



Thursday 15th June 2006

The Krakow Trumpeter

Issue 1

Welcome to Krakow for the Ninth EASE General Assembly and Conference. This is the Polish incarnation of Easy Times and will be published each day. Stories, funny or sad, jottings, memos, tips on things to do, see or eat in the city and general trivia welcome: please submit to Joan Marsh (anonymously if you wish) or place in the box at the Registration Desk. Photographs also welcome.

Our namesake: The Trumpeter

Like all good legends, that of the Krakow trumpeter exists in various forms, according to which guidebook you read. It may have been a dark and foggy night or just a dark night or even day in 1241 when a watchman on the tower spotted the invading Tartar forces coming to attack—already lurking under the city walls or on the horizon, depending on the prevailing weather conditions. Whatever, the trumpeter sounded the alarm but was cut off by an arrow shot through his neck. Fortunately, the town was already alerted and managed to repel the attackers. Towards the end of the 14th century, this event was commemorated by someone playing the same tune every hour, each time abruptly cut off in mid-melody and that tradition has continued to the present. Let's hope that the EASE Trumpeter has a less sudden demise.

Post-conference workshops

There are still some spaces available for Monday's workshops on open access and statistics for journal editors: ask Reme Melero for details.

Today in Poland

Today is a national holiday in Poland to celebrate the feast of Corpus Christi. Shops are closed and look out for processions around the churches.

Our venue: The Palac Larischa

The Palac Larischa started as a collection of buildings on this site at the end of the 14th century: the current construction dates from the end of the 19th century and is now a listed building. It ceased to be a private residence in 1802, when the owner, Baron Larisch, transferred the property to the city to pay off his drinking debts. (Does this make it a suitable venue for an EASE meeting?)

The building was damaged during the fire that ravaged Krakow in 1850. After use as administrative offices, it served as a library in the 1980s and 1990s. In 1999, the Dean of the Law Department asked the district major, who is now President of Krakow, whether the Law School could use the building and it was given to the Jagiellonian university.

The university is the third oldest in Europe, having been founded in 1364 (who knows which are the two older ones?).

The Collegium Maius, where our opening reception will take place, is a short walk away. It features a beautiful courtyard with a spectacular musical clock. The museum includes the oldest surviving globe to depict the Americas and there is a nice café in the basement.

Spare conference dinner ticket

Margaret Cooter has a spare ticket for the dinner: leave a message at the reception desk if you would like it.

Programme changes

Thursday 15th June

Plenary One: the second speaker, Volodymyr Lysenko is unable to attend; his paper will be given by the chairman of this session, Roderick Hunt, using Volodymyr's PowerPoint presentation.

Friday 16th June

Submitted paper session 1 will be chaired by Magne Nylenna.
Re session 2, Josip Stepanich has unfortunately broken his jaw and still has his teeth wired up, making it hard to talk, so he has reluctantly cancelled attending and presenting his short paper in the Authorship and Evaluation session.

Saturday 17th June

Plenary Four: this will be chaired by Mercedes Piqueras. Andras Falus has been detained by a family crisis. His place will be taken by Igor Vlahovic from Croatia.

In submitted paper group 4, chaired by Elisabeth Kessler, Dr Jain finds he is unable to travel to Krakow and his paper has therefore been withdrawn.

What to eat

Start with dessert. Polish cheesecake, known as *semik*, is excellent and can be eaten as a snack between meals in one of Krakow's many coffee shops. The one in the main square has a lovely peaceful atmosphere: well, it was peaceful in March when the city was still covered in snow. Now it's a hive of activity, full of open air stalls and cafes.

Pierogi are small packets of dough filled with meat, cabbage or cheese: modern varieties may be more exotic and include fruit or chocolate.

Soups can masquerade as entire meals: the Polish specialties are *zurek*, sour rye soup,

and *barszcz*, based on beetroot. Your soup may come served in an entire bread loaf, complete with lid – it is not obligatory to eat the whole thing.

Editor's favourite

The winner last night was cucumber stuffed with herring in a honey and mustard sauce.

And to wash it down

Vodka, vodka or vodka. You're in Poland, go with the flow.

Damage limitation

After that assault on one's waistline, exercise may be obtained by lapping the city, following the route of the old moat. This was filled in years ago and now forms a green belt around the city, perfect for strolls or even a gentle jog – 25 minutes as road tested by your editor this morning.

Natural history challenge 1

There are many animals associated with Krakow: no prizes, but a daily teaser to track down. The first is an ermine with Italian connections.

Newsletter Office

The newsletter is based on the ground floor, next to the auditorium entrance.



Joan Marsh

PS Don't mention the football – they lost.