



Historic Move Completed

Amid confetti cannons, a champagne christening and hundreds of well wishers, the flood-damaged building of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library began its journey across the street on Wednesday, June 8. With the museum webcams and local media live streaming to viewers around the globe, Patterson Structural Movers of Washington, Iowa, orchestrated the slow crawl. The goal of moving the building 480 feet to the former Roundhouse location just across A Street and positioning it parallel with the new foundation would not be realized for several days.

Continual rain created soft, muddy ground that slowed the progress, but 10 days later, during a break in the drizzle, the famous pivot of the building finally occurred. With the river side of the structure now in view, just 100 feet remained to reach the new

foundation. On Tuesday, June 21, with the assistance of dump loads of rock, metal plates, a track hoe and a large towing truck, the building's historic trek concluded.

"Our thanks is extended to FEMA who funded this hazard mitigation project for the move of the building," said President/CEO Gail Naughton. "Along with many others, they have helped the Museum & Library take a major step in its recovery. It has been three years since the disaster. We've come so far but continue to look forward to a new museum future that promises a modern and interactive story of Czechs and Slovaks and the experiences we all share."

During July the building was elevated another 12 feet, then slid on top of the new foundation/parking garage. Masonry workers are now adding brick and mortar to the outside of the building and the 30,000 sq. ft. expansion will continue into 2012.

NATIONAL CZECH & SLOVAK MUSEUM & LIBRARY

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by a grant from the Cultural
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Department of Cultural Affairs.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT



We are a museum on the move — not only bricks and mortar, but mission and vision as well. While wheels have been rolling across roads and concrete foundations, the board and staff have been moving forward with a new mission and vision, which set the *inspirational* foundation for the future. Culturally specific museums must prepare for the future. We all share the challenges of reaching out to a broader audience, while serving our core constituents. This also presents an opportunity as we embrace change — in demographics, in communication, in visitor expectations.

The American Association of Museums (AAM) recently published a report titled *Demographic Transformation and the Future of Museums*. They examined the demographic trends that will impact museums so actions can be made now to prepare and adapt. It states, "Sometime between 2040 and 2050 ...current U.S. minority groups — including those who identify themselves as multi-racial — will collectively become the new majority in the United States."

At the Building Museums Conference in San Francisco, it was noted that "culturally specific museums that attempt to reach across established group boundaries and explore similarities and differences between groups are breaking new ground."

These discussions have been particularly relevant

to the NCSML, reinforcing our strategy to make our museum matter to groups that are not core visitors now.

As the tech-savvy generations request new ways of participation, we will develop innovative methods of engaging and holding interest while still delivering our mission. "What young people want from museums is interactive, immersive and participatory activities," the AAM report goes on to say. "They want to be more than outside observers looking in." We need to provide more hands-on opportunities while still serving the interest and needs of all population groups both young and young-at-heart.

These insights and many other factors are being considered as we prepare for the future of our museum and library. We have delved into the meaning of the Czech and Slovak experience, bringing to the surface the commonalities and differences that make it such a rich historical and cultural resource for Czechs and Slovaks themselves, but also for people of all backgrounds. These deeply rooted values are the base for articulating the museum and library's distinctive vision, which will serve as the platform for impactful exhibitions, programs and resources.

We plan to provide the public with meaningful experiences that are personally relevant, significant and enduring — that may even change lives. All of us who make up the NCSML family have embraced dramatic change over the past three years. So I'm confident that together, we can do anything! Moving the building is a great achievement but riding those wheels into an inspiring future is even more exciting.

Sincerely,

Gail Naughton
Gail Naughton

From our Board Chair

Hello friends — is there any better joy than a warm summer morning? A morning filled with promise, with friends (with coffee!)? — YES! There is something better! Add the successful northbound roll of our treasured museum building and you get a perfect day!! Wednesday, June 8, 2011, is etched in history as a momentous milestone in our recovery. The world watched as we stretched out the drama. (Well, actually, Mother Nature stretched it out with a little lightning which delayed us for a few minutes.) I know, I know...crazy hard rain interfered with completing the process but that doesn't take anything away from the exuberant celebration as the confetti cannons blasted and Gail Naughton



christened the voyage from high above. Slowly, oh so slowly, but oh so steadily, the red-roofed building rolled north. So many of you were witnesses to the excitement either at the site, through live cameras on the website, or via television news and newspapers. I'd love to hear your thoughts and I know Gail and her staff would as well. Savvy social-media types might post on our Facebook page or tweet their memories. Another great way to share is to send me an email at solson1206@gmail.com — I'll be sure to pass it on. This is the recovery of your museum and I'm eager to hear from you!

