



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES JOURNALISTES ET ECRIVAINS DU TOURISME  
WORLD FEDERATION OF TRAVEL JOURNALISTS AND WRITERS  
FEDERACION MUNDIAL DE PERIODISTAS Y ESCRITORES DE TURISMO

## FIJET NEWSLETTER – March, 2012



Ceský Krumlov was honored with the FIJET Pomme d'or (Golden Apple) during a ceremony in that town on March 15, 2012

*“Don't part with your illusions. When they are gone you may still exist but you have ceased to live”*  
– Mark Twain

### **Important Information**

**March 31, 2012** – Final day for submitting intension to run for office in the FIJET Elections. Also finally deadline for paying dues for 2012 and for all members to be registered on the FIJET website. Filur to register at least the minimum number of people (10) on the the FIJET website means that the National Association in question will not be allowed to have a candidate in the FIJET elections.

**March 31, 2012** – Deadline for submitting articles and stories from the 53<sup>rd</sup> FIJET World Congress in Romania. Do not miss this deadline or you will NOT be allowed to attend the upcoming Congress and you could be expelled from FIJET.

**September 30, 2012** – Deadline for submitting articles and stories from the Board of Directors meeting in the Czech Republic. If you miss this deadline, you will not be allowed to attend the upcoming Congress and you are subject to being expelled from FIJET.

### **Contents:**

**From the Editor's Desk** – Jim looks at the political intrigue surrounding the upcoming FIJET elections that was swirling around the Board meetings in the Czech Republic and thanks Miroslav Navara for a wonderful event.

**FIJET News** – The latest information about the FIJET 2012 World Congress in Egypt; All members are asked to register on the FIJET website; FIJET Board of Directors meeting notes to be available later; Golden Apple presented to Cesky Krumlov; Details of the 2012 Young Journalists Academy to be held in Maribor along with the program; an invitation to the Global Media Forum; an invitation to join the European Journalists 50<sup>th</sup> Congress; Rules governing requirements for publishing following a Congress or meeting.

**News From Around FIJET** – A report on the Board of Directors meeting in the Czech Republic by FIJET member Walter Roggeman (UBJET, FIJET-Belgium); a report on the Golden Apple presented to the town of Cesky Krumlov.

**Special Report** – Columnist Bob Fisher (*TravelJourno*, FIJET-North America) reports on “battlefield travel” as a growing and most interesting segment of the travel industry and a possible source of revenue for travel writers.

### **Editor:**

**Jim Thompson** ([jim@traveljourn.com](mailto:jim@traveljourn.com))

### **Important note:**

The newsletter is open to all members of FIJET. Your news, articles, and other contributions are welcomed and appreciated. Please send all submissions for consideration to the newsletter editors.

**FIJET Website:** <http://www.fijet-web.com> or <http://www.fijet.net>

NOTE: Previous newsletters can be found on the website.

**Update your Email.** We are doing all that we can to ensure that all members of FIJET receive the newsletter via email each month. However, we are limited in this effort by the email addresses that are provided to us. If you have recently changed your email, or you or someone in your association is not receiving the newsletter, please provide us with the current address. This is the ONLY way to insure that you receive the newsletter in your email box. If you do not have an email address or have not been getting the newsletter, you can access it via the FIJET website (<http://www.fijet.net>).



## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

### Politics, Politics, Politics.

The FIJET Board of Directors meetings this month in the Czech Republic allowed Board members to discuss several important issues and, from the standpoint of FIJET business, the **meetings were successful**. Meanwhile, behind the scenes, there was another story going on. It was a story of one of **political intrigue and jockeying for position**.

The week-long event, saw Board members **sizing up potential candidates** and asking if any of them might make a good addition to the new Executive Committee.

This was not necessarily bad because it demonstrates the **importance of the elections** and underscored the fact that the **Board is taking a serious approach to the process**.



Make no mistake, **these elections are important**. They will determine the very **future of FIJET** and establish our **standing as an international journalist organization**. I urge everyone – not just the members of the FIJET Board of Directors – to **get involved in this process**. Yes. It is the members of the Board of Directors who actually cast the votes. But, it is members of the individual National Associations who should be **voicing their opinion to their Presidents** and/or Board representatives and urging them to represent their feelings in the election.

Considering what is at stake – and that **emotions and opinions seem to be running high** – I hope that the elections will be conducted in a **calm, fair manner**. It is good to have passionate feelings about candidates and issues, but we cannot let our emotions stand in the way of **forging a strong future for FIJET**. Our goal should be to select representatives who are **willing and able to work for FIJET**, who have the best interest of all the members at heart and who do not want to force change solely for the sake of change.



We still have a long time to go before the voting. At the time this column was written, we had not even reached the deadline for candidates to declare their intention to run for office. But, some potential **candidates are already trying to solicit votes**. There are even those who want to **make a deal for your vote**, with pleas such as “you vote for me and I will vote for you,” or “vote for me and I will help you get what you want.”

The election is an **opportunity for change**, so we must approach it in a sober, calm manner. **Deals will not solve our problems**. I urge everyone to look closely at the candidates and **ask yourself who will actually work for FIJET** and for the changes that are needed. We owe it to our fellow members to take a serious, rational approach to the election and not be swayed by false promises.



Take your time and select the best candidates. **Look at their past performance**, not at any desperate deals they may be offering. The only deal you have an obligation to full fill is to vote for the candidates who will work for FIJET and serve the members, not those who seeking glory and expect to sit back and do nothing.

