

W A C R A[®]

N E W S

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"2005 WACRA" Conference

Mendel University, Brno, Czech Republic, July 2 - 6, 2005

"Gateways to Learning"

WACRA 2005 will be hosted by Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry in Brno, Czech Republic. The conference theme is 'Gateways to Learning'.

We invite you to travel with us through the land of Smetana and Dvorak, of Kafka and Rilke. Central European history will come alive. The Czech Republic is the heart of Europe, the heartland of the Holy Roman Empire, the cradle of Reformation. At the crossroads of Europe, Czech and Slovak lands developed a culture of impressive richness. Perhaps in no



Prague, Old Town Square

other country has the splendor of wealthy towns, mighty castles and splendid chateaux survived better than in the Czech and Slovak Republics, almost untouched by the war and lovingly cared for ever since. Sites visited during the conference and the four day post conference educational-cultural tour include, e.g. 1805 battle fields of Austerlitz, some of the most famous castles in Europe (Lednice, Hluboka, Karlstejn), Baroque and Renaissance towns and then, of course, the capital of the Czech Republic, **Prague, the Golden City**, the centre of European artistic and intellectual life for centuries.

For the conference program and the planned pre- and post conference activities refer to details in this and the previous (Fall 2004) NEWSletter.

This Issue:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Calendar of Events | 13 |
| Call f. Papers Brno/Prague | 10 |
| Call f. Papers ACT9 conference | 13 |

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Case Writers' Colloquium | 11 |
| 2005 Conf. Program | 12 |
| From the Board | 2 |
| Registration Form San Juan | 15 |
| About Post Tour and Host | 3 |

From the Executive Board



Hans Klein

WACRA 2005 will be hosted by Mendel University, Brno, Czech Republic. The conference theme is 'Gateways to Learning'. For the conference program and the planned pre- and post conference activities refer to details in this and the previous (Fall 2004) NEWSletter.

WACRA 2005 will present itself as an international, intercultural, interdisciplinary, interactive, innovative and... interesting 'life case' of building networks and exchanging ideas and experiences. WACRA staff and MUAFA host Pavel Zufan have prepared an exciting academic program and a cultural, educational experience and immersion for all participants. WACRA® 2005 will advance the use of the case method and other interactive learning and teaching methods, create 'user friendly' forums for the exchange of ideas, research and experiences, encourage research using the case method, coordinate case writing and case application activities, encourage cooperation



Pavel Zufan

between the public sector, the business community, and other case-oriented professions, and add new initiatives to complement the highly successful pre-conference WACRA® Interactive Case Sessions (WICS). The conference language for WACRA 2005 is English with tracks in Czech, French, German and Spanish.

We invite you to submit papers, proposals, workshops, simulations, panels etc. (in English, Czech, French, German and Spanish) to address the conference theme: "Gateways to Learning". Manuscript preparation guidelines can be found in each published volume of the 'Selected Papers,' and on the WACRA web site: www.wacra.org Join colleagues from around the world in Brno, Czech Republic for an *expérience stimulante et enrichissante*.

The educational-cultural post conference tour (immediately after WACRA 2005) will take participants from Brno to Prague. While traveling through the land of Smetana and Dvorak, of Kafka and Rilke, Central European history will come alive. The Czech Republic is the heart of Europe, the heartland of the Holy Roman Empire, the cradle of Reformation. At the crossroads of Europe, Czech and Slovak lands developed a culture of impressive richness. Perhaps in no other country has the splendor of wealthy towns, mighty castles and splendid chateaux survived better than in the Czech and Slovak Republics, almost untouched by the war and lovingly cared for ever since. Sites visited during the conference and the four day tour include, e.g. 1805 battle fields of Austerlitz, some of the most famous castles in Europe (Lednice, Hluboka, Karlstejn), Baroque and Renaissance towns (Olomouc, Namest nad Oslavou, Telc, Trebon, Ceske Budejovice, Cesky Krumlov) and then, of course, the capital of the Czech Republic, Prague, the Golden City, the centre of European artistic and intellectual life for Centuries.

We invite you to **renew your membership now** (refer to form on page 16 of this NEWSletter) and participate in the exciting activities we have planned for next year and beyond. With membership renewal we will send you one complimentary copy of available back issues from past conferences - as long as supplies last and we will gain access to the new quarterly **International Journal of Case Method Research & Application**. Papers and cases submitted for presentation at the 21st International Conference on Case Method Research & Application at UCES in Buenos Aires and accepted through a double blind peer review will be included in the first issues of the Journal. We also invite you to take an active part in this international, interdisciplinary effort and contribute by submitting contributions and by joining the review and editorial efforts.

You can help publicize contributions to the interactive, creative teaching literature by bringing WACRA® and ACT publications (WACRA® volumes V-XVI and ACT conferences volumes 1-7 are available) to the attention of your coauthors, colleagues and **library acquisition departments**. The annual WACRA® and ACT publications have become widely recognized for the timely and comprehensive contribution they make to the case method and interactive teaching literature. For details refer to page 16 and for the abstracts of the books to the publication order link on the WACRA web site www.wacra.org.

Hans E. Klein and Pavel Zufan

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About 2005 Post Conference Tour and Host Country

Four day - Thursday, July 7 - 10, 2005 - educational-cultural post conference tour, immediately after WACRA 2005.

Day One, will take participants from Brno on a short tour of the historic battlefield of *Austerlitz- Slavkov u Brna* (see details below), followed by visit to *Moravsky kras* (Moravian Karst), the most significant karst area in the Czech Republic. Tour of the caves by boat, hiking (optional), traveling by small road-train and cable car. Includes open air dinner. Return to Brno for overnight stay in conference hotel.

Day Two: Travel through beautiful Southern Moravian country side to visit *Namest nad Oslavou, Telc* and *Trebon*. Overnight stay in Trebon in a Renaissance house *Bily konicek* (the White Horse) built in 1544 with a loggia and a stepped gable with tiny turrets (see details below).

Day Three: Includes a visit to *Cesky Krumlov*, undoubtedly one of the most beautiful towns in the Czech Republic, *Ceske Budejovice*, *Hluboka Chateau* and *Karlstejn* (near Prague). Overnight stay near Prague.

Day Four: After breakfast, travel to Prague. Introductory walking tour from the *Hradcany* (Castle), to Cathedral, Charles Bridge, Old Town Square. Post conference tour ends. Seating is limited. Early registration: March 1, 2005 is required. Travel in modern tour bus, includes 3 nights hotel & breakfast, 2 lunches & 3 dinners, admission fees, guides, and entertainment.

Following are excerpts from the Pallas Guide: Czech and Slovak Republics and notes on several of the post conference tour sites to be visited: The official Czech versions of place names are used to facilitate reference to maps. The old German names (which in some cases are more familiar to English-speaking readers, particularly in the border region, which until 1945 had an overwhelming German-speaking majority) or translations of the Czech names are given in brackets.