Sincerely,

 Sue Olson

Inspiring Direction

After months of discussion, idea sharing and suggestions, the board of directors unanimously approved a new mission, vision and strategic plan in April. This new road map will vault NCSML through 2011 to 2015 to provide more excitement and engagement in the organization.

The plan puts special emphasis on serving national audiences via programs, travel and online access, while continuing to be a vital part of the cultural fabric of Cedar Rapids and Iowa. Visitors and guests will find more programs, more education and more involvement in the culture and history of Slovaks and Czechs. This rich historical and cultural resource has relevance for people of all backgrounds, which inspires our mission for the future.

MISSION

We inspire people from every background to connect to Czech and Slovak history and culture.

VISION

We are a museum that celebrates life. Czech life. Slovak life. American life. We are a museum that encourages self-discovery, a museum that asks what it means to be free. Through extraordinary exhibitions and experiences, we tell stories of freedom and identity, family and community, human rights and dignity. Our stories connect yesterday with today and tomorrow.

GOALS

- Goal I** Open a world-class museum and library in 2012
- Goal II. . . .** Be the leading educational resource in the United States on the history and culture of the Czechs and Slovaks
- Goal III . . .** Engage diverse nation-wide audiences
- Goal IV . . .** Provide visitors with an inspiring, participatory experience
- Goal V. . . .** Grow current and add new resources to ensure our future as a thriving institution

International Prize Awarded

In July, Gail Naughton, president/CEO, was notified that the Museum & Library was awarded the Prize of Milan Hodža by the current prime minister of Slovakia. Hodža was the prime minister of Czechoslovakia during the First Republic. As a proponent of regional integration, he was famous for his attempts to establish a democratic federation of Central European states. He was a highly revered journalist and politician. Slovakia has Milan Hodža Days in his honor.

This year, the board decided to present an award/prize for activities in the public arena, not necessarily political activity, but for promoting the visibility of Slovakia on the international stage. The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids is



John Palka, grandson of Milan Hodža, nominated the Museum & Library for the Milan Hodža recognition.

the first winner of the award. Committee members who awarded the prize are from Slovakia; the nomination was made by John Palka, Hodža’s grandson.

Milan Hodža served as the leader of Czechoslovakia from 1935 to 1938 and in Dec. 1935 as the acting president of Czechoslovakia. During World War I, Milan Hodža was involved in the preparations for the creation of Czechoslovakia.

Wetlands, Weather & Waste

Four organizations will team up on Saturday, Oct. 15, to present an informational tour that has never been presented regarding wetlands, water management, climate change and waste management. This educational tour, “Watershed Event,”



Tour participants will then travel by motor coach and listen to Educator Jason Evans of Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Management. He will discuss the 2008 decision to reopen the landfill, waste management, and how adaptive reuse of

buildings could have offset the amount of landfill debris. Upon arrival in Czech Village, participants will receive a guided tour of the exhibition, *Rising Above: The Story of a People and the Flood*, from Jan Stoffer, NCSML director of education and visitor services, followed by a guided tour of Czech Village. Her presentation will give tour participants information about disaster preparedness and recovery. She will also discuss urban

flooding and mitigation as it relates to historic neighborhoods, along with the museum’s recovery process and possible LEED certification.

will begin at the Indian Creek Nature Center with Meteorologist Kaj O’Mara from KCRG-TV speaking about climate change, weather patterns, and how the winter of 2007 and wet spring of 2008 contributed to the June floods. Then, Naturalist Jan Aiels will discuss the importance of wetlands, water management, and how the Nature Center has hardened its historic barn to protect it from future floods.

The tour will begin at 9 a.m. To register for the Watershed Event, call the Museum Store at 319-362-8500. Tickets are \$8 for NCSML or ICNC members and \$12 for future members. Seating is limited.