The **elections can be a another milestone for FIJET** or they could result in a divisive fight that would do serious harm to ability of the future Executive Committee to perform their job and to guide FIJET into a bright future.

Due to the timing, the final minutes of the Board meeting were not ready when the newsletter was being prepared. The **minutes will be sent to the Board members** and then published in the April FIJET newsletter.

I want to also thank our colleague **Miroslav Navara** (FIJET-Czech Republic) for organizing the excellent program for the Board meeting and the Golden Apple presentation in the Czech Republic. Please see the article by **Walter Roggeman** (UBJET, FIJET–Belgium) in this edition of the newsletter. **Thanks, Miroslav and Walter for a wonderful job!**

***Jim Thompson***  
***FIJET Executive Committee***  
***Director of FIJET Congresses & Meetings***



## FIJET NEWS

**2012 Congress in Egypt** – Plans are progressing for the 2012 FIJET World Congress to be held in Egypt. During the Board of Directors meeting in the Czech Republic, Executive Committee member, Salah Attia, noted that the Congress is planned from October 8-15, 2012 with two days in Cairo, then two days at the Red Sea resort of En Kohna, two nights in Alexandria and the final night in Cairo. He also noted that careful attention is being paid to the political situation in Egypt. The first round of the Presidential election will be held in May with the second round (if needed) in June. Following the elections a better assessment will be made to determine if the Congress will be held in Egypt as scheduled.



**Register Your Members** – All FIJET members are asked to register on the FIJET website. We have been asking you do this for more than a year and I am sure that you are getting tired of hearing it. Unfortunately, we still do not have registrations from everyone. We need you to register for several reasons. First, it will allow us to finally publish a Member Directory. Second, it will validate your Association and allow you to have a candidate in the upcoming elections and the participate as a full member in all FIJET activities. Third, it will save everyone time and effort when you register for a Congress or meeting. For example, when you enter your member number when registering for a Congress, most of the information (name, address, telephone, country, National Association, etc.) will be automatically filled in for you. All you will need to do is to enter your arrival and departure dates and your flight information and you are finished.



National Association Presidents can get a list of the people who have registered from their Association by following these instructions:

1. Login to the FIJET website. You do this by entering you Member number and your password. If you have never done this before, then the password is "open." You just enter any password that you want and it becomes your permanent password, so do not forget what you enter the first time.
2. Select "**Members Only**" from the upper menu bar.
3. Click on "**Association Members**" on the lefts side of the page. You should get a list of your registered members.

**Board Meeting in the Czech Republic** – The FIJET Board of Directors meeting was held in the Czech Republic from March 14-19. A report on the many activities by the Board is included in a report by Walter Roggeman (UBJET, FIJET-Belgium) in the "News From Around FIJET" section of this newsletter.

**Golden Apple Presented to Cesky Krumlov** – The coveted FIJET Pomme d’or (Golden Apple) was presented to Cesky Krumlov during a very special ceremony. A report by Jim Thompson can be found in the “News From Around FIJET” section of this newsletter.

## **2012 Young Journalists Academy Set for June**

Anyone wishing to participate in the Young Journalist Academy should apply immediately in order to secure a space. Applicants must fill out an application form (obtainable by sending an email to Cveta Potocnik at: [cveta.dotocnik@rtvslo.si](mailto:cveta.dotocnik@rtvslo.si) or to Drago Bulc at: [drago.blc@gmail.com](mailto:drago.blc@gmail.com)). Final deadline for submitting the application is April 15, 2012. Further details can be found at: [www.fijet-academy.com](http://www.fijet-academy.com)



### **FIJET ACADEMY 2012 IN MARIBOR, SLOVENIA “CULTURE AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM” UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF UNWTO**

The **3. Academy for Young Travel Journalists** will take place from June 1 to June 8 2012 in the second largest town in the Republic Slovenia – in **Maribor**. This magnificent town on the banks of the River Drava, which is connecting four European countries Italy, Austria, Slovenia and Croatia, is situated at the outskirts of the Alps and sweeps with its wine growing hills gently down to the Pannonia Plain. The city boasts with 400 years old vine, which is officially recognised as the Oldest Vine in the world by Guinness book of world records.

FIJET Academy for Young Travel Journalists is an original project of FIJET Slovenia/Association of Travel Journalists, which aim is to provide additional training for young travel journalists, above all in the field of sustainable tourism, in collaboration with internationally recognised experts, combined with a study of established examples of good practice both in Slovenia and in other countries. An additional aim of the project is to facilitate networking among young travel journalists from all over the world, who, while improving their knowledge of sustainable tourism, will get to know Slovenian tourism and promote it around the world through the media they work for.

As Maribor is for the year 2012 designated European Capital of Culture and hundreds cultural events with a strong European dimension will be organized and the town on the River Drava will attract thousands of international visitors, the Board of the Academy in accordance with FIJET EC and BoD for the third Academy has chosen the theme “Culture and sustainable tourism”. In the program among other events the visit to the nearby Austrian city Graz will be included, since this city was European Capital of Culture in the year 2003. As Academy is always



an edutainment event participants will have the possibility to visit different cultural events and performances as well as tourist and cultural attractions in Maribor and its surroundings.