21 km east of Brno lies the little town of **Slavkov u Brna (Austerlitz)** with the great Baroque Schloss of the Counts Kaunitz. Austerlitz was the site on 2 December 1805

of the 'Battle of the Three Emperors', regarded as Napoleon Bonaparte's greatest victory. Austerlitz was a sublime trap that destroyed the armies of his enemies Russia and Austria. in which the French under Napoleon inflicted a heavy defeat on the allied armies of the Austrians under Francis II and the Russians under Alexander I.

Tricking his opponents into thinking he was weaker than he actually was, and then calling in nearby reinforcements, Bonaparte



Ceske Budejovice

initially met the combined Allied army of 85,000 men and 278 guns with just 66,000 men. The French emperor deliberately abandoned a strong central position on the *Pratzen Heights* and left his right flank weak. Alexander was hoodwinked by Napoleon into thinking that the French were falling back; and Francis had slept soundly while Napoleon was using the night to inspect the battle field from Zman Hill. The Allies eagerly moved forward to occupy the heights and then weakened the centre to crush the French right. As the bulk of Austrian and Russian troops attacked, Marshal Davout's III Corp arrived to bolster the French line. The eager allies overstretched themselves and Napoleon was able to crash through their centre on *Pracky Hill*, attack from the rear and split

the enemy: a classic manoeuvre carried out with an unprecedentedly large army. After much hard fighting the French crushed the Allies. Thousands of fleeing troops drowned when a frozen lake split under the weight of men and guns. French losses amounted to 8,000 while the Russian and Austrian emperors, present at the battle, saw more than 27,000 men killed, wounded and captured. Bonaparte also captured 180 cannons. In memory of the 35,000 soldiers who fell in the battle, a monument in the form of an old Slavic tomb was erected 9 km west of Slavkov on *Mohyla miru*, the hill where the fiercest fighting took place.

Moravsky kras (Moravian Karst)

About 30km north of Brno, near the little town of *Blansko* is the beginning of the region known as the *Moravsky kras*, a wild, romantic, fissured terrain in the *Drahan* hills with magnificent gorges, chasms and dripstone caves. The Karst is a nature conservation area. From Blansko road 380 runs down the *Punkva* valley (*Punkevni udoli*) to the *Punkva Cave* (*Punkevni jeskyne*) which has the biggest and most beautiful stalagmites and stalactites in the Moravian Karst. A visit, much of it by boat, can take up to 2 hours. The road then winds through the dry *Pusty zleb* (Oedes Tal; 'desolate valley') and then passes through the fed valley Sloup.

On the right is a limestone cliff 50 metres high with the prehistoric cave dwelling of *Kulna* (*Schuppen*) and the massive *Hrebenac* (*Teufelsfelsen*) and the extensive stalagmite caves of *Sloup* and *Sosuvka* (*Sloupsko-sosuske jeskyne*).

The return journey goes through the village of *Ostrov u Machocy* down to the *Balcar* cave (*Balcarka jeskyne*) at the foot of massive *Balcar* cliff. 1 km further, on a turning to the right, goes to the *Macocho* (the name comes from *macecha*, stepmother), a chasm 281 metres long, 126 metres wide and 118 metres deep with almost perpendicular walls, the result of the collapse of a large limestone cave. A path leads down to the bottom (about half an hour), where there are two small lakes.

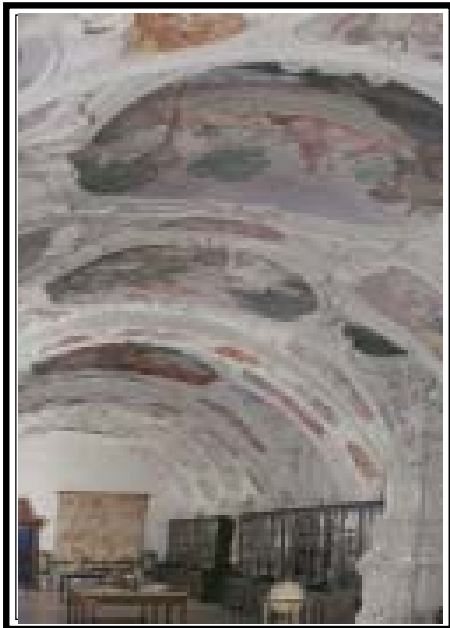
...continued to page 4

...continued from page 3 ...**Post Conference Tour and Host Country...**

The road then goes through the *Suchy zleb* (Duerres Tal; dry valley) to the Katherine Cave in which there is a forest of wafer-thin stalagmites.

Music in Bohemia - Bohemia's reputation as a land of musicians was well established by the 18th century. Charles Burney was impressed by the high level of musical education: 'not only in every large town, but in all villages, where there is a reading and writing school, children of both sexes are taught music'. The musical training provided by the Jesuit colleges was good, and music was fostered by the church and by noblemen such as Count J.A. Questenberg at Jaromerice nad Rokytinou, and Count F.A. Sporck, who put on Italian operas (some with Czech themes) at his theatres at Prague and Kuks, introduced the French horn to Bohemia, and published collections of religious folk songs. However, many fine instrumentalists went to work abroad: the violinist Johann Stamitz (1717—1757) moved to Mannheim, and Frantisek Benda (1709—1786) to Berlin. The prolific opera composer Josef Myslivecek (1737—1781) spent much of his career in Italy, and the pianist/composer Jan Ladislav Dusek (1760—1812) pursued a peregrinating career round Europe.

Prague cherishes its link with *Mozart*, who greatly enjoyed his stay there in 1787,



Namest nad Oslavou

when the city was *Figaro-mad*. His Symphony No. 38 ('the *Prague*') was first performed then, and *Don Giovanni*,



Lednice - Salon

specially written for Prague, had its premiere there in the same year. Mozart returned there in 1791, shortly before his death, to supervise his last opera, *La Clemenza di Tito*, hurriedly written (mostly on the coach journey to Prague) for the coronation of *Leopold II* as King of Bohemia.

A number of German-speaking composers had Bohemian or Moravian connections: *Christoph Willibald Gluck* (1714—1787), whose childhood was spent in northern Bohemia; *Karl Ditters von Dittersdorf* (1739—1799), who is buried near *Jindrichuv Hradec* (Neuhaus); and *Gustav Mahler* (1860-1911), who spent his early years at *Jihlava* (Iglau), before going to study at Vienna in 1875.

Smetana, Dvorak, Janacek - Music had a central place in the great Czech cultural renaissance in the 19th century. The Czech musical world earlier this century was split over the respective merits of the two leaders of this musical revival, *Smetana* and *Dvorak*. Was Smetana's music too personal and poetic? Was Dvorak's too formalistic and conservative? Traces of this schism remain today.

Although his first language was German,

Bedrich Smetana (1824—1884) was above all a Czech nationalist and sought in his opera *Libuse* (1869—1872) and sequence of symphonic poems *Ma Vlast* (*My Fatherland*; 1874-1879) to portray Czech history and landscape with new grandeur (Performances of *Ma Vlast* in the years of Habsburg, Nazi or Soviet domination were always an expression of Czech nationhood). He regarded his immensely popular folk opera *The Bartered Bride* (*Prodana nevesta*; 1866) as secondary to his great nationalist works. His two autobiographical string quartets, written after deafness had marked the onset of his long final illness, are the precursors of *Janacek's* intimate late quartets.

