

North American Society for Serbian Studies (NASSS)

NEWSLETTER

NO. 57 WINTER-SPRING 2007

- North American Society for Serbian Studies (NASSS) held its annual business meeting during the AAASS National Convention in Washington, D.C., November 16-19, 2006.
- Members of the Board of NASSS met on a Friday, November 17, 2006 in Washington, D.C.
- The first item on the agenda was the question of the future editor-in-chief of *Serbian Studies*. Bogdan Rakic, editor-in-chief, said that he would like to pass on to someone else his duties as the editor-in-chief of our journal, because of his workload. It was agreed that Ljubica D. Popovich, and Lilien Filipovic-Robinson will serve as editors-in-chief, as soon as the last issues under Bogdan's editorship are finished and sent to the publishers. Jelena Bogdanovic will serve as an "assistant editor". However, Bogdan Rakic will remain as the reader for articles dealing with literature, and will serve as a contact between our Society and the Slavica Publishers.
- The second item on the agenda was the question of Slavica Publishers. Mr. Fowler, director of Slavica Publishers came to our meeting, and told us that Slavica Publishers want to drop the publication not only of our journal, but of all journals because they are losing money on journal publishing.
- It was agreed with Mr. Fowler and our Society, that we will continue to work as is, until Bogdan finishes editing the last issue. In the meantime, our Society will look for a new publisher. We were saddened by this news because Slavica Publishers did text editing, and all other technical works. We paid \$2,500.00 for issue publication. \$160.00-200.00 per hour for text editing. The prices will increase in the future.
- Vol. 20, n.2 of our journal will be published in 2007.
- The Board agreed to purchase a scanner to be given to whoever would be willing to maintain our website. Our Society is looking for such a person. Anyone who is interested in maintaining our site, please get in touch with Ida Sinkevic, who is the current President of our Society (sinkevic@lafayette.edu).

- Our treasurer, Sonja Kotlica (sonjakot@yahoo.com) presented the Board with the latest and the most important news about the registration of our Society in the District of Columbia. Sonja informed us about everything what is needed for a tax-exempt status of our Society as an educational Society.
- Members of the Board agreed with Sonja's suggestions, and decided to inform the membership during our annual business meeting.
- Present: Bogdan Rakic (Indian University), Rajka J. Gorup (Columbia University), Ljubica D. Popovich (Vanderbilt University), Sonja Kotlica, Lilien Filipovic Robinson (George Washington University), Ljubisa Adamovic (Florida State University) and Ruzica Popovitch-Krekic (Mt. St. Marys' College)
- The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

NASSS BUSINESS MEETING took place on November 18, 2006, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in Washington, D.C.

Almost forty members were present. Ruzica Krekic presented the following agenda for the meeting:

- The President's brief report
- Financial report
- Nominations from the floor for the President and Vice-President (President Elect);
- Elections
- Mihajlo "Misa" Djordjevic book prize
- Recommendations for topics for the AAASS in 2007
- Discussion about Slavica Publishers, and NASSS website maintenance
- General discussion, suggestions, etc.
 - Ruzica Krekic opened the meeting by greeting the members. She announced the election of Dr. Jelena Mikojkovic-Djuric to the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts as a foreign member, and named all academicians who are members of our Society: Alex Dragnich, Dimitrije Djordjevic, Fred Mesinger; Milos Ercegovac and Jelena Milojkovic-Djuric.
 - Sonja Kotlica, NASSS financial secretary gave a brief financial statement, and informed the members of her activities which included the registration of our Society in the District of Columbia, and the procedures for a tax-exempt status. Sonja registered NASSS, and advised members of legal steps our Society will have to take toward a tax-exempt status as an educational Society. Members agreed with Sonja's suggestions. Furthermore, members gave her a go-ahead to invest and reinvest the funds NASSS owns. Thank you Sonja. You rock!!!!