Correction: *The Spring/Summer edition of MOST listed the Lipa Slovak Folk Dancers as being from St. Paul, MN; the correct location of the dancers is Minneapolis, MN.*

Tours for All Learners

This past spring, the NCSML and the Indian Creek Nature Center (ICNC) partnered with the Cedar Rapids Community School District (CRCSD) to offer all seventh graders a tour of the museum and the nature center. The school district secured funding from Hills Bank to provide transportation and admission to the Nature Center. Admission to the NCSML was provided by AEGON Transamerica Foundation and Rockwell Collins.

Approximately 1,200 students and their teachers learned about wetlands, urban flooding, and flood mitigation strategies. While giving these tours, docents and museum educators at both locations were overheard and observed by visitors who



stumbled upon the tours. One such visitor asked why this type of program was not available to the general public, and shortly thereafter a new program "Watershed Event" was planned (see page four).

More than \$300,000 in Major Grants Received

Two grants totaling \$322,351 have been received by the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. A grant of \$175,000 has been awarded from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for preserving and accessing the library and artifact collections. In essence this grant will support preservation of the NCSML humanities collections after the 2008 flood, assisting in cataloging and housing them and providing support for relocation to the new museum and library.

A second grant, from the Institute of Museum & Library Services (IMLS), totaling \$147,351 will extend the oral history project currently underway at the NCSML.

This grant will be used to interview immigrants who arrived during the Cold War-era

in New York City and those who came following the Velvet Revolution in 1989. It will focus on individual stories from those who settled in Chicago, Washington, D.C., Florida and the San Francisco Bay Area.

Humanities Iowa has also awarded a grant to the NCSML for \$7,626 to support a new project, "Presenting the Stories of the Czech and Slovak Cold War-era Emigres." These programs will be given in Iowa City, Grinnell, Des Moines and Cedar Rapids and will feature video segments taken from interviews, followed by discussions led by humanities scholars. Another grant award of \$5,000 from the Community Fund of the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation complements this project by providing funding for the interview footage.

Cooking in Babi's Kitchen, Oct. 8

Sauerkraut. It takes a long time to make, so you might as well make a lot. But, what to do with all that 'kraut? Even the most avid fan may look for other options and ways to



make this tasty ingredient shine. Sauerkraut as an ingredient? Sure, why not!

On Saturday, Oct. 8, learn how to incorporate sauerkraut into some soon-to-be family favorites. Join Joyce Netolicky and Zelda De Houdt for "Kraut Cuisine" and discover some new applications for this versatile food. Bring a friend or neighbor to St. Ludmila's Catholic Church, in the lower level, from 10 – noon. There is no cost for this unique opportunity for good lessons, good company, and good eats. Cooking in Babi's Kitchen is supported by United Fire Group.

Save for the Holidays at Museum Store

Member & Volunteer Open House

Thursday, Nov. 17th • 4 – 7 p.m.

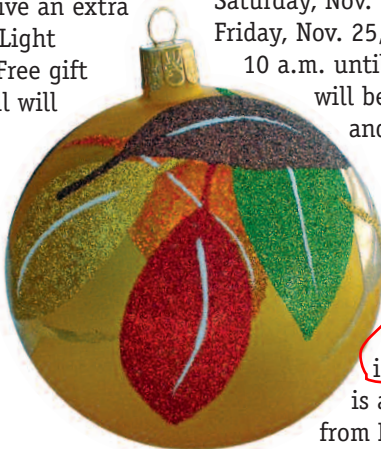
Members and volunteers receive an extra 20% off this one night only. Light refreshments will be served. Free gift wrapping available. Marj NejdI will personalize ornaments for a small fee.

Jewelry Sale

Nov. 18 through Nov. 26
All jewelry will be 20% off.
Store hours: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Ornament Sale

Purchase three ornaments at regular price and get the 4th ornament of equal or lesser value free from Nov. 18 – Dec. 24. Members receive 10% discount on the regular price ornaments. See the Midwest's largest display of mouth-blown ornaments from the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Each ornament is gift boxed individually. Hot Cider and pastries will be available daily. Free gift wrapping is available.



