

FRANTIŠEK ŠMAHEL HONORED BY THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

The American Historical Association has elected František Šmahel to be an Honorary Foreign Member. He becomes the second member of Collegium Carolinum to receive this distinction; the late Karl Bosl was the first in 1990. The AHA announced its choice of Šmahel on 3 January 1997 during its 111th Annual Meeting held 2–5 January in New York City. It established the category of Honorary Foreign Member in 1885, when it elected Leopold von Ranke as its initial honoree. Šmahel is the 81st historian to be elected, the first Czech and the third from a predominantly Slavic country. The other two were Mikhail N. Tikhomirov (USSR, 1963) and P. A. Zaionchkovskii (USSR, 1967). The only other East European elected was David Prodan (Romania, 1986).

Šmahel's election was announced by incoming AHA president Prof. Joyce Appleby (University of California, Los Angeles) in a ceremony attended by about 250 persons at the Association's General Meeting in the New York Hilton. She cited Šmahel's contributions to Hussite and Reformation studies, his roles in directing the Historical Institute of the Czechoslovak and Czech Academies of Science since 1989 and in opening Czech historiography to world influences, and his help to and recognition of American scholars conducting research in his country. She quoted from letters endorsing Šmahel's candidacy written by specialists in medieval and early modern history in the United States, Germany, Great Britain, France, and Switzerland as testimony to his international reputation. Šmahel's curriculum vitae lists over 900 published items, including numerous monographs, books, and articles in journals and collaborative works.

In addition to directing the Historical Institute, Šmahel serves as Professor and Head of the Seminar on Czech Medieval History at the Philosophical Faculty of Charles University; Editor-in-Chief of *Český časopis historický*, Chairman of the František Palacký Foundation, and member of the International Commission of the History of Universities, among others. In 1994, he won the Forschungspreis der Stiftung Historisches Kolleg München, and in 1996 the Hans-Sigrist-Preis of the University of Bern for outstanding service to and research on the history of East Central Europe.

Prof. Šmahel was unable to come to New York for the ceremony. Its only mishap occurred when Prof. Appleby forgot to ask the representative from the Permanent

Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations, who was delegated to accept the award in Šmahel's behalf, to come forward while she read the citation. It will be sent to him in Prague and was reprinted in the February 1997 issue of the AHA's newsletter. The Honorary Foreign Membership is limited to 30 living scholars. They receive the *American Historical Review* and other benefits associated with regular membership, and are exempt from paying dues. German honorary members, apart from von Ranke and Bosl, have included Theodor Mommsen (1900), Friedrich Meinecke (1947), Franz Schnabel (1952), Gerhard Ritter (1959), and Fritz Fischer (1984).

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