

THE ASSOCIATION FOR CROATIAN STUDIES  
c/o Prof. George J. Prpić  
Department of History  
John Carroll University  
Cleveland, Ohio 44118

A N N O U N C E M E N T No. 2

December 1978

TO ALL PRESENT AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS OF THE ACS

We addressed our last letter to you on September 27, 1978. This was before we went to Columbus, Ohio to the Tenth National Convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies. It was held at the Neil House Motor Hotel during October 12-15.

It was the first time that our Association participated in the Convention of this largest American and international organization of Slavic and East European studies. On the first day the ACS held its session "Croatia and the Croats in the 1970's" at 3:00 p.m. in parlor 11. The meeting was attended by more than sixty people of whom about a dozen were American Croats. Among the audience in the crowded room was also Mr. Mihajlo Mihajlov, the well known dissident writer from SFRY.

Dr. Joseph T. Bombelles, the president of the ACS opened and chaired our meeting. The main speaker was Prof. Mirko Vidović from Lyon, France, the Croatian writer and author of the book The Hidden Side of the Moon in which he described his imprisonment in SFRY. Vidović spoke in French about "Yugoslav Gulag and Human Rights." Dr. Helen Sanko (John Carroll University) was the interpreter.

Prof. Ante Kadić of Indiana University (one of our vice-presidents) read his paper "Contemporary Croatian Humorists." Prof. George J. Prpić of John Carroll University spoke about "Some Anniversaries Observed in 1978." Discussant was Prof. Thomas F. Magner of the Pennsylvania State University. On the whole, this first public appearance and panel session of the ACS under the auspices of the AAASS was quite successful. After a discussion and question period the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

On Friday, October 13 the ACS had a meeting of the provisional executive committee and members in Room 567 of the Neil House from 9:30 a.m. until 11:00 when it moved to Ante Kadić's room for further deliberations. During almost four hours of this very fruitful meeting many questions pertaining to the ACS were discussed and a plan for future activities was laid out. Present were: Dr. Bombelles (who chaired the meeting), profs. Kadić, Eterovich and Prpić (members of the Provisional Executive Committee), George Jerkovich, Drago Sporer, Mirko Vidović, Theodore Ivanuš, Rev. Ljubo Krasić, William March, Ivo Banac, and Vlado Strmski.

It was stressed that the ACS is a scholarly organization whose aims are described in its "Proposed Constitution and By-Laws." Suggestions were expressed about its revision. We should follow the example of the Slovenians and their Society for Slovene Studies; they in fact inspired us and encouraged us to establish this association. The ACS will try to get new members - especially those of non-Croatian origin - who are interested in Croatian studies within the general area of East European and Slavic Studies.

It was decided that the Provisional Executive Committee become now a permanent one and that as of this day, October 13, 1978, the ACS be officially organized. The present "Constitution and By-Laws" were accepted under the condition that they will be revised. This revision also depends on our affiliation with the AAASS which as of this day was still not granted. Our most important concern is to become affiliated with AAASS.

In our revised "Constitution" the first four articles will become our "Charter" while the rest will form the "By-Laws." They can be ammended by a two-third majority of the voting members. Various other items were discussed including the agenda for the future participation at AAASS Convention.

Later on the same day at a supper meeting in the same hotel Drs. Maria and Ivo Tuškan, Gračan, and Omrčanin joined us in honoring Mirko Vidović and in discussion of the future ACS activities.

A majority of our members stayed at the AAASS Convention until its last day. On that day, Sunday October 15, 1978, the Board of Directors of the AAASS voted in favor of granting the affiliation to our Association. We are therefore happy to inform all our present and future members that we are now affiliated with the AAASS.

We are enclosing a copy of the letter by Dr. Jan S. Adams, Executive Secretary of the AAASS of November 15, 1978, informing us about this important step in our existence. (See next page!)



## American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies

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ROOM 254, 190 WEST NINETEENTH AVENUE  
 THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
 COLUMBUS, OHIO 43210 (614) 422-1105

November 15, 1978

Dr. Joseph T. Bombelles  
 Professor of Economics  
 Director, Chair in Ecology  
 John Carroll University  
 Cleveland, OH 44118

Dear Dr. Bombelles:

I am pleased to inform you officially that the Board of Directors of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, at their meeting on October 15, 1978 in Columbus, Ohio, unanimously approved the request of the Association for Croatian Studies as an affiliate of the AAASS. Kindly accept our warm welcome and good wishes!

We were happy to have the participation of many members of your organization at the recent session on "Croatia and the Croats in the 1970s" at our annual meeting, and the AAASS looks forward to a happy and productive relationship with your association in the years ahead.

We will appreciate it if you will inform your members about the affiliation. Kindly extend our welcome, too, to all of those who will be joining the AAASS as new individual members. For this purpose, I am forwarding 30 AAASS membership application forms to Professor Prpic, as he has requested.

Once again, may I express our pleasure in working with your association in the pursuit of our mutual, scholarly goals.

Sincerely,

Jan S. Adams  
 Executive Secretary

sk  
 cc: Robert Byrnes  
 George Prpic

We are glad that the Board of Directors of the AAASS unanimously approved our request for affiliation. We thank them for warm welcome and good wishes. We also look forward to a happy and productive relationship with the AAASS in the years ahead. All the members of our Executive Committee and quite a few of our members already belong to the AAASS, some of them from its very inception. We urge all our members who still don't belong to AAASS to join it. It is a very good scholarly organization, the largest and best of this kind in the world. From now on our ACS is a part of it as its affiliate. As secretary-treasurer of the ACS I am going to mail the membership applications to those of you who will be joining the AAASS. The President of the AAASS is Dr. Robert F. Byrnes of Indiana University, a nationally known historian, an eminent expert in the field of East European Studies, an old friend of several of our members. I am also happy to inform you that one of our members is Dr. James F. Magner of the Pennsylvania State University who has published extensively on the language and various problems of Croatia and SFRY.

As of now we have only 15 members who paid their dues; almost all of them also gave their donations for the expenses involved in our participation at Columbus convention. Our present cash is about \$90.00. I am enclosing the application form for new members and for those who already paid the dues but did not fill out the form.

Annual dues are \$6.00.

We are now in the process of preparing two panel sessions for the National Convention of the AAASS in 1979. We welcome your suggestions and we will keep you informed on the progress of our work.

In these and all other activities we need support and active involvement of all members. Only then we can be successful in our goals.

If you wish to contact me in a hurry call me at 216,491-4366 (John Carroll University, Department of History) or at 932-4493 (home).

I am looking forward to hearing from you and I wish you a very good, healthy and successful New Year!

Cordially,

*George J. Prpic*

George J. Prpic  
Secretary-treasurer  
the Association for  
Croatian Studies