FIJET Academy Direktor Drago Bulc in November during the World Travel Market in London met with Taleb Rifai, Secretary General of the World Tourism Organization UNWTO. Taleb Rifai confirmed the interest of UNWTO to support the Academy. Details of this cooperation will be coordinated by Marcelo Risi, Principal Media Officer UNWTO, who was also one of the speakers at the second Academy earlier this year in Portorož, the leading tourist resort on the Slovenian Riviera.



**ACADEMY FOR YOUNG TRAVEL JOURNALISTS**  
**CULTURE - THE GREENEST SEGMENT OF TOURISM**  
**Maribor, Slovenia, 1 – 7 June 2012**

**PRELIMINARY PROGRAM**

**June 1 2012, Friday**

Arrival of participants to Hotel City Maribor ([www.cityhotel-mb.si](http://www.cityhotel-mb.si)), Maribor  
19.00 Get together

**June 2 2012, Saturday**

09.00 **Beginning of the educational programme Culture – the greenest segment of tourism**

09.00 – 11.00 **WORKING SESSION 1**

09.00 – 09.15 **Drago Bulc**, Academy director: Introduction to the theme

09.15 – 09.45 **Helena Cviki, MSc.**, 2012 Academy Programme Director, Director of Vocational College for Catering and Tourism and the Vice President of International association of the leading hotel schools in Europe (EURHODIP): Taste Slovenia – Project integrating Slovenian culinary heritage in modern hospitality

- 09.45 – 10.00 **Milan Razdevšek**, manager of Maribor Tourist Board: ECOC - A chance for breakthrough of Maribor's cultural programmes
- 10.00 – 10.30 **Mitja Čander**, Programme director of European Capital of Culture Maribor (ECOC): Has the first half of the ECOC fulfilled expectations?
- 10.30 – 11.00 Discussion
- 11.00 – 11.30 Break
- 11.30 - 14.00 **WORKING SESSION 2 (Cases):**
- 11.30 – 12.00 **Marcelo Risi**, Principal Media Officer UNWTO: Culture a vital tool for the development of a sustainable tourism sector
- 12.00 – 12.30 **Jose A. Dielens**, Association of European Cities and regions for culture and official representative of FIJET: European capitals of Culture – all of them benefited?
- 12.30 – 13.00 **Beáta Seres**, International Press Relations, Pecs2010 Management Centre: Heir of the Pécs 2010 European Capital of Culture
- 13.00 – 13.30 **Prof. dr. Mario Plenkovič**, Faculty for Tourism University of Maribor and member of Network of UNESCO Chairs in Communications (ORBICOM): Culture in Travel Media
- 13.30 – 14.00 **Dr. Vlasta Kučič**, Faculty for Tourism University of Maribor: Communicating Culture in Travel Media
- 14.30 Brunch in Old Vine House (next to the oldest vine in the world, with an age of over 400 years it is registered in the Guinness Book of Records).
- 16.00 Visiting Maribor Wine Road and Meljski hrib with vineyards and cellars, visit of Anderlič wine cellar

Evening free to visit an event of ECOC

### **June 3 2012, Sunday**

09.00 Excursion to **Pohorje Hills**

#### **WORKING SESSION 3:**

- Photographic workshop with **Ryker Lomas**, renowned travel and official FIJET photographer: Creative Travel Photography
- Herb workshop: Integrating local products in gastronomic programmes

15.00 Dinner in traditional Slovenian Restaurant Pri Lipi

Evening free to visit an event of ECOC

### **June 4 2012, Monday**

09.00 Excursion to **Graz** – European Capital of Culture 2003 and the second largest city in Austria

#### **WORKING SESSION 4:**

- **Dieter Hardt-Stremayr**, managing director of Graz Tourist Office and President of European Cities marketing: Aims of European Cities Marketing, which is promoting and linking the interests of more than 120 members from more than 100 major cities in 32 European countries
- Sightseeing of Graz and urban culture areas designed in 2003

## **June 5 2012, Tuesday**

08.00 Excursion to **Ptuj** - Partner city of ECOC and the oldest Slovenian city with rich cultural and natural heritage

### **WORKING SESSION 5:**

- 10.00 Meeting the Mayor of Ptuj: Presenting projects for preservation of the oldest Slovenian town

(Sightseeing)

Travel to wine growing region Prlekija

18.00 Dinner and overnight stay in **Dvorec Jeruzalem** (The Jeruzalem Mansion), surrounded by picturesque terraced vineyards and hilly landscape of Perlekija region

## **June 6 2012, Wednesday**

08.00 Departure from Jeruzalem to Croatian medieval town **Varaždin**, which represents the best preserved and richest urban complex in continental Croatia

Meeting colleagues from daily Varaždinske vijesti

### **WORKING SESSION 6:**

- Meeting with the Mayor of Varaždin

Sightseeing of Varaždin

Transfer to Maribor

## **June 7 2012, Thursday**

09.00 A ride with a timber raft along the Drava

### **WORKING SESSION 7:**

**11.00 – 13.00 Peter Linden, PhD**, freelance journalist, teacher of journalism and writing, München: How to write attractive (Lecture and discussion)

13.00 – 15.00 Conclusion of Photography Workshop: Travel photo telling a story (evaluation of selection of photographs taken by participant during the Academy)

Afternoon free

19.00 Farwell gala dinner and delivery of Diplomas of participation at FIJET Academy for Young Journalists

## **June 8 2012, Friday**

Departure of participants

**FIJET Elections** – Election for FIJET President and for the Executive Committee will be held this year. All National Associations are encourage to have a candidate (only one candidate per Association is allowed). In order to be considered a valid association and allowed to have a candidate, National Associations must have paid the dues for all of their members by March 31, 2012 and must have at least 10 Journalist Members registered on the FIJET website. Any association which does not pay dues or which do not have at least 10 registered members will not be considered valid and will not be allowed to have a candidate.