Marj NejdI will be in the store personalizing ornaments on the following days and times:

Saturday, Nov. 19, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.; Friday, Nov. 25, and Saturday, Nov. 26, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. In December, Marj will be in the store the 3rd, 10th and 17th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Personalization is priced from \$3 to \$6 and ornaments can be personalized any day of the week, including year-round. Please allow four to seven days for personalization. Free ground shipping is available on all purchases from Nov. 25 – Dec. 13.

Corporate Member Special

All corporate members and their employees will receive a 20% discount (books not included) plus their 10% member discount from Nov. 7 – 23, on all purchases. Enjoy free gift wrapping and light refreshments.

Watch for emails and fliers for new special merchandise during the holiday season.



Beer Products are Back

Shop early for that beer aficionado as the Museum Store is now stocked with products from the Glassworks & Brewery in Harrachov, Czech Republic. Those gift ideas include beer shampoo, beer soap, beer shower gel and beer after shave balm. The shampoo is priced at \$17.95, while the soap is \$12.95.

A new item added this year is cherry koláče lip balm with SPF15 now manufactured in the U.S. For those on your list who crave the delicate Czech-Slovak pastry, try the cherry koláče lip balm, priced at \$3.

Get the Latest

Send us your email address to receive updates of museum activities, programs and store specials.

Call Lindsey Buchheit 319-362-8500 or email her at lbuchheit@NCSML.org

Meet Author Linda Wostrel

Saturday, Nov. 19

"This biographical story with more than 250 historic photos will take you back to an era when families got together in the 1880s – 1940s to have a good time. It was the best place on earth."

—Bertha Boelter

Author Linda Wostrel of Omaha, NE, will appear at the Museum Store for a book signing of her recently published, *Oak View Park, Pinnacle of a Czech Legacy*. The book is about the small community of Verdigre, NE, in the 1880s to 1940s and the Pospeshil and Wostrel families of Shueyville, IA.

From 1 – 3 p.m. she will speak with visitors and autograph her book. There is no charge to attend.

Exhibition Continues

Embellished folk costumes, ornate crystal, Royal Dux porcelain and more come together at the vibrant exhibition *Treasures from the National Collection* at the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art that continues through March 2012. This exhibit, supported by a gift from Ed Hemphill, celebrates the most beloved objects within the NCSML collection. And not to be missed is the colorful glass and famous silk-screen. Cedar Rapids Museum of Art is located at 410 Third Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, IA. Admission to the art museum and this exhibit is free to NCSML members.



Old Prague Christmas Market



It may be a little early yet but, in the distance there's a jingle of sleigh bells. And that means planning for the 2011 Old Prague Christmas Market is underway. Sponsored by GreatAmerica Leasing Corporation, activities take place Dec. 3 & 4. Additionally, the much anticipated arrival of Svatý Mikuláš, Anděl, a Čert will be celebrated.

Friday night festivities begin at 5 p.m., followed by the Czech Village Christmas tree lighting ceremony at 6 p.m. Decorated windows will delight shoppers as they stroll 16th Avenue and vote for their favorite design! A horse-drawn wagon will transport visitors through historic Czech Village. Tasty food and toasty warm beverages will be available. Fire juggler Dean Franzen returns to entertain the crowd.

This year, popular vendors as well as new merchants will set up along the Avenue and in a tented area at the corner of A Street and 16th Avenue SW. The NCSML's Kosek Building will be open late for shoppers

and gallery attendees. Admission to the exhibition gallery is free to everyone thanks to a generous sponsorship from Brosh Chapel and The Avacentre. Food and merchandise booths will be open from 5 – 8 p.m.

Saturday, the market and the museum open at 9 a.m. Most of Friday night's attractions return Saturday. Meet Svatý Mikuláš, Anděl, a Čert as they venture through Czech Village. Children and adults alike can learn how to create traditional



holiday decorations at an all day make-and-take holiday craft workshop in the Kosek Building Classroom.

The Annual Cookie Walk sponsored by the NCSML Guild

will take place at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church beginning at 9:30 a.m. Saturday morning. A quaint trolley takes shoppers from the market to the church and back during the Cookie Walk's hours. In the afternoon, the trolley shuttles shoppers between the Cherry Building's Very Cherry Christmas Open House and the Market. Old Prague Christmas Market closes at 5 p.m.

A complete schedule of events will be posted on the NCSML's website.

