

The CRCE Newsletter

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Visit to Slovenia

Susan Sirc and Lisl Biggs-Davison were in Slovenia at the end of September; the first few days were spent most happily at the Pension Zaplata – home of CRCE conferences. They met many friends including Andreja Valič-Zver and Matej Kovač, and discussed future events. The highlight of their stay was a visit to Kranj. Two days in beautiful Bled were not quite as envisaged as it rained heavily. However, Sue and Lisl emptied their suitcases of books and journals for Tanja Porčnik's student seminar at Lake Bohinj. In Ljubljana there were demonstrations focused on the refugees and immigrants flooding in through the Balkans. Sue and Lisl saw a few, but since then the situation has become very severe, with daily stories and images in the media.

Gentlemen and Comrades



Khislstein Castle, Kranj

Accompanied by Darja Okorn, Ljubo Sirc's cousin, they visited Khislstein Castle, which houses Kranj's Gorenjska Museum, for a private view of a new exhibition, *Gospodje in tovarisi*. (*Gentlemen and Comrades*). Their guides were exhibition curators Monika Rogelj and Joze Dezman.



The Ljubo Sirc exhibit with the photo of him receiving his CBE from the Queen

Darja has loaned artefacts from Sirc and Pirc families. Both families were very influential in the town's industrial and civic past. She has also contributed to the impressive accompanying book of the exhibition. Of particular interest to our readers is a section of the exhibition devoted to Ljubo Sirc's life and work, curated by Joze Dezman. Copies of extracts from Secret Police (UDBA) files and Ljubo's prison clothes are displayed. On a happier note a photograph of Dr. Sirc receiving his OBE from the Queen is on display and some books published by the CRCE. If you live in Slovenia you must visit and those who would like a trip soon – Slovenia should be your destination!

Post-Communist Economies

Issue 3 is available and includes: What drives Russian outward FDI? – Some observations on the steel industry by Stephen Fortescue and Philip Hanson. Other articles focus on China, Czech Republic, Serbia among others.

www.tandf.co.uk/journals

How Tito betrayed Slovenia over Trieste

This article by Keith Miles, first appeared in the Slovene Journal *Demokracija* in 2013, is now available on the website. It is accompanied by a private minute from Churchill, then Prime Minister. Readers will also be interested in *Hoodwinking Churchill* by Peter Batty.

<http://www.crce.org.uk/briefings/brief18.shtml>

Ukraine & Maria Gaidar

The daughter of one of Russia's most famous reformers, the first post-Soviet prime minister, Yegor Gaidar, Ms. Gaidar is the adviser to the regional governor on health and social issues in the Odessa region of Ukraine. Ms. Gaidar works with Ukrainian orphans and electric companies. For more go to:

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/05/world/europe/ maria-gaidar-a-scion-of-a-famous-russian-family-switches-loyalty-to-ukraine.html?_r=1

The conflict in the Middle East is constantly in the news but the fighting in Ukraine only occasionally. CRCE receives daily updates from the Ukrainian Crisis Media Centre that was set up in March 2014 to provide the international community with objective information about events in Ukraine and threats to national security, particularly in the military, political, economic, energy and humanitarian spheres.

E-mail: press@uacrisis.org.org

For more information please visit [\(http://uacrisis.org/\)](http://uacrisis.org/)

Dinner with the publishers

Lisl Biggs-Davison and Jenny Nicholson of CPS were guests of Taylor and Francis at the Royal Asian Society Dinner earlier this year. Lisl was delighted to encounter the daughters of a co-founder – together with her late father, Sir John Biggs-Davison – of the Pakistan Society. Thanks to Helen Newsome for being the perfect hostess. She is now reading historical linguistics at Sheffield University.

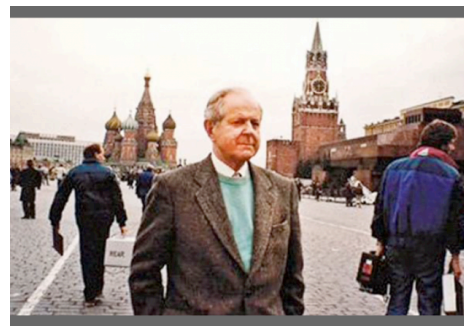
Farewell to Borut Prah



Borut Prah of Slovenia who died in May was a dear friend of CRCE and of Atlas. Sincere condolences to Nadine, his widow. There is a moving obituary by Atlas Network's president, Dr Alex Chafuen.

<https://www.atlasnetwork.org/news/article/remembering-borut-prah-slovenian-champion-of-liberty>

and to Robert Conquest



Robert Conquest, the writer on Soviet Russia who died in August, was a historian, one of the outstanding scholars of his time, whose books did as much as any other man's to alter our view of the communist experience. Perhaps his most important book was *The Great Terror*, which detailed the full enormity of what Stalin had done to the Russian people in the 1930s and 1940s. On a personal note, Lisl writes 'Bob Conquest and Pa were exhibitioners at Magdalen, Oxford. Every year they met for dinner when Bob visited from America.'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/11782719/Robert-Conquest-historian-obituary.html>

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