**FIJET Members invited to the European Journalists 50<sup>th</sup> Congress** –Our colleague Hendrik Schott (FIJET-Germany) notes that “some spaces are available to FIJET members at the European Journalists (EJ) 50<sup>th</sup> Congress which will be held in Razlog, Bulgaria from September 20-23, 2012.



The schedule of events is attached. If you are interested, you should contact Paolo Magagnotti, EJ President or EJ Secretary General Raluca Nelepcu ([nelepcu@adz.ro](mailto:nelepcu@adz.ro) Mobile: +40 726 319 746).

You can also contact Sofia Vassil Sotirov for information regarding Bulgaria and the area where the congress will take place. Vassil Sotirov’s e-mail and mobile: [vsotirov@yahoo.com](mailto:vsotirov@yahoo.com) - +359 885 840 487

Mr. Magagnott notes that, “Since it will be a special event because the Congress will coincide with the 50th anniversary of the EJ foundation, and because in the Country club when we will be staying the number of rooms for us will be limited, we need to have a pre-registration by December 20, 2011 and definitive confirmation by February 29.”

The participation fee is: 200 (two hundred)-Euros for a person in a single room and 350 (three hundred fifty)-Euros for two persons in a double room.

The participation fee includes:

- participation in all Congress events
- transportation from airport to the Club and back
- three nights in five stars hotel or apartment, including breakfast
- three dinners
- two lunches
- visits and excursions

## 50th EJ Congress

Razlog, “Pirin Golf & Country Club”

The Future of the European Union  
*Socio-economic Development in the Balkans*

**Thursday, September 20, 2012**

Arrival day

- 9:00 pm: Welcome dinner at the Country Club (near Razlog)



## **Friday, September 21, 2012**

Morning: The Future of the European Union

First part

- Opening of the Congress
- Welcome addresses by local authorities and representatives of the Bulgarian Government

Second part

- Round table with politicians, journalists and businessmen.

Lunch

- Visit to the worldwide famous Rila Monastery
- Dinner in the wood with torches

## **Saturday, September 22, 2012**

Morning: Socio-economic Development in the Balkans

First part

- Speakers:
  - Sergio Arzeni: Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs and Local Development of the OECD, Paris.
  - Manfred Swarovski: Swarovski Chrystal; Founder and CEO of SWACO.
  - Jordan Kanazirev: Director, BALKANSTROY
  - Other Speakers TBA

Second part

- Round table with politicians, journalists and entrepreneurs.

Lunch

- Visits to be organized
- Dinner in Club's restaurants

## **Sunday, September 23, 2012**

- Departure day

Pre-registration by December 20, 2011.

Registration confirmation must be received by February 29.



## **CONGRESS & MEETING PRODUCTION CRITERIA & RULES**

### **CRITERIA FOR ATTENDING A CONGRESS**

- Any member whose membership dues are not paid by March 31 of the year of the Congress will not be allowed to attend the Congress.
- New members may not attend a Congress in the first year of their membership.
- Members who have not attended a Congress in the previous three years are required to present proof of their continuing activity as a journalist before being allowed to register for the Congress.
- Anyone not sending in at least one qualifying published article, broadcast or photo credit, following a Congress or event will not be allowed to attend the next Congress or event and will be required to provide proof (audit) of their work as a professional travel journalist, writer, broadcaster or photographer over the previous year before they are allowed to attend any future Congress or event.
  
- Congress quotas (if set) will apply to each country and not to each association.

### **PRODUCTION CRITERIA & RULES**

(Note: All requested information must be provided in English)

1. All journalists members of FIJET attending a Congress, no matter their registration status, must write and publish at least one article following the Congress and prior to the deadline set for publishing. Articles published prior to the Congress are not acceptable.
2. Copies of articles and broadcasts must be sent to the Secretary General prior to the announced deadline. Since the deadline is usually six months following a Congress (exact date will be published prior to the Congress), unless a special exemption has been granted, no excuses will be accepted for failing to publish.
3. If there are extraordinary circumstances that prevent a member from meeting the stated deadline, a special exemption (which may or may not be granted) must be requested prior to the deadline for publication.
4. Acceptable articles MUST be published in a magazine, newspaper or recognized website. An article that is simply typed in a word processor is NOT acceptable. Articles published only in association newsletters will also not be accepted. Information posted to free Internet sites such as Facebook or YouTube along with blogs and blog sites are not acceptable to meet the publishing requirements.
5. When sending copies of articles and broadcasts, you must provide the entire publication (in the case of printed materials) and program portions that aired before and after (in the case of a broadcast). For print publications, this means the entire magazine or newspaper section.
6. Members registered as photographers, must provide copies of articles containing their photos (in the format stated in item 5 above). The photos must contain a photo credit with the name of the photographer or it will not be accepted. A CD that contains only photos is not acceptable.
7. All articles must contain the name of the person writing the article in order to be accepted. If you write under a pen name, you must provide us with that name prior to registering for the Congress.
8. No more than four people per publication will be allowed to attend a Congress in the name of that publication.

