraine," with over 4,200 downloads since it was published on Sept. 7. Three additional forum articles are also in the top ten most downloaded articles since 2015.

Subscriptions and Readership

In 2022, *CSP/RCS* had 193 individual member-subscribers, while 3,010 institutions had access to the journal. A few dozen of the latter were still through stand-alone subscriptions, but the vast majority were through Taylor & Francis's online "subject collection" subscriptions, such as their "Politics, International Relations, and Area Studies" and "Social Sciences and Humanities" library packages. While the individual subscriptions reflect a decline of 6% in CAS membership from 2021, the number of institutional subscribers was the highest since we began publishing with Taylor & Francis.

The best measure we have of actual readership is full-text downloads. We had nearly 108,000 total downloads in 2022—a slight decrease from 2021. However, downloads through Taylor & Francis Online—which offers new content, as opposed to the older content available through JStor (up to 2015) and EBSCO (to 2017)—increased by 81% to over 30,000, by far the highest since the beginning of our partnership with Taylor & Francis. Readership continues to grow; downloads from Taylor & Francis Online by March 2023 were up 52% compared to the same period in 2022. Approximately 44% of downloads were in Europe with 39% in North America. As usual, the U.S. accounted for the highest number of downloads, followed by the U.K., with Canada third; Germany, China, the Netherlands, Australia, Sweden, Poland, and (somewhat surprisingly) Russia rounded out the top ten. For understandable reasons, downloads from Ukraine—which had previously been in the top ten—declined. The largest number of downloads by institution was from Oxford University, followed by the University of Toronto, McGill University, University College London, and the University of Leiden.

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 Taylor & Francis website. In order to maximize our 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 Taylor & Francis 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 in the Scopus database—crucial for authors in Europe—which tracks citations by discipline; we are especially strong there in Literature and in 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." Clarivate

assigns official Impact Factors, but until now *CSP/RCS* has not received one because Clarivate assigned them only to journals with citation rates above a certain threshold. In the past year, however, Clarivate has changed its policy, so this summer for the first time *CSP/RCS* will officially have an Impact Factor. Our “mock impact factor,” which Taylor & Francis calculated for us by mimicking Clarivate’s method, was .276 for 2022—a tenth of a percentage point up from 2021. Increasing impact is like investing: the more one has, the more one 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. We therefore spent many days in 2022 negotiating a new contract, which President Mark Conliffe signed on behalf of the Association on Dec. 5. There are some significant changes between the previous agreement and the one now in place. First of all, instead of a seven-year contract, this one is for just three years, with an automatic one-year extension if neither party objects. The reason for the shorter term is the rapidity with which the publishing landscape is changing, largely as a result of growing pressures to publish Open Access. These pressures are far stronger in Europe than here in Canada, such that entire countries are entering into agreements with publishers to pay for Open Access publishing for their researchers. It is therefore difficult to predict where the world will be in more than three years. Another significant change is that we are now obliged to publish a minimum of twenty research articles or similar “core content” every calendar year, in addition to supplying a total amount of content that falls within a set page range per issue. While our average annual number of core content pieces is slightly above twenty, there have been years when we have fallen below that threshold, so this new requirement will keep us on our toes. An unambiguously positive development is that Taylor & Francis’s annual contribution to editorial expenses has increased by £500 to £10,500.

Our contacts at Taylor & Francis have been consistently pleasant to work with, and we appreciate the many services they offer, from marketing and distribution to typesetting and supplementary copy-editing. However, there was a hiccup at the beginning of 2023, when production of an article for our winter issue was delayed because, on Jan. 1, Taylor & Francis unexpectedly implemented a policy of requiring that at least two reviews be recorded before production of an article manuscript could be commenced. As it happened, the manuscript in question had had two reviews, though one had been outside the online Editorial Manager platform, but the incident raised the question of control over editorial policy, which according to the contract was to rest exclusively with the Canadian Association of Slavists. After much back and forth, Taylor & Francis agreed to exempt us from its new policy, but the victory was time-consuming.

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 several shelves in my own office, and most staff members work entirely offsite. Guillaume Sauvé, a

postdoctoral scholar in political science at the Université de Montréal, continues to serve as assistant editor, responsible for monitoring CAS and CAUS membership, technical editing, translating abstracts into French, management of our listserv and social media presence, and overseeing the book review process. Last May Guillaume was still in charge of liaising between book review editors and publishers as well as working with Sergiy Kozakov, an IT specialist in Alberta, on the design of a new book review database. To lighten his load, however, I gave Natalie Cornett, a postdoctoral scholar in history at McGill, the new role of book review coordinator. Previously she had been in charge of mailing books; now, with the launch of the new database in the fall, she took on all the aspects of book review coordination that Guillaume had previously managed, save final technical editing. Sydney Shiller, a McGill graduate now studying for an M.A. at the University of Toronto, continues to offer assistance with website maintenance, while Bradley Smith, Guillaume's predecessor in Edmonton, again agreed to prepare this year's CAS newsletter.

