

Yugoslav Association for Canadian studies (YACS)

The Central European journal of Canadian studies. 2001, vol. 1, iss. [1], pp. 65-

ISBN 80-210-2704-5

ISSN 2336-4556 (online)

Stable URL (handle): <https://hdl.handle.net/11222.digilib/116098>

Access Date: 02. 12. 2024

Version: 20220831

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REPORTS / RAPPORTS

Yugoslav Association for Canadian Studies (YACS)

The YACS was formed on 8th February 2001 in Belgrade after a few months of intensive preparations. The representatives of all Yugoslav universities met at the Canadian Embassy where they were hosted by Miss Kelly Anderson, Second Secretary and Mrs. Olgica Marinkovic, Academic and Cultural Relations Officer. Ms. Angela Bogdan, Ambassador of Canada, who had been previously acquainted with the whole idea, gave her enthusiastic support of the event.

Canada-related activities in the region started in 1987 with the founding of the Literary and Cultural Association Yugoslavia - Canada whose members met biennially at the event known as the Canadian Weekend and regularly published the Proceedings. The new Association will also work on bringing together teachers, artists and writers but on a more academic level with the primary goal of promoting and developing Canadian Studies in that part of the world. The targeted population are students and their professors who share an interest in various fields of Canadian Studies.

The organisational board consisting of eight academics from Serbia and Montenegro chose professor Vesna Lopicic as president for the following two years. Professor Zoran Milenkovic, University Rector, wholeheartedly supported the cause by providing the YACS with office space in Nis, southern Serbia, which will be the centre of regional Canadian Studies activities. Contact: Vesna Lopičić. E-mail: lovevuk@bankerinter.net.

Recent activities in Canadian Studies in Hungary

Most major universities and colleges in the capital, as well as in provincial towns offer courses related to Canada, many of them also house a Canadian Studies Centre. Courses on various aspects of Canadian culture – with a very strong emphasis on literature – have been part of the curriculum in Hungarian higher education for over 20 years. Both teaching and research focus on literature (English-Canadian, French-Canadian/Québécois and ethnic) but recently Canadian history, law, philosophy and economics have also received attention. Canadian studies courses are offered on college level as well as on university and Ph.D. level. The first successful Ph.D. dissertation was defended in 2000 (Edina Szalay), while the first so-called „habilitation” took place in 2001 (Katalin Kürtösi) – both were examining problematics of Canadian literature in the wider North American context and both events were carried out at the University of Debrecen. In May 2001, the college of Eger (Judit Kádár) invited thesis writing students for the Young Canadianists’ Forum to exchange ideas and share their research findings with one another and with their professors. The traditional annual festival of student acting companies in English – organised by Péter Szaffkó in Debrecen – had three English-Canadian plays on the programme.

Most Hungarian Canadianists actively participate in national and regional conferences with their papers and chairing sessions: Anna Jakabfi, Judit Molnár and Edina Szalay read papers in Torun, Éva Martonyi, Miléna Horváth and Zsuzsa Simonffy went to the conference on francophone studies in Strassbourg, papers by Judit Molnár, Péter Szaffkó, Edina Szalay, Dóra Pődör, Krisztina Kádár and Katalin Kürtösi created two