9. Only recognized and established websites will be acceptable for proof of publication. Those writing for websites must provide (in English) information about the site, including circulation figures, year site was established and information about the prime audience.
10. All articles, broadcasts and photos must be accompanied by the following information in English:

Title of Article  
Name of Author  
Citizenship of Author  
Name of Media  
Page number in the media or date and time of broadcast  
Country of Media  
Circulation of Media  
Information on where publication is distributed  
Date (month, year) article published or broadcast

## **NEWS FROM AROUND FIJET**

### **FIJET Pomme d'or Presented to Český Krumlov**

*By Jim Thompson (TravelJourno, FIJET-North America)*

The coveted FIJET Pomme d'or (Golden Apple) was presented to Český Krumlov, one of Bohemia's most beautiful and historic towns. During the presentation of the Golden Apple to Dalibor Carda, the mayor of the town, FIJET President Tijani Haddad noted that Český Krumlov is a "most deserving recipient of FIJET's highest award." He added that it is a "great honor to be able to present this award."



"We are very glad that journalists writing about tourism assess Cesky Krumlov favourably. The work with media is crucial in our destination management team's marketing activities, therefore journalists from all over the world receive quality service and information in our town throughout the year," Cesky Krumlov deputy mayor Jitka Zikmundova told the Prague Daily Monitor.

Ceský Krumlov is a virtual living gallery of elegant Renaissance-era buildings housing charming cafes, pubs, restaurants, shops, and galleries which was rightfully named in 1992 as a UNESCO a World Heritage Site for its historical importance and physical beauty.

According to legend, the name Krumlov is derived from the German "Krumme Aue", which may be translated as "crooked meadow". The name comes from the natural topography of the town, specifically from the tightly crooked meander of the Vltava river. The word "Český" simply means Czech, or Bohemian.



In 1302, the Rozmberk family inherited the castle, Český Krumlov Château (the second largest in Bohemia after Prague Castle) that looms over the town like an ancient link to the past. For the next 300 years, the castle was their primary residence and the regional and administrative center covering most of South Bohemia. The view from Lazebnický Bridge where you can see the waters of the Vltava below snaking past the castle's gray stone has changed little since those ancient times.

Throughout the ages, the castle has been passed on to a variety of private owners, including the Rozmberk family, Bohemia's largest landholders, and the Schwarzenbergs, the Bohemian equivalent of the Hilton family.

In 1622 Krumlov passed into the hands of the Eggenbergs and the town gained its Renaissance character, which has, for the most part, survived to the present day. Under the rule of their successors, the Schwarzenbergs, parts of the town were rebuilt in a Baroque style. Meagre industrial development in the 19th century meant that economically the town was left by the wayside and so its overall appearance was left unspoilt.

Among the many architectural jewels, there are a number of museums and galleries to visit, as well as the historical houses known as Latrán situated under the castle. The centre of the town is surrounded on three sides by the Vltava river and two magnificent bridges – Lazebnický on the east and Na plášti on the west – lead to the castle.

St. Vitus's Church, a rare example of the South Bohemian Gothic style, is another dominant feature of the town. Many Gothic and Renaissance town houses have been preserved almost without interior renovation, many of them among the oldest stone houses in the whole of the Czech Republic. The town's remarkable atmosphere is enhanced by the many cultural activities held here, which have already become known the world over – the international music festival, exhibitions in the Egon Schiele International Centre and the Five-leaved Rose Festival.

Congratulations go to Český Krumlov for receiving the Golden Apple and for their excellence in tourism.

For more information about Český Krumlov visit: [www.ckrumlov.cz](http://www.ckrumlov.cz)

Check out the article about the Golden Apple ceremony in the Prague Daily Monitor newspaper at:

<http://praguemonitor.com/2012/03/19/%C4%8Desk%C3%BD-krumlov-takes-golden-apple-award>



## THE GOLDEN CITY

(A report on the Board of Directors Meeting events in the Czech Republic from March 14-19, 2012)

By *Walter Roggeman* (UBJET, FIJET-Belgium)



### **Wednesday, March 14**

Arrival in Prague and transfer to the Dorint Hotel Don Giovanni where we were welcomed and had a buffet dinner.

### **Thursday, March 15**

For more than thousand years, Prague was the heart of a kingdom that was ruled from the castle (Hrad) in the Northern part of the city. Today it is the seat of the President of the Republic.

We started our visit on the Lesser Side (Mala Strana) on the slopes of the castle hill where we visited the former Strahov Monastery, founded in 1140.

Further down we discovered the St.Nicholas, the most beautiful baroque church of Prague constructed by the famous architect Diezenhofer in the first half of the 18th century. And then we reached the most emblematical site of the city: the Charles Bridge built in the 14th century and 'completed' in the 18th century by an impressive range of Baroque sculptures. This is the favourite walk of both tourists and inhabitants of the city. From here you enjoy the best sights on the river Vltava (Moldau), the fortified gates on both sides of the bridge, the castle hill and the old town. Numerous artists and musicians make their daily living here and will certainly try to draw your attention..

We concluded our short visit on the Old Town Square with a look at the famous astronomical clock and a walk through the once so prosperous Jewish quarter and the main synagogue. There was a time that some 20% of the population of Prague was Jewish; this came to a dramatic end as a result of the holocaust during World War II..