Bring a Friend and Start Volunteering

As the NCSML focuses on rebuilding, we are also looking toward the future in the new facility. Expanded programs, tours, and an intensified focus on mission delivery all necessitate new volunteers. There are many ways to get involved:

Gallery attendants assist visitors to the exhibition gallery by answering questions and helping with simple audio/visual displays. As the exhibition is largely self-guided, attendants are not required to give a guided tour. Gallery attendants are needed during all hours of operation, Monday – Saturday from 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Shifts are typically three to four hours.

Education docents are special volunteers who give guided tours of the exhibition gallery to a specific touring audience, typically school children visiting the NCSML as part of a school study trip. Occasionally, docents are asked to lead students in an activity, including: teaching a craft, reading a story, dancing, working with puppets, etc. Docents are called on an as-needed basis to assist with a previously scheduled tour. School study trips tend to occur between the hours of 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., and last one to two hours, depending upon the group. The busiest months for student study trips are March – early-June and September – October.



Czech Village guides present the history of Czech Village with a tour lasting 45 – 60 minutes, in conjunction with a gallery tour. As with the education docents, Czech Village guides are called on an as-needed basis to assist with a previously scheduled tour. School study trips tend to occur between the hours of 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., and last two hours (two tours of the Avenue), depending upon the group.

Museum Store volunteers are personable, friendly, outgoing folks. While retail experience is appreciated, it is not required. Volunteers are needed during all hours of operation, Monday – Saturday from 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Shifts are three to four hours long.



Administrative assistants prefer a behind-the-scenes role. A lot happens out of the public eye. Assistants are needed to answer the phone, do light office work, and may manage special projects on Monday through Friday afternoons from noon – 4 p.m.

Financial assistants have a penchant for numbers and possess a keen attention to detail. The NCSML's director of finance may be able to use your help in managing some of the day-to-day activities in her office. This position offers flexibility in hours from Monday – Friday.

Volunteers can begin helping right away at our 87 16th Ave SW location in Czech Village. Those trained now will have the opportunity to continue volunteering in the new expanded facility, opening in 2012, as there will be an increased need for volunteer support in the larger space. If you are interested in learning more about volunteerism at the NCSML, please contact Jan Stoffer at Jan@NCSML.org or by calling 319.362.8500 ext. 218.

Know our Honorary Consuls

In the last two years, the Museum and Library has traveled to 21 states in order to better serve our national audience. We've met hundreds of passionate people, and among them are those who've responded to a special calling — honorary consuls.

These special people serve without pay to support and promote the country they represent and to assist its citizens, promote trade and foster a broader understanding and appreciation of the country's culture.

Honorary consuls often help with consular services. "We extend the reach of the Embassy and the Consulates General and can provide some of the same services that are offered," says Barbara Pivnicka, Slovak honorary consul serving California. "We act as 'first responders' to inquiries from the expat community, Slovak business people, visitors and students, and we also respond to U.S. citizens who have questions about the Slovak Republic."

Donald Pafko, Slovak honorary consul for the State of Minnesota, described how he facilitates business partnerships: "We promote foreign investment by working with the Minnesota Trade Office to establish connections and encourage

them to invest in the Slovak business community."

Of particular interest to the NCSML are the cultural efforts of honorary consuls. The NCSML is expanding its role as a resource and is finding more ways to collaborate. One way is to provide artifacts and other resources for events and exhibitions.

Sharon Valasek, Czech honorary consul based in Kansas City, shared her excitement for "Czech & Slovak Illustrations and Art," an event held on August 5 at the Buttonwood Art Space in Kansas City. Valasek partnered with Slovak Honorary Consul Ross Marine on the event which featured award-winning illustrations on loan from the Slovak

Embassy in Washington D.C., photographic works by Kansas City artist, Lynette Darling Ubel and wood block prints by Czech artist Marek Hofman — loaned from the NCSML.

"We did attract the Czech and Slovak community... and also people in the city, so they were able to learn more about the art and culture of these countries and develop a better appreciation," Valasek said.

Who are the Slovak and Czech honorary consuls in your area? Visit the embassy websites to find out:

Honorary Consuls of the Slovak Republic:
www.mzv.sk/washington
 Honorary Consuls of the Czech Republic:
www.mzv.cz/washington



Don Pafko (l) with NCSML board chairman Sue Olson at the museum's groundbreaking ceremony last year.