Antonin Dvorak (1841—1904) was less overtly nationalistic, though he played the viola in the orchestra under Smetana's baton, and his *Slavonic Rhapsodies* (1878) captured the spirit of the country's folk music (though, like Smetana, he made little use of actual folk tunes). Dvorak was more outward-looking than Smetana and more open to influences from beyond Bohemia, particularly from *Brahms*, who



greatly admired him. He enjoyed great success in England, especially with his choral works (he was made a Cambridge D.Mus. in 1891), and his homesickness during his time in America in the 1890's gave rise in his Symphony No.9 (*From the New World*; *Z noveho sveta*) to some of his most Czech music — though he was also influenced by the music of the American blacks, with whom he sympathized as an oppressed people.

...continued to page 5

...continued from page 4

...Post Tour...

Through his son-in-law, the composer Josef Suk (1874-1935), Dvorak started a musical dynasty which continues today with his great-grandson Josef Suk.

The music of Dvorak's friend, *Leos Janacek* (1854—1928), a fervent



Prague - Old Town Square

nationalist, was deeply rooted in his close study of the folk music and of the rhythms of the language of his native Moravia — and thus closer to a truly national music than either Smetana or Dvorak. As director of the Organ School he was an important musical figure at Brno, but it was not until the success of his opera *Jenufa* at Prague in 1916, and the championing of his work by *Max Brod* (Kafka's friend), that he became known to the wider world. The last decade of his life saw a great burst of creative activity with the operas *Kat'a Kabanova*, *The Cunning Little Vixen*, *The Macropoulos Case* (based on a story by K. Capek) and *From the House of the Dead* (based on Dostoevsky), the Glagolitic Mass and his finest chamber music.

The medieval town of *Trebon* is delightfully situated between undulating hills, deep valleys and a large number of ponds. Since 1975 the historic town centre has been a conservation area, and in 1979 the unique surrounding countryside with some 270 fishponds (see below under *Fishponds*) was made a nature reserve under UNESCO protection.

The German name of the town recalls

the fact that around the middle of the 13th century the castle and town were founded by the noble family of *Witigo* (Vitek). The *Rozmberks* (Rosenberg), descendants of the *Witigons*, were the lords of *Wittingau* from 1366 to 1611 and shaped the town, castle and landscape. *Peter Vok*, the last of the *Rozmberks*, died at *Wittingau* castle surrounded by his famous library and a selection of alchemists, astrologers and poets. His court had been second only to *Rudolph II's* in grandeur and intellectual lustre. The English magus *John Dee* stayed here for several years (as did *Edward Kelley*), transmuting base metals into gold as a symbol of his conversations with the archangel *Uriel* and of the transcendent harmony of the universe — the goal also of his contemporary fellow researcher *Kepler*. *Dee's* son *Arthur*, however, remembered playing at quoits as a child with the pieces of gold obtained through projection, as it was called, while *Kelly* bamboozled the magus into experimenting with universal harmony in the form of wife-swapping. This was a mistake; *Mrs Dee* objected, and the angels expressed their disappointment by never



'Sur les toits de... Prague'

speaking to *Dee* again. During the *Thirty Years' War* Swedish landsknechts carried the library off to Stockholm, and it was later donated to the Vatican by *Queen Christine* after her conversion to Catholicism in 1655.

...continued to page 7

About WACRA®...

Founded in 1984, WACRA® evolved from contacts between professors, researchers, policy-makers, professionals and business executives into a worldwide, interdisciplinary organization of professionals and academics from fifty countries. The organizations's objectives are to advance the use of the case method in teaching, training, and planning; to encourage research using the case method; to coordinate case writing and case application activities; and to encourage cooperation between the public sector, the business community, and other case-oriented professions. Its initial focus on the case method has broadened to include games and simulations and other interactive learning and teaching methods as corollaries to cases.

WACRA® organizes forums, symposia, workshops, training sessions, doctoral consortia and conferences, including international meetings at which participants have the opportunity to exchange ideas, present their research, and share the results of case writing and case method applications. Previous conference sites: Lausanne & Leysin, Switzerland; London, UK; Enschede, Netherlands; Boston, U.S.A., Berlin, Germany; Limerick, Ireland; Bratislava, Slovakia & Vienna Austria; Montreal, Canada; Warsaw, Poland, Edinburgh, Scotland, Marseille, France, Cáceres, Spain, Budapest, Hungary, Lund, Sweden, Mannheim, Germany, Bordeaux, France, and Buenos Aires, Argentina. Mendel University in Brno, Czech Republic, will be the host in 2005 (July 3 - July 6).

Membership is open to all individuals and organizations wishing to advance the objectives of the association.

As member you receive substantial discounts on publications, preferential rates at WACRA® sponsored meetings, and the *International Journal of Case Method Research & Application*. You can receive training and assistance in case writing. You have the opportunity for networking, consulting and to associate with professionals working with cases and innovative, interactive methods on an international scale.

WACRA 2004 through the eyes of Eduardo Rosker...

Permit me to be serious for a few paragraphs. UCES University, will not forget that eighty-five international professors of the most prestigious universities from around the world were visiting. For the first time in its history, UCES received so many visitors from abroad at the same time, of such a high intellectual level, with excellent presentations, and with such a special *esprit de corps*.

When the Conference ended, the President of UCES told me that he was surprised by the excellent level of the event, the enthusiasm he saw in all the participants and the very special feeling among the members of WACRA, something he had never seen in other Associations. He said: Eduardo this was EXCELLENT!

UCES professors that attended several of the tracks all talk about the stimulating presentations and the quality of the speakers. Our Dean Costa Lieste - Enrique for all of the conference delegates - one of the believers and supporters of the WACRA Conference in Buenos Aires, is now talking all the time and everywhere about the high level of the presentations and the exciting ambience he found at all the sessions and activities during the Conference.

WACRA and it's members were in the major national newspapers (Clarín, La Nación, Infobae, Cronista) before, during and after the Conference, and not in the *police news section*, but in the most important pages of the papers, with excellent contributions and very great interviews by Ron, Ricardo, Amelia, Simon, and Hans. I was invited to participate in a variety of national Radio broadcasts and television programs. So, now, we, WACRA are known in Argentina as an international association dedicated to educate tomorrow's leaders.

I would like to say thanks to many individuals. WACRA members, THANK YOU for coming to my country, to learn a little more about us, about our people, culture, history, geography. We will never forget you! The international news shows do not always portray our country as it really is. I believe it was important

that you could see our country yourselves, through your eyes and to be able to reach your own conclusions.

Thank you to the WACRA Executive and Advisory Boards for giving me the opportunity to be the host of the 21st International Conference in Buenos Aires.

HANS, thank you! You are a great teammate and most of all, a very good friend. I'll never forget the personal support you gave me to make things happen. THANK YOU!