### **SOUTH BOHEMIA**

A comfortable two-hours busride took us to sunny South Bohemia where we first visited the royal castle of Hluboka in the middle of a beautiful park. This castle is one of the most attractive of the country. It was built mid 19th century in king of a Tudor style, reminiscent of Windsor Castle. It is a huge labyrinth with an endless row of rooms containing various art collections and period furniture.

Accommodation in Knizeci Dvur hotel. Dinner in restaurant Lovecka chata.



## Friday March 16

We left Hluboka early in the morning en route for Ceske Budejovice where we had lunch in the Masne Kramy restaurant followed by a tour of the town with the largest market square in the country. Here, like in all other South Bohemian towns, we were enchanted by the beautiful houses in an harmonious symphony of different colours.

Later that afternoon, we had a guided tour of the impressive Budweiser brewery where the beer is brown that conquered the world. When we came back in our bus, we all found a nice thirst-quenching present on our seats...

Further South, we made a stop in Holasovice, a small and very peaceful medieval village 'barock-ised' in the late 19th century and classified as an UNESCO sight.

Another short busride brought us at Ceske Krumlov (Krumau) a World Cultural Heritage City crowded with tourists especially large groups of Japanese people. Here we found accomodation in Hotel Ruze (Rose) a well preserved Jesuit Monastery with impressive Renaissance interiors.

This was the ideal spot for a medieval dinner; not just 'some dinner' but a real surprise dinner where we all were carefully dressed in Renaissance clothes. The ladies looked very attractive and the men, very virile. The (heavy) food satisfied the most roaring appetite.



## THE GOLDEN APPLE CITY

### Saturday March 17

Indeed, that is what Ceske Krumlov became that morning during a ceremony in the Jesuit Hall of the Ruze hotel. This 'Golden Apple' means an eternal link with our FIJET association



Right after this we made a walk through this enchanting town nestled inside a Vltava River meander. Our first visit of the day was to the famous Museum Gallery Seidel, a more than hundred years old, authentic photographic atelier where we admired a collection of pictures of Krumlov from the first half of the 20th century. One of them showed the visit of Hitler to the town in 1938. The beginning of the end of the Jewish community and the expulsion of the Czechs that followed..

In the afternoon we climbed to the famous castle of Ceske Krumlov, the second largest in the Czech Republic. For centuries long this was the home of the rulers of Bohemia: the Rosenbergs, the Eggenbergs and the most famous family of the Scharzenbergs.

They preserved all the treasures we can admire till today.

Dinner at the Krumlovsky mlyn restaurant, a great place with great food.



### **Sunday March 18**

Leaving Ceske Krumlov for a 50 kms drive to Trebon. Here we made a long, healthy and beautiful walk along one of the many lakes for our last visit: the famous mausoleum of the Schwarzenberg family.

And suddenly we realised we had to leave South Bohemia, a region where we enjoyed so much beauty, so many sights and the company of so many nice people.

Two hours later we were back in Prague, this time in the South-Western part of the city (Smichov) in the beautiful Andel's hotel.

Our farewell pain was alleviated by some 'Becherovka's' and a last dinner in the Zlaty klas restaurant.

Thank you Miroslav Navara for organising this marvellous trip.



## **SPECIAL REPORT**

### **An Unknown Soldier**

**By Bob Fisher**

*What is known in the global travel and tourism market as “battlefield travel” has become a priority for travellers who wish to explore and develop a new awareness of the history of war and peace. The tour company [Battlefield Travel](#) is one such example. As a niche market within the global travel and tourism market (considered by many to be the largest such industry on the planet), this market appeals to all ages from adolescents to seniors.*

1917 Paul Evan Gillespie, 34rd Division, Canadian Armed Forces

#### **Paul Evan Gillespie**



I would recognize his face if he came up to me in the street. I know his full name and the precise dates of his birth and death. I have seen a photograph of the rather ordinary wooden cross bearing the essential information — including the undistinguished block letters “RIP” — that marks the spot in France where his body lies.

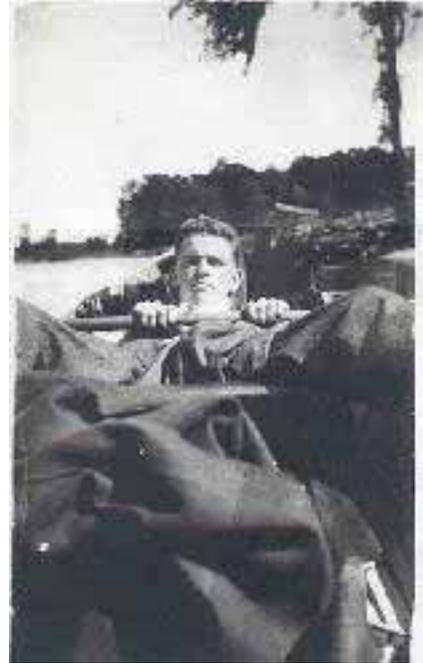
But to me Paul Evan Gillespie, the son of a certain “Aunt Maggie” and my grandmother’s cousin, is still in many respects an unknown soldier. And with the relentless passage of time and the death of living memory it seems to me that he, like all soldiers killed in the Great War — or any war — may remain forever unknown soldiers.

