

CENTRAL EUROPEAN STEERING COMMITTEE FOR CANADIAN STUDIES

Second Meeting of the CESC
Hotel am Badersee, Grainau, Germany
February 19, 2000

REPORT

Participants:

(i) Members:

Monica Bottez (Romania) [MB]
Nancy Burke (Poland) [NB]
Maria Huttova (Slovak Republic) [MH]
Katalin Kurtosi (Hungary) [KK]
Aleksander Kustec (Slovenia) [AK]
Ljiljana Matic (Yugoslavia) [LM]
Don Sparling (Czech Republic) [DS]

(ii) Special Guests

Karen Gould (ICCS President) [KG]
Elke Nowak (GKS President)

(iii) Observer:

Mark Pepevnak (DFAIT Intern, Czech Republic) [MP]

Regrets were received from:

Anna Reczynska (Poland) [NB came in her stead]

A. Morning Session

1. Opening

The meeting opened at 10:25 hrs, chaired by the convenor, DS. He introduced Karen Gould, the president of the ICCS, who spoke about the present situation and future direction of the organisation. KG noted that new questions were now on the ICCS agenda, following a period of consolidation in which the ICCS focussed on serving the needs of its members (the national associations of CS). Many of these questions were discussed at the strategic planning meeting held as part of the ICCS Executive Council meeting in Toronto in May, 1999. One issue of particular interest to CE Canadianists was that of accepting new members into the ICCS.

KG also announced that the ICCS was planning to manage an assistantships programme, with details forthcoming. Plans were also continuing for an ICCS conference slated for 2002-3, tentatively entitled 'Trans-Culturalism/Transfert culturel'.

Elke Nowak also visited the meeting, and warmly welcomed and thanked the committee for its participation.

2. Approval of report

The report of the Bratislava meeting was approved with two modifications to Section 4, from MB and NB. MB noted that reference to the Bucharest 'English Literature MA' should read 'Literatures in English MA'; NB noted that the correct title for the Torun conference was "Exploring Canadian Identities". AK asked whether the report might be posted on the CECS website. DS replied that it would not be so posted for the time-being, but that the finalised version would be sent to all Canadian CE diplomatic missions, as well as to Marie-Laure de Chantal.

3. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with no changes.

4. Report on CE Canadian Studies Secretariat in Brno

DS reported that the Secretariat is bringing the CE homepage up to date, and sending out information at frequent intervals. In addition, it has begun to employ a student to research more efficient means to coordinate lecture tours, guest lectures, visits, etc. LM noted that such information must be circulated as early as possible. MB mentioned that for some Canadianists, access to e-mail is still problematic. [MB, NB, KK, and LM all requested that CESCOS e-mails be sent as text-only (*i.e.*, without attachments).]

DS also noted that the transfer of funds which had been released to the Canadian embassy in Prague in November, 1999 (totalling CAD 8 500), had not arrived in Brno until mid-January, 2000; the embassy in Prague felt it best to wait for the transfer to Prague of the balance from the CE travel fund formerly held in Vienna, so that the whole sum could be then forwarded to Brno in one operation. All were then invited to survey the financial report of the CESCOS (to February 11, 2000), and the estimated financial report to March 31, 2000. [See appendices A and B]. It was also explained that the final balance in the estimated financial report (Appendix B-CAD 2 416.67) was in fact high as a result of the funds being released later than expected, which meant that the Secretariat began its activities later than had originally been planned.

5. Canadian Studies developments in CE

In roundtable-fashion, each committee member reported on the state of affairs of Canadian Studies in their respective home countries.

Romania

There were no new developments to report, other than additional preparations for the future conference (see point 7., below).

Poland

The date for the Torun conference at Copernicus University had been set for April 20-22, 2001. The conference would be entitled "Exploring Canadian Identities".

CS has expanded at the University of Warsaw, where there are three full courses offered on English Canadian literature, as well as a seminar (for senior students writing theses on American/British/Canadian literature).

In the English department at the University of Lodz, Professor Krzysztof Andrzejczak is conducting a seminar (for fourth/fifth year students) on anglophone Canadian literature.