- Elections for the President took place. Ljubica Popovich recommended Ida Sinkevich for President. Ida's name was nominated, seconded. Ida was elected as our new President. Congratulations, Ida!!
- Rajka Gorup nominated Milica Bakic-Hayden (University of Pittsburgh) for the Vice President (President-elect). Milica's name was nominated, seconded, and she was elected as our new Vice-President. Congratulations, Milica!
- At the end of this Newsletter, please read briefs about both ladies. The able ladies are prominent scholars in their chosen fields. Ida in history of the art and Milica in religious studies. You will also read Ida's message to all members of our Society.
- During our conversation about the advertising of our Society, and the increase in general membership, it was agreed that our registration form will from now on include a space for E-mail addresses. We have to communicate with members via E-mail because it is much cheaper. However, those members who do not have E-mail will continue to receive our Newsletters via the US mail. Several years ago, we agreed that we will not give E mail addresses of our members to anyone. We have kept our promise. Be assured that your E-mail is safe with us.
- Members thanked Gordana Pesakovic (Argosy University) for editing the Newsletter while I served as the President. Thank you Gordana!
- Ruzica Krekic announced the winner of Mihajlo "Misa" Djordjevic Book prize.
- SANU member, Dr. Cedomir Antic (Belgrade, Serbia) received the 2006 prize for his book in English: Ralph Paget: A Diplomat in Serbia. (Beograd: Istorijski Institut SANU, 2006). Congratulations Professor Antic! Professor Antic was notified and the check was mailed to him.
- It was agreed to keep up with our student prize for the best essay on any theme in Serbian history, literature, arts and sciences, written by an undergraduate or graduate student. It was also agreed to keep up the stipend money for visiting scholars who are willing to participate in our panels. The visiting scholar during the 2006 convention was professor Oskar Kovac (Megatrend University, University of Belgrade Emeritus).
- Suggestions and recommendations for panels for the next AAASS Convention which will take place in New Orleans in November 2007 are:

- Lilien Filipovic (George Washington University) and Ljubica Popovich (Vanderbilt University) suggested: "The Hero and the Heroic in Serbian Art"
 - Rajka Gorup (Columbia University) suggested a round-table on "Cosmopolitans and Traditionalists in Serbian Literature"
 - Slobodan Boban Pesic (WiseFutures) suggested: "Parliamentary Monarchy in Serbia: Disutility or Necessity"
 - Ljubisa Adamovic (Florida State University) suggested: "The Balkans between the Empires"
 - Slobodanka Vladiv (Monash University) suggested: "Telling the Past: Commemoration in Serbian Literature and Cinema since the 1990's"
- Other members will participate on many other panels. You will read which panels were accepted by a Panel Committee of AAASS in our next Newsletter, no. 58, which will be published in the Fall-Winter of 2007. However, you may wish to visit the American Association for the advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS) site at:
- <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~aaass>
- At the end of the meeting, Ruzica Krekic thanked his Excellency, the Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia, Mr. Ivan Vujacic, for extending his invitation to host a cocktail party for our Society in the Embassy of the Republic of Serbia. However, due to too many different schedules, meetings, etc. of our members, our Society thanked the Ambassador and took a rain-check.
- Ruzica Krekic would also like to thank
- Mrs. Jelena Cukic-Matic, Counselor in the Embassy for all her help in distributing information about our Society and the meetings, and for coming to some of the panels despite her busy schedule.
 - Mr. and Mrs. Pantelic, Washington-based correspondents of the Serbian daily Politika, who came to some of our panels, and wrote in Politika about it.
 - Zoran Bucalo for spreading the news about our conference and panels via his website. New members joined NASSS after reading about it on Zoran's website.
 - Dusan Korac and Slobodan Boban Pesic for their commitment to re-designing and maintaining the NASSS web site (www.serbianstudies.org) and NASSS online Forum.
 - Serbica Book Store from Toronto, Canada, for exhibiting a table full of beautiful books about Serbia at the book exhibition during the AAASS National Convention. Tamara and Pedja also rock!

Thank you all new members who got in touch with me, and joined our Society.
Welcome! THANK YOU ALL!

ACTIVITIES OF OUR MEMBERS:

- David McKenzie is the author of books on Serbian history in the 19th century. Please go to the internet or to amazon.com.
- Rajka Gorup is an editor of : Advances in Functional Linguistics. (Philadelphia/Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishers, 2006). Available online.
- Svetlana Popovic organized a lecture series and an exhibition: "Images and Their Power in Byzantium" Jan 16-April 3, 2007, at the Prince George's Community College. Malboro Gallery. Rockville, MD. The following NASSS members will participate in the lecture series: Slobodan Curcic (Princeton University), Ida Sinkevic (Lafayette College), Ljubica Popovich (Vanderbilt University) and Svetlana Popovic Price George's Community College). Local NASSS members who live in the DC Metropolitan Area are encouraged to go and see the exhibit and attend lecture series. The whole program is also on the web sites of Serbian Unity Congress and Zoran Bucalo.
- Ida Sinkevic has written a chapter in: "Formation of Sacred Space in Later Byzantine Five-Domed Churches: a Hierotopic Approach in the book *Hierotopy. The Creation of Sacred Spaces in Byzantium and Medieval Russia*. (Moscow, 2006). She also presented a paper at the 21st International Congress of Byzantine Studies in London last August : "Representing Without Icon: Presence and Image of King Marko in the Church of St. Demetrios Near Susica". Her book Knights in Shining Armor: Myth and Reality 1450-1650, was published by Bunker Hill, in December 2006.

