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Editor: Hugh L. Agnew (The George Washington University)

Book Review Editor: Mary Hrabík Šámal (Oakland University)

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Manuscript submissions, books for review, and correspondence concerning editorial matters should be sent via email to the editor, Hugh L. Agnew. The email address is KosmasAgnew@gmail.com. In the event that postal correspondence proves necessary, the postal address of the editor is Hugh L. Agnew, Elliott School of International Affairs, The George Washington University, 1957 E St., NW, Suite 401, Washington, DC 20052 USA.

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From the Editor

Hugh L. Agnew

My first duty as the new editor of *Kosmas* must be to apologize to all subscribers and especially to the contributors for the delay in the appearance of this Spring, 2013 issue. As some of you may know, a disagreement between the then-editor, Francis D. Raška, and the Executive Board of SVU led to his decision to resign from the post. *Kosmas* was thus, unfortunately, left rudderless for some time, until I was persuaded to accept the responsibility of the position. It is my goal to return the journal to a regular publication schedule without losing an issue, so in spite of the delay I plan to follow Volume 26, no. 2 (Spring 2013) with Volume 27, no. 1 (Fall 2013) as quickly as possible. To that end *Kosmas* continues to welcome contributions from scholars anywhere in the world.

I would like to thank both my predecessors, Clinton Machann and Francis D. Raška, for the care, effort and time they put into maintaining the existence and quality of *Kosmas*. I can only promise to do my best to maintain the standards they have established, an undertaking whose challenges I have come to appreciate *na vlastní kůži* as I learn the ropes of editing an academic journal from the beginning.

The present volume contains articles and essays reflecting themes that have appeared in the pages of *Kosmas* in earlier issues, embodying interests that unite many of our readers. Bruce Vlk continues his story of Czech and Slovak immigration and emigration, begun in *Kosmas*, Vol. 25, no. 2, by turning from the Czech and Slovak communities of Prince George County, Virginia, to the story of the Czech settlements in Volhynia (from whence some of those Virginia Czechs eventually departed Europe for America). Karolina Slamová presents a valuable study of the Czech exile Igor Hájek, who ended up being a significant bridge linking the English-speaking literary world with Czech culture and vice versa through his contributions to Czech studies in the United Kingdom, his place of refuge after 1968. Thomas G. Masaryk informs two contributions to this issue: in one, Zdeněk David continues his long-running exploration of aspects of the philosophical foundation of Masaryk's thought, and its influence on later figures, by exploring Masaryk's legacy in the thought of Václav Havel. A comparative viewpoint is also taken by Josette Baer in her study of the relationship between Masaryk and the Slovak patriot Svetozár Hurban Vajanský, investigating the roots of their falling-out at the end of the nineteenth century, and locating it in their differing world-views. Finally, the indefatigable Mila Rechcigl shares fascinating details about Czech and Slovak pioneer settlement in the Northwest of the North American continent, a fitting tribute to the region in which the SVU held its 2013 Regional Conference this summer.

Zdeněk Salzmann turns his attention in his essay on the Czech verb to one of the aspects of the Czech language that certainly frustrates foreigners who try to learn it, but also rewards those who persevere with the richness and expressivity of the language through its verb forms. Sylva Simsova shares a fascinating account of her departure from Czechoslovakia in 1949 and the experiences she