When the much-used shoe box of odds and ends of family photographs sent by a cousin arrived finally — having been misdirected by Canada Post — it contained a jumble of what initially seemed to be the residue of the lives of three generations of people directly or indirectly related to me. My penchant for putting things in order was the only real motive for attempting to make some kind of visual and archival sense of them. Sifting through the bits and pieces of unremarkable lives lived, I re-arranged in protective plastic images of my father, his siblings, my grandparents and great grandparents, and their sundry friends.

The third photograph definitely takes me by surprise because it is the grave of Private P.E. Gillespie. His name is very prominent, juxtaposed with the blunt inscription “KILLED IN ACTION.” As if directing someone to the grave, the sentence fragments on the back of the photograph indicate “Position of Grave Faubourg d’Amiens Cemetery Arras Nearest Railway Station Arras.”

## A wooden cross

I look at the photo again. It is an image of a simple, almost banal, wooden cross with four connecting supports each bearing official information; the kind of marker that could be put up quickly and often. The lettering is a rather old-fashioned typeface, obviously hand-painted, and done by someone who has had considerable practice. The spacing is accurate and even; a few minor stylistic flourishes attempt to embellish this common wooden cross. Thrust into rough dirt with clods of earth and spindly pieces of grass around it, the grave marker has been photographed by someone who knew consciously or subconsciously how to suggest perspective because behind it, rows of similar but not identical common crosses march silently off into the mists. There are no flowers, no carefully tended lawns. This place of the dead is one of utility and some haste; the war still has two months in which to run its course. There will be others to bury, other crosses to erect — not as many as in previous years, however, because attrition has slowed down the killing. Paul Evan Gillespie is one of the “next to last,” among those who perhaps were the unluckiest. He was nineteen years old.



## The National Archives

The reading room of the National Archives of Canada in Ottawa is well-lit, appropriately library-quiet with long wide tables on which a few other silent individuals have spread various documents, letters, and maps. I have sent a fax a month ago requesting access to Box 3541-69, which must be cleared through the Canadian Government’s Freedom of Access and Information Act.

I wait patiently while the archivist locates my request, which had gone astray because my registration number had been pre-assigned and differed from that on my day pass. Paul’s regimental number 329064 in the database also differs by one numeral from that on the cross in the photo. But fortunately it is only a minor discrepancy — that one digit might have led to the proverbial ships passing in the dead of night.



Some time passes during which my thoughts wander to more

immediate plans during my visit to Ottawa. And then I am slightly startled when a librarian approaches me from behind and hands me a modern, pristine, brown cardboard box. The label identifies it as an “Interim Container”; it has also been archived with the help of a barcode.

## Potpourri

I put the box on the table in front of me and look at it almost nonchalantly. And then with the simplest of gestures on my part I open the box that contains the only other records of Paul Evan Gillespie that I have found. Inside there is a potpourri of common-looking official documents and annotated index cards — almost haphazard but innocuous — like old school records, all giving off that musty smell of old paper.



I learn that Paul Evan Gillespie was born on January 9, 1899 and “died of his wounds” at Arras on September 7, 1918. Strangely, one of the documents in the box notes that this expression “is cancelled & the following substituted: Killed in Action.” An “authorized” letter was sent to his “widowed” mother Mrs. Margaret Gillespie on September 20, 1918. Another document indicates that a telegram was sent on the day he died. Perhaps the letter gave some kind of explanation of the events of that day, the final events in Paul’s life; the kind of “fleshing out” of the event that a terse official telegram simply could not communicate.

Paul enlisted in the “Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force” on February 16, 1917 in Guelph, Ontario. His Attestation Paper affirms that he solemnly declared that he was “willing to fulfil engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve ... and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should the war last longer than one year...”

He also swore allegiance to “His Majesty King George the Fifth” and on the form a magistrate appended his signature attesting to the fact that the “recruit” understood each question that was read to him. On a separate official form, the medical examiner — following the printed instructions “\*Insert here ‘fit’ or ‘unfit.’” — certified Paul as “fit” and noted that he had “transverse scars 3” long middle of anterior aspect right thigh. Large mole 1” to right of middle line Lumbar spines.” Paul’s hearing and vision were “normal.” On the “Casualty Form – Active Service” it indicates that Paul was posted to the ninth regiment of the Canadian Army Medical (Ambulance) Corps, even though he listed himself as a “banker.” Under “Theatre of War,” is entered in careful script “France.” A rubber stamp on the document declaring “Embarked Halifax 12-4-17, Disembarked Liverpool 29-4-17” confirms he had gone to war. An official record of his movements informs me that he was later “Taken On Strength ... as water detail” in Étapes, France.

Another standard form tells me a little bit more about him. Paul had a fair complexion with brown eyes and auburn hair and was a Presbyterian. He was 5 feet 8¾ inches in height, weighed 137 pounds and had a “minimum chest measurement” of 32 inches although his “maximum chest expansion” was 35 inches. His “apparent age” was “18 years 2 months” when he left Canada and he had no “congenital peculiarities or previous diseases.” In several other documents he is again declared “fit.” Handwritten comments on an index card state that he was “not elig. for 1914-15 Star” but that a P. & S. and a C. OF S. were forwarded to his mother as was \$570 in back pay, although further payments to Aunt Maggie were “suspended” because Paul was not the “sole support” of his mother. This final payment, following the instructions in Paul’s Form of Will he

signed on April 12, 1917 was sent c/o the bank of Commerce in Iroquois, Ontario. “Aunt Maggie” I discover later was my grandmother’s aunt. Paul and I might qualify as what in my family has been referred to as “shirt-tail cousins.”