At UCES we worked hard to create an



Eduardo Rosker (Photo: Shirley Patten)

effective team to assist WACRA delegates and all agreed: WACRA delegates are WONDERFUL PEOPLE. Thank you boys and girls, you did a great job!

Thank you to my wife Ana María for her support and help (only she knows what it means to be married to a workaholic) and my son Hernán (he only asked me: how can I help you?). To the people in Córdoba: my sister Poupee (Carolina) and Osvaldo (a typical *cordobese*): thanks!

And now, some special issues for the WACRA family. The Chinese restaurant where we had the conference lunches... went out of business! When it happened, I thought there were two possible explanations: either they made so much money with WACRA that now they are enjoying your money at the beach or you ate so much that they went bankrupt. The

Pestana Hotel manager is asking me when are you coming back to add more fun and life to the hotel lobby. Our economy is now growing faster with all the dollars and euros you invested in Argentina, thank you; but we are now short on beef and wine. Hey, some dancers of the Tango Show asked me how they could contact you because they're preparing an international show and they would like to have some of you on the stage! The guy who was selling *artesanias cordobesas* at the side of the route by the Lake at Villa Carlos Paz, now has established himself in a luxurious store in a Shopping Center in Córdoba. He told me that his sales were never better: thank you WACRA. The owner of the Restaurant La Chueca in Carlos Paz, is still wondering how the waiters could understand what you were ordering for dinner.

Oh my God how I have enjoyed it!!!

I worked hard to put this conference together in Argentina and maybe some of you thought I was tired. Yes, I was! But nothing, in all my professional life, has given me as much satisfaction as this conference has.

WACRA delegates working in all the tracks and plenary sessions, enjoying the visits to different parts of Buenos Aires and Córdoba, delegates and partners having fun at every event, dancing, laughing... who can ever forget this.

There is only one thing I regret and that is not to have had personal time to spend with each one of you. The next time we meet, I will have all that time for you (because somebody else will attend to the details, Pavel and Hans!).

WACRA! Thank you !!!!!

WACRA family, you're something special, you're really great!!! And, although I am a fairly new member of this family - only five years - it seems to me that I have known you all my life. Each one of you, and all of you made this possible. Un abrazo desde Argentina, Eduardo. I'll be waiting for you at the next International Conference, or when you are on a professional trip or when you come as tourist to my *Buenos Aires Querido!*

...continued from page 4

The lordship of Trebon passed by an inheritance settlement in 1611 to the Protestant *Schwanbergs*, but in 1623 it was confiscated by the Emperor *Ferdinand II* and given to his brother, Archduke *Leopold William* of Austria. The archduke in turn transferred it in 1658 to another new owner, the Bavarian Count *Johann Adolf zu Schwarzenberg*, in order to wipe out a large debt. Their acquisition of Trebon marked the first entry of the *Schwarzenbergs* into Bohemia.

The Main Square of Trebon (nam. Julia Fucika) is framed by fine Renaissance and Baroque houses. On the north side is the Renaissance house *Bily konicek* (the White Horse) built in 1544 with a loggia and a stepped gable with tiny turrets. The building is now a hotel. Also worth mentioning is the house of *Stepanek Netolicky*, who developed fish farming under the *Rozmberks* (commemorative plaque). The Town Hall on the south side of the square was built in 1566 and renovated between 1802 and 1820; its tower dates from 1638. The square contains a fountain and a Marian column (1780).

In the south-west corner of the square the visitor will find the entrance to the Castle with its fine Renaissance staircase and elegant courtyards. The castle is now used as a hospital and only the Heraldic Hall of the *Rozmberks*, the Hall of the Courtiers and the well-maintained park are open to the public.

The church of *St Giles* (Chram sv. Jilji) in *Husova trida* is the main church of Trebon. It belonged to the third house of *Augustinian* canons founded in Bohemia, after Prague and *Roudnice nad Labem* (Raudnitz). The first church was built, together with its monastic buildings, in the third quarter of the 13th century. After 1367 it was replaced by a two-aisled hall-church which in 1781 underwent Baroque alterations in the course of which the church lost the famous *Altarpiece of the Master of Trebon* (Wittingau) (c. 1380-90). The panels of the altarpiece were distributed

...Post Conference Tour...

among surrounding churches. Three of them, the *Agony in the Garden*, the *Entombment* and the *Resurrection* survive and are now in the National Gallery in Prague. The works of the Trebon Master are impressive for their novel effects of light and shade, the elongated proportions of the figures and the gentle fall of the draperies; they mark a preliminary stage in the development of the the '*Schoener Stil*' (International Style). This style influenced art throughout Europe around 1400; another celebrated example is the *Madonna*



Brno - already an important town in the Middle Ages

of Trebon a Gothic limestone sculpture of the period c. 1390. There are also some impressive 15th-century wall paintings: the *Foundation of the Monastery*, *Apostles*, *St. Christopher* and the *Last Judgement*.

The *Town Walls* have survived almost in their entirety and still have the three town gates: the *Hradecka brana* (Hradec gate) to the east, the *Svinenska brana* (Sviny gate) and *Novohradaska brana* (Novo Hradý gate) to the south.

The Fishponds - In the 12th and 13th centuries the first colonists settled in the then marshy region of southern Bohemia and built canals and fishponds so that they could enjoy fish in this land-locked country. This work reached its climax in the 15th and 16th centuries when the pond-builder *Josef Stepanek Netolicky* and his successor *Jakob Kicin of Jelcany*, with the financial support of the *Rozmberks*, developed a fish-farming system of such perfection that it has needed practically no modification to the present day. From 1571

they created the *Rybnik Svet* (World Pond) with an area of 208 hectares. The builders of the pond nicknamed it 'Ingratitude' because it was always attempting to break its banks. In 1581 *Rybnik Svet* was fished out for the first time. Now a popular health resort has developed on its shore; peat rich in sulphur and iron is used to treat rheumatism, arthritis and nervous disorders, and there are facilities for swimming and rowing.

The *Rozmberk Pond* (*Rozmberkský rybnik*) in the north of the town covers 721 hectares and is the largest fishpond in Czechoslovakia. Its walls are 2430 metres long, 80 metres wide at its foot and up to 12 metres high. Every two or three years the pond is drained in autumn and the fish are taken. This event attracts many thousands of visitors, who come to watch 'St Peter's harvest' seething in the last remnant of water; from the *Rozmberk Pond* alone the fishermen can expect to catch

the 100 tonnes of carp which are exported all over the world before New Year's Eve (or 'Silvester', which, like Christmas Eve, is a traditional day for carp-eating in much of central Europe). The 16th-century Golden Canal (*Zlata stoka*) runs south of Trebon from the *Luznice* river, linking many of the fishponds before rejoining the river 45 km further downstream.

There are some 6000 fishponds near Trebon, in all an area of 41,000 hectares being farmed. The average annual production is 15,500 tonnes. Tench, pike, zander, trout, catfish and whitefish are farmed, but carp make up the largest part of the harvest. Fifteen per cent of the fish caught are exported to Germany, Austria, France, Italy and Belgium.