Czech & Slovak Illustrations and Art

On loan from the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library to an August exhibition at the Buttonwood Art Space in Kansas City were a series of colorful wood block prints by the Czech artist Marek Hofman. The prints depict scenes from Mozart's operas with each illustrating a pivotal scene to create a meta-illusion of Mozart's operative oeuvre. Hofman is a graduate of the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague and describes himself as an illustrator.

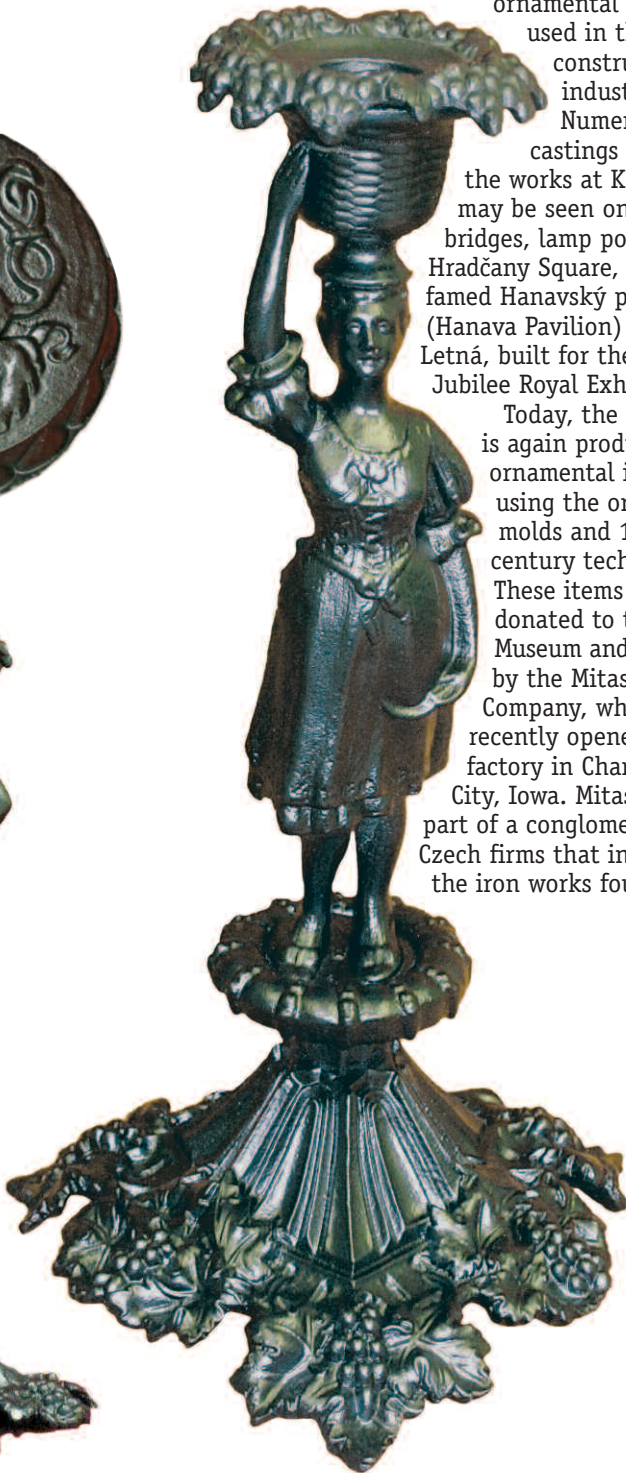
President/CEO Gail Naughton assisted with the opening of the exhibition on August 5.

Iron Artifacts

Iron pieces are made in the Komárov region of the Czech Republic, which is located about 30 miles west of Prague. This area has a long tradition of iron working, beginning as far back as 1460. In the 19th century, the backbone of production consisted of cast iron kitchenware, stoves and ornamental casting used in the construction industry.

Numerous art castings from the works at Komárov may be seen on Prague bridges, lamp posts on Hradčany Square, and the famed Hanavský pavilion (Hanava Pavilion) in Letná, built for the 1891 Jubilee Royal Exhibition.