### **The Unknown Soldier**

A few hours later — a brilliant October day, the fall colours still very much in evidence — I am standing before the recently inaugurated Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the base of The National War Memorial in Ottawa, Canada’s national capital. It seems to me that from an aesthetic, conceptual, and historical point of view the Memorial is now finished. The three levels complete the thematic “flow” from the lofty symbols of honour, glory, and victory over death at the top, to the mid-level sculpture of soldiers in battle struggling to make some headway, and finally to the ground level where the exquisite and poignant granite sarcophagus containing the physical remains of a soldier of The Great War simply but emphatically confirms the hard truth. Here lies a real soldier, a true — although unknown — Canadian soldier who has finally been brought home.

Paul Evan Gillespie is not the soldier in this tomb but despite the few additional traces I have discovered of his existence and of our very tenuous connection, in many ways he could be because, for all intents and purposes, he is still unknown to me. I do not know how he lived his 19 years, what he liked or disliked, whether he was happy or sad, or if in his short adolescence he had achieved a strong sense of himself. I can speculate about him and imagine his hopes and certainly his fears. I realize that if he had lived and even managed to reach a very old age, he would today be over 100, but such a speculation seems quite futile. The full life he might have had, his full potential is what is eternally unknown because Paul was and forever will be only 19. The realization depresses me.

### **Matthew**

Having done all that it seems there is to do, I return to my hotel feeling what I can only describe as vacant. Fortunately, that evening I have arranged to have dinner with Matthew, a former student of mine now enrolled at the University of Ottawa. A bright, compassionate, and very sensitive young man, Matthew is also 19 and already has demonstrated — through his desire for truth and self-determination — the covenant of youth that we attribute to each new generation.

I show him the photographs and photocopies of the archival material and we talk about Paul Evan Gillespie, as if he were somewhere about. Matthew understands intuitively what I have sensed in this brief excursion and is able to reflect and augment my thoughts and feelings. Having recently begun the





next big passage in his own life, Matthew understands the enormous transition that was forced upon Paul Evan Gillespie — and the consequence. Talking this through with Matthew, the sense of disembodiment, disconnectedness, and dispersal that my “encounter” with Paul Evan Gillespie elicited begins to abate. As has been the case so often with so many of my former students whom I have come to know well, Matthew’s fresh presence of mind and youthful perspective create a generational connection, an understanding that underscores why I have attempted to realize this belated bond with Paul. The regeneration induced by honest and timely communication with young people replenishes my need for a belief in innocence, hope, and humanity.

Life is full of ironies; dramatic, prophetic, and otherwise. Little did I know that before re-discovering Paul, in all likelihood I had walked past his grave in the Canadian cemetery in France when my wife and I were travelling there and following the First World War route from Vimy to the Somme.

### **Regret**

Paul, if we have forgotten you, I regret deeply that senseless neglect. If we were not able to control events so that you became your full self and lived a complete existence, I am deeply sorry. I mourn your loss which ultimately of course is our own. I can only hope that you will now be a little less unknown and that those who lived and died as you did will not have done so for nothing.

### **Visiting the Front**

Many travelers re-trace the history and events of both world wars by re-visiting the actual places that have become engraved in our collective memories.

(a) If you are planning such a trip, the website [www.firstworldwar.com](http://www.firstworldwar.com) is a very useful and comprehensive first guide:

(b) A number of companies such as [Somme Battlefield Tours Ltd](#) offer organized tours of the battle fields and memorials of the First World War. Specialized battlefield tours are a niche market in themselves. [Bartletts Battlefield Journeys Ltd. is one example.](#)

(c) For more information on [Canada’s Tomb of the Unknown Soldier](#) click on the preceding link.

(d) [The last Canadian soldier of the First World War](#)

(e) See also [Rain in Hiroshima](#).

Paul Evan Gillespie before he left for the First World War; he was only in Europe for three weeks before he was killed.

...

The following has been contributed by Bruce Leeming, a direct descendant of Paul.

“On the night of September 7, 1918, Paul Evan Gillespie left the Hôpital St. Jean to go to the YMCA to buy a coffee. His unit, the 9th Field Ambulance, had recently moved there from not too far away in order to take over other duties.

The Hôpital St Jean was built in the 12th century and in WW1 was taking in wounded from the front lines just a few miles away. By early September 1918, they were being swamped with men suffering terrible afflictions from gas attacks.

Today the Hôpital St. Jean is gone, torn down after the war.

What is left is only the statue and maybe some trees you see in this 1909 photo. This statue would have faced Paul Gillespie as he left that night in September. The statue is that of the Abbot Halluin who served the area with distinction, and lived here between 1820-1895.

To find the YMCA Paul Evan Gillespie had to walk through the Grande Place, which was not too far away. His overall distance would have been under two kilometres. The photo below is of the Grande Place February 1919.

Paul was walking through this town square when a German long range shell came in. It killed several people and wounded others. Paul was one of the people killed (or perhaps just wounded); but there is no doubt that he died of his wounds late that night. His family was told he was killed by a single bullet. His mother died believing this was what had happened. Many families were told



the same thing, in hopes that they would believe that their loved ones suffered as little as possible.

Paul is buried in Arras at Faubourg D' Amiens Cemetery. A cemetery which also has 35,000 names of men lost in the battles around Arras; and who have no known grave. There are many Canadian Field Artillery in this cemetery too.”

Victory at Vimy

