



AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

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NEWSLETTER

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Substantial Progress on Woodrow Wilson Monument Wilson Statue Being Cast in Bronze



(Left) Sculptor Michal Blažek cleans plaster mold of Wilson statue. (Right) Specialists encase clay model of statue in plaster with reinforcing rods.

AFoCR's sculptor team finished the clay model of the statue of Woodrow Wilson in late June and in early August commenced work on the plaster casting. The casting into plaster ultimately led to the destruction of the clay model. The sculptors first coated the clay model with a blue plaster, which was added on in successive layers. As the sculptors applied the plaster, they embedded metal bars to provide form and strength. The mass of plaster covering the clay was then cut open into several parts, and the clay was removed from the insides, which were completely cleaned. The result was a negative mold of the statue; this mold then was used to make a positive replica of the statue in plaster. As a final step, the sculptors went over the entire casting with fine chisels to remove imperfections and shape final details.

AFoCR's Czech architects approved the plaster model in late September. It was then cut into pieces and handed over to the foundry in early October. The completion of the plaster casting was reported in both the *Prague Post* and *Pražský deník*.

The foundry that will do the bronze casting, owned by Ondřej Špaček, is considered to be one of the best in the Czech Republic. It is located in the outlying Lysolaje district of Prague. Špaček is the son of the renowned Czech sculptor Josef Špaček. He studied artistic metal casting and opened one of the first foundries in the former Czechoslovakia that specialized in casting bronze sculptures with the lost wax process. He has done work for the leading sculptors in the Czech Republic, and his foundry also produced the busts of the National Theatre actors that are displayed in the theater's foyer. The foundry has cast statues of Tomáš Masaryk that are displayed in a number of Czech cities,
(Continued on page 3)

Wilson Dedication Planned

The long-anticipated dedication of the rebuilt Woodrow Wilson Monument is now less than a year away. The ceremony will culminate over three years of painstaking effort by the architects, sculptors, foundry craftsmen, and stone cutters. Their considerable talent and skills will have recreated the historic monument that was brought down at the hands of history and war.

Planning is now underway for the dedication ceremony, special celebrations, and commemorative events. The proceedings marking the historic dedication will take place over a period of three days in early October 2011.

Events in the planning stages include an exhibit on the history of Wilson and Masaryk, a seminar on the significant contributions of Wilson, and commemorative concert events. A Gala dinner and reception will celebrate the historic dedication. As plans are finalized, further details will be made available.



A moment in history is captured as President Masaryk departs the dedication ceremony for the Wilson Monument on July 4, 1928.

Photo: reproduction of a curated item from the museum collections administered by the City of Prague Museum, Albin Polasek.



AFoCR Gala Dinner Set for March in NYC

*(Left) Bohemian National Hall at Night
Photo by: Pavel Semerak*

The 2011 AFoCR Gala dinner will take place in mid-March 2011 in New York City to celebrate the return of the Woodrow Wilson Monument to Prague. The dinner will be held in the ballroom of the historic Bohemian Hall on New York's Upper East Side in cooperation with the Bohemian Benevolent and Literary Association. Funds raised will go to the Woodrow Wilson Monument Project. Details on the Gala event will be announced soon.

Letter from AFoCR President Thomas A. Dine



Dear Friends of the Czech Republic,

What will the year 2011 bring in terms of America's foreign policy and U.S.-Czech relations?

Questions abound within American Friends of the Czech Republic and beyond concerning this question. Does the Obama Administration have an overarching global strategy? What will be the President's foreign policy priorities and major pursuits during years three and four of his term in office? Regarding Europe, what are the threats; what are the opportunities; where does the United States want to be at the end of 2011? Where do democratic countries of Central Europe, with their troops and treasures invested in Iraq and Afghanistan, fit into the big picture? Are they favored European democratic allies or are they relegated to the periphery of current foreign policy thinking? How will the U.S. and NATO deal with today's Russia?

We of AFoCR, committed and knowledgeable American citizens, want constructive answers to these questions. As close friends of our Czech partner, we want to see at a minimum in calendar year 2011 the following:

1. An American Ambassador in place in Prague. This important position has sat empty for two whole years. Recent high-ranking Czech officials visiting Washington DC have voiced "frustration" that there is no U.S. ambassador living and working and socializing in the Czech Republic, representing the President, carrying out policies and attaining outcomes that the most potent country in the world wants regarding its security and political interests. Czechs fear that the absence of an ambassador for so long is a reflection on them. As of this writing at the beginning of December, Norman Eisen, an accomplished Washington attorney and the Obama nominee to be our envoy to the Czech Republic, has had his appointment held up by Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA) for personal reasons. His staff has indicated that the Senator does not plan to change his mind. This is obviously a foolish, polarizing action, and it disservices America's interest.