Today, the foundry is again producing ornamental iron, using the original molds and 19th century technology. These items were donated to the Museum and Library by the Mitas Tire Company, which recently opened a factory in Charles City, Iowa. Mitas is part of a conglomerate of Czech firms that includes the iron works foundry.



Moving Similarities

Two buildings in two different countries and a common experience describe the relationship between a church in Most, in the northwest area of the Czech Republic, and the NCSML in Cedar Rapids, IA. The story begins in September of 1975, when the 500-year-old Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary (in what was then Czechoslovakia) was elevated and relocated 3,000 feet.

At the time, the 12,000-ton structure was the heaviest building ever moved on wheels. Although it never experienced a flood or disaster, it was built on top of a bed of coal. In fact, the entire town was built on top of a huge coal mine. Government officials knew the opportunity for obtaining the rich energy source was vital to progress. They also determined that the church could and should be saved, but the rest of the city of Most was razed.

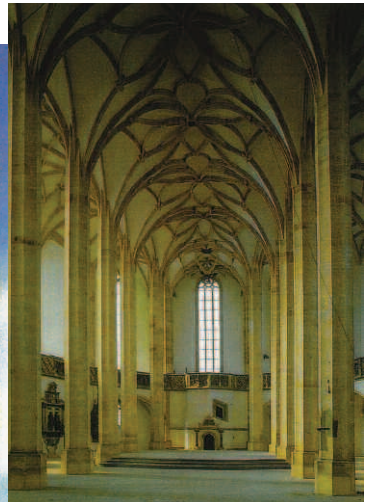
The church structure is one of the finest examples of late medieval Bohemian Gothic architecture. Prior to the move, it brought social and religious vitality to the community. Bill Lee of Arnold, Missouri, who wrote his master's thesis at Missouri State University on the historic move of the Most Church, noted, "The building was saved and moved primarily because of its historically important architecture and the unique interior. It has plastered sandstone walls, brick vaulted ceilings and a clay tiled roof."

Fast forward to June 2008, when the young National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library takes in eight feet of water during the Epic Flood that cripples its mission and programming abilities. After much discussion, thought and review, the board of directors determined that the viable yet historic building,

dedicated by three national presidents in 1995, would be moved and elevated. With the help of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and a \$4.1 million grant, the 1400-ton museum was, like the church in Most, relocated. Although no minerals or mines were found beneath its soil, the NCSML building was moved for flood mitigation purposes.

But there are other similarities the two buildings share. Obviously, both were built by Czech people; the

color schemes of the Most church and the NCSML are very similar and both structures were moved with hydraulic dollies. And lastly, the church in Most also serves as a museum, in addition to being a concert and wedding hall. "I'm so proud of the people of Cedar Rapids and Iowa who decided to save this wonderful museum. And just like the Czech citizens so many decades ago, they believe in preservation through relocation," said Lee.



A historical church in Most in the Czech Republic was moved in 1975 to allow for coal mining. Its steep red roof and vaulted ceilings are similar to the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.



National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

87 Sixteenth Avenue SW
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404

319-362-8500
319-363-2209 (fax)
www.NCSML.org

Hours

Monday – Saturday,
9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Closed Sunday

Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas
and New Year's Day. Open Memorial
Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day.

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
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Cedar Rapids, IA
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National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library
87 Sixteenth Avenue SW
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404

NATIONAL
CZECH &
SLOVAK
MUSEUM &
LIBRARY

Czech Girl Designs First UNICEF Card

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund known as UNICEF began helping children around the world after WWII when European children were experiencing famine and disease. Created in 1946, the organization has helped millions of children survive by providing food, clothing and health care.

Beginning in 1949 UNICEF created Christmas cards to raise funds. The first charity card was designed by a seven-year-old girl from what was then Czechoslovakia. Her community of Rudolfo received assistance from the organization and young artist Jitka Samková wanted to express her gratitude. Jitka's teacher entered the painting into the card design competition.



Czechoslovakian Jitka Samková created the first UNICEF Christmas card utilizing a sheet of glass as there was no paper available to her in 1949. It depicts children around a maypole and in Jitka's words, "joy going round and round."

This issue of MOST is generously sponsored by:



319.378.1312
Hiawatha, IA 52233