Cesky Krumlov (Krumau) - The remarkable setting of the medieval town of *Cesky Krumlov*, on either side of a narrow loop in the *Vltava*, squeezed in on the edge of *Blansky les* (Plansk Forest),

...continued to page 8

...continued from page 7

inspired some of *Egon Schiele's* finest paintings. To the left of the narrow river on a rocky height is the second largest castle in Bohemia (after Prague Castle) and to the right, the town has spread out almost in all directions. Cesky Krumlov was the main residence of three noble families in succession, the *Rozmberks* (1302—1611), the *Eggenbergs* (1622—1717) and the *Schwarzenbergs* (1717—1945) who each made it the centre of an economic empire.

'In his later years he had yet one great joy, when his son *Witiko* began to build a castle on the rock at the *Krumme Au*, which now belonged to *Witiko's* family.' So ends *Witiko*, historical novel by *Adalbert Stifter* (1805—1868) set in 12th-century Bohemia, and so the history of the castle and town of Cesky Krumlov. Around 1240 the noble house of *Witigons* (*Vitek*) founded the castle above the loop in the *Vltava*, or 'curved mead' ('*krumme Au*' — hence the name *Krumau*). The first documentary mention of the castle is in 1253. German colonists from Bavaria and Austria settled at the foot of the castle and opposite in the area protected by the bend in the river. By 1274 the settlement had become a town. In 1302 *Henry of Rozmberk*, a member of what was then the most powerful noble family in Bohemia, took over the castle and town. In 1497 the *Rozmberks* set up a stonemasons' lodge and began digging for silver in the surrounding hills of the Bohemian Forest; success was such that in 1526 the *Jagiellon King Louis II* granted the town a coat of arms and a seal, gave the *Rozmberks* the right to establish their own mint at *Krumau*. The *Rozmberks* remodelled the castle as a splendid Renaissance residence. When the silver mines exhausted towards the end of the 16th century the dynasty found itself in financial straits, in 1600 *Peter Vok of Rozmberk* was forced to sell the lordship of *Krumau* to the Emperor *Rudolph II*, and to move to *Trebon* with twenty-three chests full of books.

In 1622 the Emperor *Ferdinand II* gave *Krumau*, together with the estates belonging to it, to *Ulrich*, Baron *Eggenberg* in gratitude for services rendered during the Thirty Years' War.

...Post Conference Tour...

When the last Prince *Eggenberg* died in 1717, his widow *Maria Ernestine, Princess Schwarzenberg*, inherited the property. From then on the *Schwarzenberg* family ruled at *Krumau*, until in 1947 ownership of the castle was transferred to the town and it has since served as a museum/archive.



Namest nad Oslavou

Sumava (Boehmerwald; the Bohemian Forest) - The Bohemian Forest is different from the wild harshness of the *Krkonoše* (*Riesengebirge*; Giant Mountains) or the gentle landscape of the *Krusné hory* (*Erzgebirge*; Ore Mountains). It has an austere beauty, endlessly wide and unspoiled, covered with dense forests and moorland; the mountains are suitable for walking in all seasons, but particularly in late summer and autumn, when the sun shines more constantly and the air is crystal clear. Acid rain is, however, an increasingly serious problem here as elsewhere in the Czech Republic.

The name Bohemian Forest (*Boehmerwald*) occurs as '*Behaime Walt*' as early as the beginning of the 12th century. Since the 16th century the Czechs have called it *Sumava* (from *sumet* to murmur), because the wanderer on the broad highlands hears only the rustling of the wind in the tops of the trees. Strictly speaking *Sumava* refers only to the larger,

wilder southeastern part of the Bohemian Forest, the homeland of the writer *Adalbert Stifter*. The northwestern part is called *Cesky les* (Czech Forest).

Since 1963 *Sumava*, with an area of 1630 sq km, has formed the largest conservation area in the Czech Republic. About a quarter of this area consists of plateaux 1000—1100 metres above sea-level. Above these forested *plane* with their bogs, peat and moors, rise unspectacular summits such as *Plechý* (*Bohmischer Ploekenstein*).

Ceske Budejovice (Budweis) - *Ceske Budejovice* with a population of almost 100,000 is the regional capital of South Bohemia. Its chief attraction is its large quadrangular market place — one of the finest squares in Europe — surrounded by old arcaded houses including the magnificent town hall. Among its many interesting sites are buildings and the medieval fortifications, as well as the former butchers' stalls in which the visitor can sample the town's famous *Budvar* beer, better known as *Budweiser*.

It was in 1265 that King *Otakar II Premysl*, in his quest to build up a power base independent of the great feudal lords, granted a town charter to the German colonial settlement of *Budweis* at the confluence of the *Malse* with the *Vitava*. It was on one of the major salt routes, and salt remained one of the most important elements in *Budejovice's* economy. At the same time *Otakar* also founded a *Dominican friary* here. In the 14th century the town developed into the main trading centre for southern Bohemia and in 1358 Emperor *Charles IV* granted it *Stapelrecht* among other privileges, which meant that all merchants passing by had to put their goods on sale at *Budweis* for a specified time before they could continue their journey. Perhaps such marks of royal favour ensured *Budweis's* staunch Catholicism during the Hussite troubles. In the 16th century the discovery of substantial deposits of silver led to the establishment of a royal mint and a mining office. At that time *Budweis* was the third largest town in Bohemia, after *Prague* and *Plzen*, and the largest market for grain and wood in the south of the country. In 1631, during the Thirty Years' War, *Budejovice*

...continued to page 9

...continued from page 8

was still unshakeably Catholic, a fact recognized by the Imperial side who brought the Royal crown and the land records to safety within its walls. Since 1785 Budejovice has been the seat of a bishop, whose diocese covers the whole of southern Bohemia. In 1827 the first horse-drawn railway in Europe was opened, between Budweis and Linz. Industrialization in the 19th century brought increasing numbers of Czechs to the town with the result that the population's German majority dwindled until Germans were outnumbered at the turn of the century. Today Ceske Budejovice (or 'Czech Budweis', to distinguish it from the small town of Moravske Budejovice, or 'Moravian Budweis' or Budwitz') is a lively industrial town with the *Tesla* electrical works and a metal foundry belonging to the *Skoda* works. The old town, a historic conservation area, is laid out — like all the German colonial towns — on a checkerboard plan. The ramparts to the north and east are now parks and a remnant of the moat forms the *Mlynska stoka* (Mill Canal).