There has been a change regarding Polish Canadianists planning to attend the BACS conference. Eva Welnic had secured funding from the University of Torun, which would allow Eugenia Sojka to take Eva's position (BACS offer).

Canadianist Hartmut Lutz (Ernst-Mortiz-Arndt University) came to Poznan and Warsaw, and spoke about women and aboriginal issues, among other topics.

In April, Janice Kulyk Keefer would be visiting to give readings at Warsaw, Torun and Krakow. Her husband, Michael Keefer, is also slated to lecture. The Canadian embassy in Poland will be paying the Keefers' travel costs to Poland from Rome, Italy. [KK indicated that she would be teaching a course covering works by Janice Kulyk Keefer this term, and would touch base with NB to discuss this further.]

Slovak Republic

Marian Gazdik is teaching a course on Margaret Atwood this term, which will include other twentieth century Canadian writers. MH would like to ensure that the multiculturalism course/class be up and running for the next academic year (involving Brno and Prague).

Hungary

The proceedings from the conference marking the twentieth anniversary of the introduction of CS in Hungary were published in December, 1999. At the end of February, a translation of Roch Carrier's "La Guerre, Yes, Sir" is slated to appear. In Debrecen, a two-day North American Studies conference was held in late January with two sessions (in total, seven papers) on Canadian literature and theatre.

Slovenia

The collection of essays on Canadian and Australian literature (see previous report) is slated to appear in two months' time, and will be published by the University of Ljubljana. There are no other developments to report from the past two months.

Yugoslavia

CS was ongoing at the universities in Belgrade, Nis and Novi sad. At Belgrade, CS is incorporated into the MA in French, and there is an optional course in Québécois literature. At Nis, there is an MA in Canadian Studies in English. At Novi sad, there is a compulsory course in the seventh semester of the 'Francophone Literatures MA'; this year the course is solely focussed upon Québécois literature.

LM is seeking funds to publish the proceedings of the conference "Myth in the Works of Canadian Authors", which was held in May, 1996, and celebrated the tenth anniversary of the 'Yugoslavia-Canada Association of Literature and Culture'.

At present, there is greater interest in forming a Yugoslav association of Canadianists along the lines of the GKS. LM reported that she did not know of Canadianists in Montenegro. [DS asked about support from the Canadian embassy.] LM reported that the Canadian embassy only recently re-opened in Belgrade. Olgica Marinkovic is the new academic relations officer there. [AK queried about Vesna Lopicic and Canadianists in Nis.] LM knew only that there were two Canadianists there; Vesna Lopicic was preparing a collection of essays by various Canadianists.

Jack Warwick (York University, Toronto) was to visit and give lectures at Novi sad, as part of their tenth international colloquium on literatures in French this winter/spring. Prof. Warwick was invited by LM and presented a paper at the 1996 conference, and subsequently also visited and lectured at Nis in winter 1997-98 on Canadian literature in English.

Czech Republic

Other than the news regarding the activities of the secretariat, there were no other items to report.

6. Publications

(i) Brno conference proceedings

MP was actively engaged in the editing; publishing the proceedings as soon as possible was identified as one of the most pressing priorities.

(ii) CE Journal of Canadian Studies

AK noted that it would be wise to put an invitation for contributions on the homepage. He also gave various figures for the journal's publication (depending on how many copies were printed) from a relatively inexpensive and reliable publisher. Debate opened as to how many copies should be printed. KK felt that the inaugural edition of the journal should not be more than five hundred copies; DS agreed, and consensus was reached that the journal would be printed in five hundred copies at an approximate

price of CAD 2 500 (with no graphs or tables), containing approximately 140 pages. Offprints of articles would be made available, as well, at a price of approximately CAD 8/ten copies.

7. Conferences

(i) BACS conference in Edinburgh, Scotland (April 11-14, 2000)

Each of the Steering Committee members reported on their own situation, and in regard to other colleagues in their respective countries. MB would be attending, and had received funding from The British Council, Bucharest. NB noted that Eva Welnic and Eugenia Sojka would be attending, the former at the expense of her university. MH would not attend. KK had suggested Judit Kadar, who will not be able to attend. She would try Szabolcs Szilagy. AK asked whether a formal invitation, etc. could be issued, such that the search for a travel sponsor could be facilitated. DS is planning to attend, and would cover his own transportation costs.