IN MEMORIAM:

Branka Mihajlovic, the wife of Vasa Mihajlovic died in December 2006. Vjecnaja Pamjat!

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- **NASSS ANNUAL DINNER AND FUND RAISING EVENT** took place on Saturday November 18, 2006 in the home of Ljubica Popovic and Ruzica Krekic in Bethesda Md.
 - Thank you all for helping out and for making this event a success! We will see you all in New Orleans. NASSS member Biljana Obradovic offered her home for our party. Thank you Biljana!
 - **Briefs about Ida Sinkevic (NASSS President) and Milica Bakic-Hayden (NASSS Vice-President)**

- Ida Sinkevic teaches Byzantine art and architecture at the Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania. She is very busy with teaching, publishing, and at home with her husband, mom and a four-year-old son Stefan.
- Milica Bakic-Hayden teaches at University of Pittsburgh. Her fields of studies include Indian religions, philosophy and theory of art, Eastern Orthodox Christianity, among many. Milica is married and lives in Pittsburgh.

MESSAGE FROM NASSS PRESIDENT:

As a newly elected President of NASSS I would like to thank the members of the Society to their vote of confidence. It is my pleasure and my honor to lead our society and I would like to encourage all our members to invest energy, time, and enthusiasm to make our society grow and flourish. Our primary goals should be to encourage active participation of all our members, to increase our membership, and to establish relationship with other organizations and societies that share our values and pursuits. We took some important steps by establishing our web-site thanks to the efforts of Dusan Korac and Boban Pesic. The NASSS web site address is:

www.serbianstudies.org.

I invite everyone to visit the site, and submit suggestions on how to make it more interesting and appealing to both members and non-members.

In addition, we should all make an effort to promote our organization, and the Serbian Studies journal. While electronic media are wide-reaching, and our newly established web-site is a significant advancement in this regard, nothing replaces human involvement. It is thus important that all of us make it a personal effort to attract at least one new member to the society. There are many Serbs and non-Serbs on this continent and worldwide who have never heard about our society. Let's make it a personal goal to reach them. It is our responsibility to make ourselves known to the world and each one of us should participate in that responsibility. We can not attract new members until and unless we become more involved.

A solid, strong society, with growing membership and active, participating members will provide a springboard for the growing worldwide awareness and impact of NASSS and the Serbian Studies journal.

Our next Newsletter, no. 58, will reach you in the Fall of 2007.

Please write to me at ruzicakrekc@yahoo.com about your activities, your suggestions; your comments; news which you would like to be published in our Newsletter, etc. Thank you!

Please pay your membership dues to Sonja Kotlica! Her address is included on the Membership form which is the last page of this Newsletter.

NASSS

- President: Ida Sinkevic (sinkevic@lafayette.edu)
- Vice President (President-elect): Milica Bakic-Hayden (rees140+@pitt.edu)
- Financial Secretary: Sonja Kotlica (sonjakot@yahoo.com)
- Serbian Studies editors: Ljubica D. Popovich and Lilien Filipovic-Robinson (lfr@gwu.edu)
- Newsletter editor: Ruzica Popovitch-Krekic (ruzicakrekc@yahoo.com)
- Secretary: Nikoleta Ilic (nilic@voanews.com)

Members of the NASSS Executive Board:

- Ida Sinkevic
- Milica Bakic-Hayden
- Rajka J. Gorup
- Bogdan Rakic
- Ljubisa Adamovic
- Ljubica D. Popovich
- Lilien Filipovic-Robinson
- Sonja Kotlica
- Ruzica Popovitch-Krekic

Members of Mihajlo “Misa” Djordjevic Book Prize Committee:

- Dimitrije Djordjevic
- David McKenzie
- Dragana Perovic-McFadden
- Ranka Gajic
- Milan Radovic
- Ljubica D. Popovich
- Ruzica Popovitch-Krekic

Important address: www.serbianstudies.org

Ruzica Popovitch-Krekic. February 2007. Los Angeles, CA.