Hluboka nad Vltavou (Frauenberg) - 8 km north of Ceske Budejovice, on a rock 83 metres above the Vltava, stands *Hluboka*, the most visited castle in Czechoslovakia. Around the mid-13th century King *Wenceslas I* built a royal fortress on this defended site, which after the death of *Otakar II Premysl* in 1278 was acquired by *Otakar's* arch-enemy *Zavis of Falkenstein*. *Zavis* married the king's widow, *Kunhuta* (Kunigunde), becoming the most powerful man in Bohemia, and attempted to oust *Wenceslas II*. In 1290 the king was able to regain power and had *Zavis* executed at the foot of *Fronburg* (Vroburc, or, 'Lord's Castle', as *Hluboka* was then called; the Czech name was not used until after 1918). From 1450 owners of the castle changed in quick succession until the castle passed to *Wilhelm of Pernstein*. *Wilhelm* devoted himself intensively to forestry and also created

...Post Conference Tour...

many fishponds which are still a feature of the landscape around *Hluboka*. The complications of Bohemian history ensured a rapid turnover of owners until in 1661 *Johann Adolph von Schwarzenberg*, who was made a *Reichsfuerst* (prince of the Empire) in 1670, acquired *Frowenburg*' (the name is derived from 'Fronburg'). The *Schwarzenbergs* stayed here until 1945, providing diplomats, ministers and soldiers to the Habsburgs and beyond: *Vaclav Ravel's* chancellor was the present Prince *Schwarzenberg*. *Frauenberg* was the main



Karlstejn Castle - one of the most perfect castles in Europe

seat of the *Schwarzenbergs*, and centre of their great estates; with the advent of communism it 'passed into state ownership'.

The castle was comprehensively baroquized in 1728 by *Paul Ignaz Bayer*, who restored the chapel and created the two-storey ballroom, which *Georg Werle* decorated with paintings. It was even more comprehensively gothicized in the middle of the 19th century for *Eleonore Schwarzenberg*. From 1839 to 1871 the architects, *Franz Beer* and *Ferdinand Damian Deworetzky*, completely reshaped *Frauenberg* giving it the something of the appearance of the restored Windsor Castle — English Picturesque Gothic transferred to Bohemia. The interiors of *Hluboka* magnificently evoke the spirit of the Victorian age: mechanical excess, the inflated cosiness and cluttered grandeur are repeated through all the 41 rooms (out of a

total of 140) shown to the visitor. Many of the fittings are very fine: the Renaissance ceiling in the great dining hall, for instance (from *Cesky Krumlov*, another *Schwarzenberg* possession); the superb Brussels tapestries after *Jordaens* cartoons, and the Baroque bookshelves from *Schloss Schwarzenberg* at *Scheinfeld, Franconia*. The handsome panelling of the ogival *Hamilton* room supports hunting pictures by second-generation Scottish emigre *Johann Georg de Hamilton*. In the plethora of works of art two early paintings stand out: an *Adoration of the Christ Child* by the Master of the *Trebon* (Wittingau) Altarpiece (c. 1380) and a *Madonna with St Bartholomew and St Margaret* (South Bohemian school, c.1400). Many visitors will also be interested in the castle's early central heating system, which has been in operation since 1855 without needing any major repairs. It is fuelled by wood and the temperatures of the rooms are regulated by small brass doors. Running water and bathrooms were installed as early as 1735.

The remodelling of the castle included the construction of an elaborate iron and glass *Winter Garden*, which links the castle with the Neo-Gothic Riding Hall and Stables. These were converted in 1955 to house the *Ales South Bohemian Art Gallery* named after the Czech painter, *Mikolas Ales* (1852—1913), which contains paintings and sculpture by South Bohemian artists from the middle ages to the present day — the largest art collection in Bohemia after the National Gallery in Prague. The castle grounds were transformed by the *Schwarzenbergs* into an English Park with fishponds, wooded hills and pheasantries, exotic trees and shrubs, centuries-old oak and bronze statues.

Karlstejn (Karlstein) - Only 25 km from Prague, hidden between five hills, stands *Karlstejn*, one of the most perfect castles

...continued to page 14

CALL FOR PAPERS:**"Gateways To Learning"****Mendel University, Brno, Czech Republic****July 3 - 6, 2005**

22nd International Conference on Case Method Research & Application, Case Writing, Other Interactive Methods

The case method can play an important role in solving problems and in teaching problem-solving, as well as in initiating and managing change. Thus this conference provides opportunities for participants to learn more about teaching using the case method and related instructional approaches in a variety of educational settings. Participants will have ample opportunity to meet colleagues from around the world with whom they can forge research partnerships. WACRA conferences are interdisciplinary multinational forums for scholars in the disciplines and professional fields (such as business, communication, education, engineering, history, law, medicine, psychology, public policy, social work) and practitioners in business and industry, education and government.

Papers are solicited that analyze theory and practice using cases, simulations, videos and related instructional methods for problem solving, managing change and innovation. Priority will be given to papers that are interdisciplinary, international, and/or comparative. Papers reporting the application of cases in university and professional training programs in diverse settings and papers on the evaluation of the case method and its related forms for teaching and learning are encouraged. Contributions investigating challenges (and suggesting solutions) faced by business are also solicited. Proposals for case writing & development and actual cases placed in diverse settings are invited, e.g. joint-cross-cultural cases. While a main focus of the WACRA conferences is on using cases for teaching and problem-solving, scholarly papers that report research using the case method are welcome. WACRA is particularly interested in scholarly papers that enhance the understanding and collaboration between and among disciplines and international partners.

Submissions should include (1) a cover page including: title, name, affiliation, address, tel. & fax numbers and e-mail address of the author(s), (2) a proposal summary (not exceeding 4 pages), or the completed paper (not exceeding 12 pages). Download the manuscript guidelines from the **WACRA web site below**. *The summary should state clearly the objectives, the framework, and the nature of the proposal and be responsive to the criteria used for review. The name of the author(s) should not appear on the summary page to facilitate the blind peer review.*

*Receipt of all proposals/papers will be acknowledged and the results of the review will be send by way of e-mail. **All proposals and papers are due on or before January 15, 2005. Completed papers received prior to March 31, 2005 will be considered for publication***



WACRA 2004 Educational - Cultural Post Conference Tour Buenos Aires - Las Pampas - Cordoba

For Case Writers - and Prospective Case Writers

Fourteenth Annual International Casewriters' Workshop & Casewriters' Colloquium



Jim Camerius

Designed to assist novice and experienced case writers to write, improve and publish their cases, WACRA 2005 (July 3 - 6) in *Brno/Prague, Czech Republic* will feature the Fourteenth International WACRA® Casewriters' workshop and Casewriters' Colloquium. Case writers - and prospective case writers are invited to participate and to submit cases and/or contribute to the interactive sessions at Mendel University.

Casewriters' Colloquium: Cases, including teaching notes (TN) are submitted to the Colloquium Director for a double blind peer review for acceptance. Accepted cases are sent in advance to a panel of expert case writers, case book authors, and all other participants who signed up for the colloquium. Each case is discussed by the panel and other participants. You will see the case editing and improvement process developed and you will assist in perfecting the refereed cases presented. The format is interactive and lively; everyone's contribution is welcome and solicited, regardless of previous experience. This year, cases are solicited from all business disciplines, education, medical education, law, social work and other disciplines which use case discussion.

Casewriters' Workshop: This activity is primarily for casewriters with some research experience. This workshop follows a format similar to the colloquium, except that other casewriters whose cases are being presented are the expert panel.