2. More assertive American diplomacy toward our trans-Atlantic allies is in order. This needs to include a modernization of NATO. Russia, however, no longer quavers at the thought of NATO. Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov recently said that NATO is not a threat, only a "danger." Since Vladimir Putin's anti-Western speech in Munich three years ago, the Kremlin is re-charting its foreign policy, considering "zones of privileged interests," and trying to look like its Czarist and Soviet expansionist predecessors. As Leslie Gelb, a veteran and wise foreign policy practitioner, has recently written, "Today, the United States continues to be the world's power balancer of choice. It is the only regional balancer against Russia in eastern Europe, Iran in the Middle East, and China in Asia."

3. This is the age of economic power. Strengthening the economy of a key ally by a U.S.-Czech free trade agreement, expanding American business investments, providing access to all markets, promoting favorable exchange rates, and conducting science and math educational exchanges should be the basics of U.S. policy in 2011. Economics and environmental issues are today's primary concerns in international relations.

These three agenda items will be, I hope, United States policy initiatives with the Czech Republic in 2011.

AFoCR Annual Meeting Held

The annual meeting of the AFoCR Board of Directors was held November 10 in Washington. The meeting included reports on the year's activities, financial reports, election of officers, and approval of plans for 2011.

Chairman of the Board Fred Malek and President Tom Dine presided over a meeting with a full agenda and a record number of attendees. Czech Ambassador to the United Nations and AFoCR Advisor Martin Palouš spoke briefly about the current Czech - U.S. relationship. Robert Doubek briefed the Board on progress on the Wilson Monument project and the completion of the bronze casting of the statue next summer. Advisors Wendy Luers and Ambassador Adrian Basora also attended the meeting.

The Board elected Patricia Stack as a Director and Hana Callaghan as Treasurer. Callaghan succeeds Peter Rafaeli, who now retires as AFoCR's longest serving officer. The Board held a brief ceremony honoring Rafaeli's leadership and service to AFoCR, which - in addition to Treasurer - included terms as President and Vice President.



*Newly Elected AFoCR
Director
Patricia Stack*



*Newly Elected AFoCR
Treasurer
Hana Callaghan*



Peter Rafaeli, completing an unprecedented eight-year term as AFoCR Treasurer, receives special recognition award from Tom Dine and Fred Malek. The award was created by noted Czech-born master engraver Mirek Havel.

Substantial Progress on Woodrow Wilson Monument *(continued from page 1)*

and one of Špaček's master craftsmen started his career in the same foundry where Franta Anýž cast the original statue of Woodrow Wilson in 1928. In addition to casting the statue, the foundry is responsible for installing it on the pedestal. Špaček is to complete the casting and finishing of the bronze statue in seven months.

In addition to the work on the statue, there has been substantial progress with the monument's construction process. The Prague City Magistrate in October chose a construction and stonemason firm to do the grading and landscaping of the site and construct the monument's foundation, base, and pedestal. The firm is Jez, a.s. (www.janjez.cz). The granite for the pedestal and base were quarried in late November, just prior to the closing of the quarry for the winter. City of Prague authorities have reviewed the design and plans for the monument, and all affected offices have granted approvals.

Planning is also underway for the fabrication, inscription, and

shipping of the granite plaques for the Walk of Freedom, which will be installed along the pathway leading to the monument. The Walk will permanently recognize individuals, families, companies, and organizations that have made significant contributions to rebuilding the monument. The granite will come from a quarry near Staunton, Virginia, where Woodrow Wilson was born. American architect Paul Beckmann and AFoCR Project Director Robert Doubek are working with a stone company in Virginia on the detailed specifications and schedule to cut and inscribe the plaques for the Walk. The inscriptions will be sandblasted and a computer-based process will be used to cut the rubber stencils, thereby ensuring accuracy.

As of publication of this newsletter, 83 donors to the Woodrow Wilson Monument project have made gifts of \$2,500 or more that will be recognized with plaques on the Walk of Freedom. The dedication of the monument has been set for the first week in October 2011, so that donors who wish to have plaques installed as of the dedication must make their contributions and draft their inscriptions by next May.

Her Excellency Iveta Radičová, Prime Minister of Slovakia, Delivers Annual Czech and Slovak Freedom Lecture on 11/10/10.

Photos by Lillis Werder and Woodrow Wilson Center



H.E. Dr. Iveta Radičová is welcomed at the Woodrow Wilson Center by Michael Van Dusen, Ex. V.P. of the Woodrow Wilson Center



AFoCR's Peter Rafaeli greets H.E. Dr. Iveta Radičová, Slovakia's Prime Minister



AFoCR President Tom Dine presents H.E. Dr. Iveta Radičová with Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of AFoCR and FOS



H.E. Dr. Iveta Radičová speaks to a large audience at the Wilson International Center for Scholars



Group photo L. to R. Joe Senko, Chairman of Friends of Slovakia, Amb. Theodore Russell, Founding Chairman FoS, Michael Van Dusen, Ex. V.P. of the Woodrow Wilson Center, H.E. Dr. Radičová, AFoCR's Peter A. Rafaeli. H.E. Peter Burian, Ambassador of the Slovak republic to the United States, Bill Tucker, FoS President, Julie Slavik, FoS Secretary



H.E. Dr. Iveta Radičová takes questions from the audience after her speech at the Wilson International Center for Scholars

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