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*This number of Permanent Things reports on the publication of The Conservative Mind in Czech, some further Prague connections, a Russian scholar in residence, a young graduate fellow embarking on a new career, and a pleasant meeting with good friends of the Kirk Center.*

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### CZECH SENATE WELCOMES *THE CONSERVATIVE MIND*

The Kirk Center's tradition of forging international relationships bore fruit with the recent publication of the Civic Institute's Czech edition of Russell Kirk's *The Conservative Mind*. The Institute marked the occasion with a conference held in the Czech Senate in Prague to introduce a select audience to the thought of the book's author. The gathering reflected the growing influence of Kirk's ideas in countries where the tradition of ordered liberty was destroyed by decades of Communist control. Speakers at this event included Karl von Habsburg, until recently a member of the European Parliament, the Italian author and translator Marco Respinti, and Annette Kirk. During her visit to Prague as a guest of the Civic Institute, Mrs. Kirk also met with members of the European Young Conservatives organization and discussed with them the varieties of American and European conservatism.

The Czech connection contin-



*Annette Kirk (left), Karl von Habsburg (center right), and Marco Respinti (right), the latter two both former Piety Hill fellows, introduce the new translation of The Conservative Mind at a conference held in the Czech Senate.*



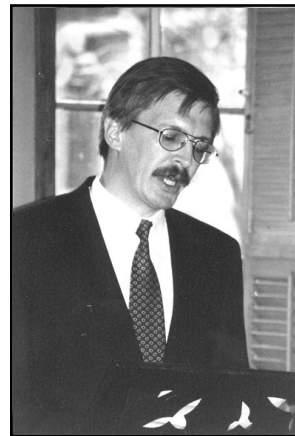
*Annette Kirk meeting with renowned Czech philosopher Tomas Halik at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan.*

ued in this country this spring when Mrs. Kirk met with Tomas Halik, professor of Philosophy at Charles University in Prague. Dr. Halik founded the Czech Christian Academy and is considered a possible successor to Vaclav Havel as President of the Czech Republic. Dr. Halik had previously visited the Kirk Center in 1994 and was in Grand Rapids to deliver a lecture at Calvin College on this trip. In addition, this

spring the Kirk Center was host to the Civic Institute's Roman Joch, during which time Mr. Joch participated in a seminar on Russell Kirk's book *Redeeming the Time*.

## FROM MOSCOW TO MECOSTA

The Kirk Center benefited immensely by the presence of a distinguished Russian scholar, Dr. Vladimir Zolotykh, who is associate professor of History at Udmurt State University in Russia. He held a fellowship this year at the Kirk Center where he resided for several months. Dr. Zolotykh has published two books—a textbook on contemporary Western European and a volume on American history and politics. While in residence, he worked in his primary research area of cultural conservatism and explored the significance of Russell Kirk's thought to the developing discourse on culture and politics in Russia today. The presence of Dr. Zolotykh at the Kirk Center underscores the Center's mission to engage international writers and thinkers. He noted upon departure that he found in the Kirk Center experience "two closely linked qualities that have been essential to my work. The first was the quiet, stimulating atmosphere of the



*Vladimir Zolotykh*

Kirk Library—a place rich in historical significance and very well equipped for my academic needs. The second was the opportunity provided by this residential community for me to meet with first-rate American scholars and discuss issues of mutual interest. Through the regular seminar program and fellows’ discussion sessions, and through the variety of people I have met, I have developed a more confident mastery of key research themes—and of the English language!”

### A FELLOW BOOKMAN

One recent and very productive Center fellow was Dr. Jeremy Beer, who completed his dissertation for the Department of Psychology at the University of Texas at Austin and successfully defended his dissertation during his tenure as a Kirk Center Graduate Fellow. In addition to his dissertation work on the psychology of birth order and personality, Dr. Beer was able to complete several other writing projects. He wrote several entries for *Choosing the Right College* (Eerdmans, 2001), eventually assuming the role of senior editor of that landmark guide, and he contributed a review of James Person’s new biography of Russell Kirk for the monthly *First Things*. He also reviewed Paul Vitz’s *Faith of the Fatherless* for *Re:Generation Quarterly*. His residential fellowship was enhanced when he represented the Kirk Center at a conference in Washington, DC, the highlight of which was a lecture delivered by poet and man of letters Wendell Berry. Jeremy writes of his experience as a residential fellow, “The peaceful, humane, and intellectually stimulating atmosphere I enjoyed at the Russell Kirk Center allowed me to complete my dissertation and to prepare it for publication, tasks that would have taken twice as long elsewhere. I also had time to write a couple of reviews. Perhaps more importantly, my interaction and conversation—formal and informal—with other Kirk Center fellows were unfailingly enjoyable and enlightening. A



Annette Kirk and Jeremy Beer

scholar simply could not ask for a better place to be.” After his time at the Center, Dr. Beer assumed the position of Senior Editor of ISI Books, the growing national book imprint of the Intercollegiate Studies Institute (ISI), where his singular talent and learning are bearing fruit in the range of books ISI is now publishing.

## THE GIFT OF FRIENDSHIP

This spring, Kirk Center president Annette Kirk visited Robert and Peggy Eskridge, an architect and an artist, at their home in Boca Raton, Florida. The



*Robert Eskridge, Annette Kirk, and Peggy Eskridge at the Eskridge home in Boca Raton, Florida.*

Eskridges became acquainted with Kirk’s writings through their reading of his *Roots of American Order*. Mrs. Eskridge is a gifted artist and painted a portrait of Russell Kirk at his library desk. That portrait is displayed in the elegant entrance hall of the Intercollegiate Studies Institute’s national headquarters. A few years ago, Mr. and Mrs. Eskridge demonstrated the craft of repairing and preserving books to a group at the Kirk Library. This enabled our staff to bind several worthy books that needed spine repairs or otherwise benefited from a case cover. After the seminar, Mrs. Eskridge generously presented the Kirk Center with several bound volumes from the *Bookman’s* early years. The Kirk Center is grateful to the Eskridges and its other friends who take the time to share their talents with our writers’ community.

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*Permanent Things*, a newsletter of the Kirk Center, is written by Cecilia Kirk Nelson.

Contributions are tax-deductible and should be made payable to the Russell Kirk Center, P.O. Box 116, West Grove, PA 19390 or you may use the enclosed envelope to make a donation.