Submission: Submit four copies of your case before January 15, 2005. Include (at least) the rudiments of a TN. Submission implies that at least one author will attend the meeting and present the case. To facilitate the double blind review the authors' names should appear on a cover page only. From outside the U.S.A. please use airmail. Authors should note that colloquium and workshop are pre-conference activities (Sunday) and have separate registration

Requirements: Cases which still need improvement are solicited. Cases should describe real organizations and may be disguised. The author's analysis belongs in the TN which provides users with a brief case description, suggested course application, teaching objectives, teaching questions and answers. A discussion section is helpful and may include an extended analysis. Case outcomes may also be included. To obtain an information packet and other details please contact:

Dr. James W. Camerius, WACRA® Case Colloquium Director
Walker L. Cisler College of Business, Northern Michigan University MARQUETTE, MI 49855-5353 U.S.A.
Tel.: +906-227-1245; Fax: +906-227-2930 email: jcameriu@nmu.edu

Teaching, Culture and Diversity

Join The Twelfth Cross National Teaching Forum

On Sunday, July 3, 2005, as part of the WACRA® Interactive Case Sessions - panel sessions will be held to discuss issues pertaining to teaching across cultures. There will be five panels representing different regions of the world: Western Europe, Central and Eastern Europe, The Middle East, Africa, Asia, and Latin, Central and North America. If you have had experience teaching or training in another part of the world, you may want to join one of our panels. If you think you might be or would like to teach in another part of the world, you may want to meet others who have done so. We promise a lively presentation and discussion: The topics selected for discussion are:

- . Adapting the Case Method to different Cultures. Evaluating Student Performance
- . Cross Cultural Differences in Developing Collaborative Teaching Strategies

If you are interested in being on the panel and or be the organizer of a region , please contact

Session Coordinator/Review Chair:

Dr. Amelia Klein, Wheelock College, Boston, MA, U.S.A., Email aklein@wheelock.edu Tel. +617-734-5200

Western Europe

Dr. Franz Egle, Federal University for Public Administration, MANNHEIM, GERMANY Tel. +49-621-155-651

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Dr. Ricardo Hernández, Univ. of Extremadura, CÁ CERES, SPAIN, Email: ricardoh@arrakis.es Tel. +34-927-25-74-80x7931

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Program W A C R A® 2005

"Gateways to Learning"

Case Teaching & Writing, Continuing Education & Distance Learning
 hosted by **Mendel University, Brno, Czech Republic** (international airports: Vienna and Prague)

Friday, July 1, 2005

09.30 - 16.00 "Czechoslovakia in Transition: WACRA Strategic Initiative 1990 and Outcomes"

Saturday, July 2, 2005**Pre-Conference Activities**

10.00 - 13.30 Executive and Advisory Boards meet (at Conference Hote). Followed by lunch.
 15.00 - 19.30 Optional Life Brewery Case Study including brewery tour, tasting and dinner.

Sunday, July 3, 2005

09.00 - 13.30 WICS - WACRA Interactive Case Sessions - including lunch (Separate Registration)

Conference Activities

16.00 - 17.30 Registration at Conference hotel
 18.30 - 21.30 Welcome reception and dinner at Faculty of Business and Economics at Mendel University

Monday, July 4, 2005

09.00 - Late registration at Hotel. At 8.30 Bus departs from Hotel to the Univ. conference site.
 10.00 - 11.30 Opening Plenary Session
 11.30 - 17.30 Bus leaves for optional partner tour to Olomouc (details in the NEWSletter and on registration form)
 11.30 - 12.00 Concurrent Sessions, Panels and Workshops
 13.00 - 17.00 Concurrent Sessions, Panels and Workshops
 18.30 - 22.00 Gala Dinner and Awards at Spilberk Castle (Bus departs from Hotel)

Tuesday, July 5, 2005

09.00 - 10.30 Plenary Session. (Bus departs from Hotel at 8.30)
 11.00 - 12.00 Optional Partner/spouse visit of Villa Tugendhat (seperate registration)
 11.00 - 12.00 Concurrent Sessions, Panels and Workshops
 13.15 - 23.00 Excursion to Lednice Castle, cultural evening with folk music, wine-tasting and dancing in Cejkovice

Wednesday, July 6, 2005

09.00 - 10.30 Plenary Session. (Bus departs from Hotel at 8.30)
 11.00 - 12.00 Concurrent Sessions, Panels and Workshops
 13.00 - 16.00 Concurrent Sessions, Panels , Workshops and Concluding Session. Conference adjourns

Post Conference Activities

19.30 - 23.00 Optional - Cultural Evening and Dinner. (Details on www.wacra.org)

Thursday - Sunday, July 7 - 10, 2005

.Day One. Tour of the historic battlefield of *Austerlitz Slavkov u Brna*. Excursion to *Moravsky kras* (Moravian Karst), the most significant karst area in the Czech Republic. Tour of the caves by boat, (optional) hiking, traveling by small roadtrain and cable car. Includes open air dinner. Overnight stay in conference hotel in Brno. **Day Two.** Travel through beautiful Moravian country side to visit *Namest nad Oslavou*, *Telc* and *Cesky Krumlov*, undoubtedly one of the most beautiful towns in the Czech Republic. Overnight stay in *Trebon*. **Day Three.** Visit *Hluboka Chateau* and *Karlstejn*, the most celebrated of the *Bohemian Castles* (near Prague). Overnight stay. **Day Four.** After breakfast travel to Prague. Short introductory tour. Educational/cultural post conference tour ends. **Seating is limited. Early registration: March 1, 2005 is required.** For details visit www.wacra.org and www.zainekslavkov.cz/en/en.html

CALL FOR PAPERS:**MAKE PLANS FOR ACT9
"CREATIVE TEACHING"
JANUARY 2 - 5, 2006***Considered Sites: Italy, Switzerland, Caribbean*

This conference provides opportunities for participants to learn from and to share with experts and colleagues innovative creative teaching approaches and methods. The emphases are on "Teaching and Learning" through interactive workshops and by sharing of research and teaching/training applications. The methods discussed and presented include the case method and related instructional approaches in a variety of educational settings. Participants will have ample opportunity to meet colleagues from around the world with whom they can forge research/teaching partnerships. ACT and WACRA® conferences are interdisciplinary, multinational forums for scholars in the disciplines and professional fields such as business, education, engineering, law, medicine, public policy, social work and practitioners in business and industry, education and government.

Papers are solicited that report on Creative Teaching practices and proposals. Priority will be given to papers that are innovative, interdisciplinary, and/or international. Papers reporting the application of creative teaching and learning in university and professional training programs in diverse settings and papers on the evaluation of such methods and its related forms for teaching and learning are encouraged.

Proposals and papers will be evaluated through a blind peer review process on the basis of (a) originality; (b) the appropriateness of the topic for an interdisciplinary audience; (c) the technical adequacy of the inquiry; and (d) the contribution to the understanding of teaching/learning issues.

