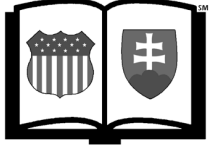


NEWS



From The Slovak-American International Cultural Foundation, Inc.

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For Immediate Release

June 7, 2000

GOVERNOR SELECTS FOUNDATION ART FOR SPECIAL EXHIBIT

Governor George Ryan has invited the Slovak-American International Cultural Foundation to exhibit a selection of the photographs of Dr. Igor Grossmann in the prestigious James R. Thompson State of Illinois Center in downtown Chicago, beginning June 6, 2000. The photographs are sponsored in North America by the Foundation.

Dr. Grossmann, a famed Slovak photographer, spent many years in rural Slovakia compiling a timeless record of beautiful, haunting, and evocative photographs which capture the essence of Slovak rural life at the moment before it disappeared in the onrush of modern industrial civilization.

His work is an unparalleled documentary of a region and an epoch little known in Western Europe and North America. The photographic artistry of Igor Grossmann has been compared favorably with that of leading photographers, like Ansel Adams and Henri Cartier-Bresson. The photographs are thus an important historical and anthropological record of a place and way of life now banished by modernity.

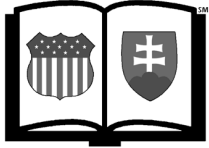
Grossmann's photographs have also been collected in a new book published with the support of the Foundation, *Images Gone With Time: Photographic Reflections of Slovak Folk Life (1950-1965)* (Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers). Milan Rufus, famed Slovak poet and candidate for the Nobel Prize in literature, supplied an introduction for the book.

The Slovak-American International Cultural Foundation, with headquarters in the Chicago area, promotes knowledge about the contributions of Slovakia and Slovak-Americans to the culture and history of the American people and the world. The Foundation, which is a tax-exempt, not-for-profit organization, will: (1) sponsor and promote Slovak artists and artworks; (2) encourage scholarship about Slovakia and the history of Slovak-Americans; (3) assist university libraries in Slovakia to acquire books and technology; and (4) provide technical assistance to the Slovak book publishing industry. The Foundation's site on the World Wide Web (www.slovakculture.org) includes a virtual museum of Slovak art and artists and a wide variety of information of interest to Slovak-Americans and others. The Foundation accepts tax-deductible support from the public, corporations, and government sources.

The Grossmann exhibition is on the atrium level of Governor's office in the Thompson Center at 100 West Randolph Street in downtown Chicago and can be visited during regular business hours. For more information, please contact Dr. Marie Bolchazy at (847) 526-4396 or at info@slovakculture.org.

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