I have appreciated being able to rely on three competent associate editors—Heather J. Coleman, Megan Swift, and Piotr H. Kosicki—all of whom generously lent hands at critical times last year. Katherine Bowers has continued as book review editor for Literature & Culture, while Eva Plach remains our book review editor for History. Elena Maltseva and Olga Mladenova stepped down as book review editors for Social Science and Linguistics, respectively, and we are grateful to Ray Taras and Jane Hacking for stepping into their shoes. It is thanks to the dedication of all these volunteers that *CSP/RCS*'s book review section is so robust. Our editorial and advisory board members continue to render faithful service, recommending reviewers in their fields and often taking on the review of manuscripts that are otherwise difficult to place, offering opinions on questions of editorial policy, and proposing special issues. Special thanks go to editorial board member Katherine Zubovich, for proposing the forum on decolonization that is currently being published in our spring 2023 issue. Bohdan Harasymiw, Mariya Lesiv, and Lavinia Stan also deserve 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 \$25,586.67, including \$767 we collected for the Canadian Association of Ukrainian Studies. The dramatic increase in the Canadian dollar value of Taylor & Francis's contribution, in excess of the £500 increase, is due to the relative strengthening of the British pound. By contrast, royalties are down despite our high number of downloads, due primarily to the strengthening of the U.S. dollar and the fact that the U.S. comprises the largest market. 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. The slight increase in membership revenue despite declining numbers results from the fact that foreign members pay

fees in U.S. dollars. Overall, our finances are in excellent shape; our total equity on March 31, 2023 was \$239,569.42—an increase of over \$20,000 from 2022. In addition, last June we invested \$110,000 of *CSP/RCS* funds in a GIC that will mature this June, yielding \$3,080.

Working with the Royal Bank of Canada has proven to be a challenge. The fact that it divides Canada into three separate zones made it surprisingly difficult to move the journal's mailing address on file with the bank, such that the Montreal office began receiving bank statements only in April of this year. It has also proven impossible to set up online access to the account. Due to these and other difficulties, we may want to consider alternative banking options in the future.

Transition

While editing *CSP/RCS* has been a rewarding experience, I decided last fall not to seek an extension of my three-year term. The search for a successor made clear the need to reconsider the Editor's responsibility for the management not just of the journal, but of all the duties that have accrued to the Association's "office." No one in Canada was willing to take on the role, and of three CAS members outside the country who expressed interest, two recoiled at the amount of work and limited compensation involved. The Association previously provided no compensation, and I was simply fortunate to be at an institution that granted an annual course release in recognition of professional service without requiring a buy-out. Not all institutions can be so generous, so the Association should work toward a financial situation that will enable it to pay for an annual course release if need be. In a step toward sustainability, the CAS Executive has approved an annual stipend for the Editor in recognition of the time it takes away from research (beyond what it takes to teach one course), but further work will be required to bring the Association's finances to the state where we can afford an annual course release if necessary. It is largely for this reason that the CAS Fund Committee is proposing the adoption of an investment policy and the revision of our Constitution to transform the Fund Committee into a Finance Committee with an enhanced mandate.

It will also be necessary to reallocate some of the Editor's administrative duties to other members of the Executive, particularly given that the only person willing to take on the editorship is based outside Canada. I will be working closely with members of the new Executive this summer and fall to set down on paper all the tasks involved in the journal editorship and the association's management, and finding optimum solutions for "who does what."

As always, CAS members are encouraged to support the journal by submitting manuscripts, by contacting the review editors with proposals to review books or write review articles, and by accepting invitations to review manuscripts. Despite all the challenges we face, our impact and reputation are growing by leaps and bounds. We welcome members' participation in this journey upwards.

CSP/RCS Financial Report
April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023: 2022 Fiscal Year

<i>April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023</i>	<i>April 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022</i>	<i>April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021</i>
INCOME	INCOME	INCOME
T&F Contribution 21,130.20	T&F Contribution 17,202.28	T&F Contribution 17,681.32
Membership and Subscription 16,026.14	Membership and Subscription 15,957.50	Membership and Subscription 9,733.26
Interest 3.87	Interest 3.57	Interest 3.44
Royalties 10,938.29	Royalties 13,004.21	Royalties 14,371.33
Prize funds from T&F 750.00	Prize funds from T&F 0.00	Prize funds from T&F 500.00
TOTAL INCOME 48,848.50	TOTAL INCOME 46,167.56	TOTAL INCOME 42,289.35
CAUS Dues 767.00	CAUS Dues 850.00	CAUS Dues 380.00
EXPENSES	EXPENSES	EXPENSES
Bank Charges 154.58	Bank Charges 115.92	Bank Charges 169.02
CAS Transfer 2,245.00	CAS Transfer 1,740.00	CAS Transfer 2,816.02
CAUS Transfer 0.00	CAUS Transfer 0.00	CAUS Transfer 0.00
Computer Equipment and IT Services 136.97	Computer Equipment and IT Services 0.00	Computer Equipment and IT Services 68.24
Office Supplies 200.57	Office Supplies 465.34	Office Supplies 336.00
Members' Copies 5,224.41	Members Copies 2,415.00	Members Copies 4,591.57
Postage and Delivery General 171.03	Postage and Delivery General 349.13	Postage and Delivery General 277.41
Prize Disbursements 250.00	Prize Disbursements 500.00	Prize Disbursements 500.00
Salary, Wages 14,879.27	Salary, Wages 13,526.75	Salary, Wages 21,015.30
Cancellations / Refunds 0.00	Cancellations / Refunds 0.00	Cancellations / Refunds 0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES 23,261.83	TOTAL EXPENSES 19,112.14	TOTAL EXPENSES 29,773.56
Equity April 1, 2023 25,586.67	Equity April 1, 2022 27,055.42	Equity April 1, 2021 12,515.79