Submissions should include (1) a cover page including: title, name, affiliation, address, tel. & fax numbers and e-mail address of the author(s), (2) a proposal summary (not exceeding 4 pages) or the completed paper (not exceeding 15 pages). Download the manuscript guidelines from our website below. The summary should state clearly the objectives, the framework, and the nature of the proposal and be responsive to the criteria used for review. The name of the author(s) should not appear on the summary page to facilitate the blind peer review.

Receipt of your proposal/paper will be acknowledged and the results of the review will be sent by way of e-mail. **All proposals and papers are due on or before November 8, 2005. Completed papers received prior to December 31, 2005 will be considered for publication. Conference registrations are due on or before November 15, 2005.** For further details visit our web site or contact us directly.

ACT - WACRA®

**THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE TEACHING and
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www.wacra.org

Connecticut Conference Office (Denise Smith):
111 Britt Road **EAST HARTFORD, CT 06118 U.S.A.**
Tel. +860-895-1930 Email: smithdmwacra@comcast.net

Please post or share this invitation with colleagues!**Calendar of Events**

*** As you read this, mark your calendar!**

Renew WACRA® membership

*** January 2-4, 2005** "Creative Teaching" Conference San Juan, Puerto Rico, U.S.A.

*** January 15, 2005**

Submit papers & cases for WACRA® 2004 in Brno/Prague, Czech Republic

*** March 1, 2005**

Early Registration 2005 Post conference tour - Brno to Prague through romantic Moravia and Bohemia provinces of the Czech Republic

*** March 25, 2005**

Register for WACRA® 2005

*** July 3 - 6 2005** WACRA®2005 at Mendel University in Brno, Czech Republic.

*** July 7 - 10 2005** WACRA®2005

Post Conference Cultural/Educational Tour ending in Prague.

*** October 7, 2005**

WACRA-ECCH Case Writing Workshop at Babson www.wacra.org

*** November 8, 2005**

Submit papers/proposals for 'Creative Teaching' Conf. Jan. 2-5, 2005

**W A C R A ®
N E W S**

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...continued from page 9

in Europe. *Charles IV*, when he was King of the *Holy Roman Empire*, commissioned the French architect *Matthias of Arras* to build a fortress here in the midst of impenetrable forests, as a place of relaxation and inner reflection, and as a treasury for the imperial jewels and relics. The forbidding exterior gives little indication of the splendour within where seven churches and chapels emphasized the religious power of the king and emperor.

The foundation stone was laid by *Ernest of Pardubice*, archbishop of Prague and the king's best friend, on 10 June 1348, just four years before work began on the building of *St Vitus's Cathedral*. By November 1355 the residential quarters were completed and *Charles IV* was to move in. On 27 March 1357 the Holy Cross Chapel, the heart of the castle, was consecrated in his presence. It was then that the emperor gave the castle its name: *Karlstein*. Work on the decoration continued until 1367. In 1587—1596 *Udalrico Aostali* remodelled the castle in the Renaissance style, but in 1887—1899 *Josef Mocker* and *Friedrich Schmidt* returned it to its original Gothic appearance and completed the towers.

Prague (Praha) - Prague — the 'City of a Hundred Spires', the 'Golden City', 'Bohemian Rome', the ancient 'Mother in Israel' to the Jews, 'little mother' to all Czechs — has always been the main attraction for visitors to Bohemia. No other city in Europe has such a wealth of unspoiled architecture from so many periods, of which the marvellous works of the Late Gothic and Baroque are the most remarkable, though the Art Nouveau and Modernism are scarcely less important. It is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful cities in the world, its magnificent buildings covering the hilly landscape either side of the river. The friendly atmosphere of its pubs and wine bars, restaurants and cafes is appealing— all the more so since the Revolution of 1989 has lifted the oppressive pall of forty years of Communist rule.

Prague is the capital of the Czech Republic, the capital of Bohemia, the

...Post Conference Tour

administrative center of the region of Central Bohemia, and a self-governing city with a population of 1,186,000. It now covers an area of 185 square kilometres in the river basin at the confluence of *Berounka* (Beraun) and *Vltava* (Moldau) rivers. It is the most important crossroads and biggest industrial and financial centre in the Czech Republic.

The nucleus of the city is the *Old Town* (*Stare mesto*). The other old districts — *Mala Strana* (Lesser Town; German:



Prague - Astronomical Clock

Kleinseite), the Castle Town or *Hradcany* (German: *Hradschin*) and the *New Town* (*Nove mesto*) — were all independent towns until their amalgamation in 1784. In 1786 the population of Prague was 73,000; in 1890 183,000; and in 1930 (after incorporation of many suburbs) 849,000. The hills around Prague were inhabited in neolithic times (6th millennium BC). From the 3 millennium onward a trading station was established at the ford across the *Vltava* at intersection of the amber and salt trade routes. Around the year 700 the legendary Slav princess and prophetess *Libuse* (*Libussa*), who was living a few miles downstream, prophesied that a great city would arise at the ford: 'I see a city whose glory shall reach to the

stars...' The city was called *Praha* because a 'sill' (*prah*) in river bed was used as the ford. *Libuse* wedded the ploughman *Premysl* (the story is told *Smetana's* opera *Libuse*) and founded the *Premyslid* dynasty, which ruled Bohemia for the next six hundred years. Her earliest recorded descendant, Prince *Bohvoj* (850—895), and wife *Ludmila*, who had been baptized in Moravia by *Methodios*, the Apostle of the Slavs, founded a castle, the *Hradcany*, on the hill west of the ford, and later transferred their residence there. Within the precincts of the castle they erected a church in honour of the Virgin Mary on a pagan site of sacrifice and cremation called *Zizi*. Christianity had not, however, completely triumphed. After the death of her husband, *Ludmila* was murdered by order of her pagan daughter-in-law, *Drahomira of Stodor*, thus becoming Bohemia's first martyr. Her son, *Vratislav I*, built the Basilica of *St George* around 920, and in 925 his son, Duke *Wenceslas* (*Vaclav*), founded the Rotunda of *St Vitus*. *Wenceslas* — the 'Good King *Wenceslas*' of the 19th-century English carol, who was genuinely good, though never a king — was planning to renounce his dukedom in favour of his brother *Boleslav I* ('the Cruel') in order to become the first bishop of Prague, but in 929 his plan was preempted by the pagan *Boleslav*, who had him murdered on the way to mass. By the beginning of the 13th century there were more than fifty churches in Prague.

In the 10th century more and more Jewish and German merchants settled in the city, attracted after 1178 by legal and fiscal privileges. These were increased by *King Otakar II Premysl*, who in 1267 laid out the *Lesser Town* for the German settlers. Prague's golden age started with the return of *Charles IV* to his mother's native city. *St Vitus's Cathedral* was begun in 1353, in keeping with the city's new status as an archbishopric which *Charles* had energetically negotiated. Five years earlier, *Charles* had founded the first university in Central Europe.

Excerpts from *Czech and Slovak Republics Guide* by Erhard Gorys, Pallas Athen, London, UK.

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