(ii) Second Conference of Central European Canadianists

MB noted that a title was still being debated. It was decided that committee members should continue to brainstorm and to forward any suggestions via e-mail. The first call for papers would come in October, 2000; the final call would be in February, 2001. Based on the experience of the Brno conference, DS suggested that it would be prudent to keep the number of participants limited to sixty or seventy. It was agreed that MB would consult with DS so that a provisional budget and grant request could be prepared.

(iii) Conference of the Polish Association of Canadianists

The conference was being funded jointly by Copernicus University and the Canadian embassy in Poland. → D

[The morning session ended at 12:00 for a lunch break.]

B. Afternoon Session

[The meeting was reconvened at 13:15.]

8. Report on activities of the European Network of Canadian Studies [ENCS]

DS announced that the probable date for the European Student Seminar on Graduate Work in Canadian Studies in Brno would be October 16-18, 2000. There would be a maximum of thirty participants to give papers. Discussion then arose regarding the logistics of holding a steering committee meeting before or after the conference. It was decided that a steering committee meeting would be held, likely on the Sunday, during the day, before the conference opened.

9. Next Grant Request

DS reported that the next grant request would consist of: monies for the publication of the journal (CAD 2500); money to support an extra day for the Steering Committee to meet in the vicinity of Grainau next year; as well as half of the money necessary to fund the conference in Bucharest.

[The afternoon session ended at 14:15, to enable members to attend conference sessions.]

C. Evening Session

[The meeting reconvened at 23:15.]

10. AOB

DS solicited questions from the committee members. Following up on the discussion from the previous meeting regarding bibliographies of CS materials in CE languages over the last thirty-some years, NB asked about bibliographies, and the logistical difficulties of cataloguing books at home universities. DS asked all to report on any developments regarding the computerisation of library catalogues.

DS was encouraged that work would begin on a bibliography of published materials. The idea of forming a CECS association was discussed; in particular, the question of representation (by country, by number of Canadianists, etc.) and timetable implementation. DS promised to make copies of the NACS statutes and send them to steering committee members; these might serve as a possible model.

11. Closing

The convenor closed the meeting at 00:15; all were thanked for their commitment and energy in completing the meeting, in light of the hectic schedule of the conference.

Mark Pepevnak
Don Sparling

Brno, Czech Republic, March 3, 2000

Appendix A
Central European Steering Committee for Canadian Studies
Second Meeting – Grainau, Germany
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Financial Report to February 11, 2000

	Receipts	Expenditures
DFAIT grant		
– for publishing of Proceedings of Brno conference	3 000.00	
Bank charges – transfer of funds from Prague		34.38
Bratislava meeting (10-12 December 1999)		
– travel	405.00	
– accomodation	270.00	
– meals	368.07	
– bank charges	<u>3.55</u>	
	1 046.62	1 046.62
Bank charges – opening of new account		19.00
DFAIT grant	8 500.00	
Travel fund (transferred from Vienna)	719.52	
Bank charges – transfer of DFAIT grant and Vienna travel fund money from Prague		40.29
Bank charge – end of year statement		0.56
Homepage maintenance (Pavel Filip)		160.00
Photocopying, telephone, postage		60.00
Totals	<u>12 219.52</u>	<u>1 360.85</u>
Balance		<u>10 858.67</u>

Appendix B
Central European Steering Committee for Canadian Studies
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Estimated Balance in Account at End of Fiscal Year (March 31, 2000)

	Expenditures	Balance
Balance as of February 11, 2000		10 858.67
Grainau		
Travel	2 615.00	
Conference fees	2 600.00	
Bank charges	<u>37.00</u>	
Total	5 252.00	5 252.00
Secretariat		
Homepage	40.00	
Part-time staff	150.00	
– Totals	5 442.00	10 858.67
First balance		5 416.67
Of this, 3 000.00 is earmarked for the publication of the Brno proceedings	<u>3 000.00</u>	
Final balance		<u>2 416.67</u>