Ladies and Gentlemen,
friends of Charles University!

In 2015 and 2016 our university commemorated two important events — 600 years since Master Jan Hus was burned at the stake and 700 years since the birth of Charles IV, King of Bohemia, Holy Roman Emperor, and founder of Charles University. Both anniversaries were not only connected to our Alma Mater but were also of great social importance.

In this year of 2018, we have two more significant anniversaries to commemorate: 670 years since the founding of Charles University and 100 years since the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic, the beginning of our modern statehood. The aim of the events being held at Charles University (CU) is not only to commemorate these anniversaries in a dignified manner, but also to contribute to the public debate on modern milestones of historical and present-day Czechoslovakia/the Czech Republic.

The first great anniversary, 670 years since the founding of our University, will be commemorated in April with a ceremonial gathering of members of academia and the public at The Carolinum, the awarding of honorary doctorates to prominent personalities of world science, and a performance of the opera “La traviata” at the National Theatre.

There is a rich program of centenary celebrations for the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic at Charles University. We are organizing a traditional ceremonial gathering at The Carolinum, a conference for rectors of European universities on the topic of “The University and the Republic: 100 Years of Czechoslovakia/the Czech Republic — Legacy of Democracy, Humanism and Responsibility”, and a scientific conference entitled “The University and the Republic 1918—2018: Milestones of Modern Czechoslovak/Czech History.”

Prague Symphony Orchestra (FOK), in collaboration with Prague universities, will perform a concert at the Municipal House (Obecní Dům).

Professionals and the general public can attend the exhibition “The University and The Republic: 100 Years — 100 Items — 100 Stories”, roundtables and lectures, commented tours of University buildings and institutions, an Open-air festival in the style of the first Czechoslovak Republic, competitions, a Children’s Day, and other events.

The university’s publishing house, The Carolinum Press, has prepared several thematic and official publications, as well as books for both professionals and the general public for both of this year’s anniversaries.

I believe that many of you will join us and help us commemorate both of these important anniversaries.

Tomáš Zima
Rector of Charles University
CELEBRATION ORGANISATION COMMITTEE

Prof. MUDr. Tomáš Zima, DrSc.
Rector of Charles University

Prof. PhDr. Martin Kovář, Ph.D.
Vice-rector for Public Affairs

Prof. PhDr. Lenka Rovná, CSc.
Vice-rector for European Issues

Prof. PhDr. Ing. Jan Royt, Ph.D.
Vice-rector for Creativity and Publishing
1348—2018: 670 YEARS SINCE THE FOUNDING OF CHARLES UNIVERSITY

On April 7th, 1348, Charles IV, King of Bohemia and Holy Roman Emperor founded a university in Prague which still bears his name to this day. This was a breakthrough step, as it was the first university north of the Alps and east of the French border. Charles IV also founded, restored, and certified many other universities — in Cividale, Arrezo, Perugia, Siena, Pavia, Lucca, Orange, and Geneva. The establishment of the Prague university was the catalyst for the establishment of universities in Vienna, Krakow, Hungarian Pécs, and later Heidelberg. Charles IV therefore played a pivotal role in the history of not only Czech, but also European education. Charles IV gave the newly-established university a daunting task — to equal the best universities in Bologna, Paris and Oxford. Only a successful university could contribute to the rise of the Bohemian Kingdom and its firm position not only in the Empire, but also in the Western European political and socio-cultural space, where the Monarch clearly believed it belonged. In 2018 we commemorate 670 years since the founding of Charles University, and although it has undergone many changes over the years of its existence, it has always been inextricably linked to the history of the Czech, or Czechoslovak State.

As for the development of the University, in 1654 Ferdinand III, Holy Roman Emperor and King of Bohemia attached the Caroline Studium Generale to the Jesuit University, located in the Clementinum compound, and renamed the institution the Charles–Ferdinand University; in 1882 the University was divided into the Czech and German Charles–Ferdinand Universities. The events of 1918 had a great impact on the Czech Charles–Ferdinand University, and its pledge to the new state order was almost immediate. In November of the same year it was given its traditional title — Charles University. The anniversary of the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic is, therefore, also the anniversary of Charles University. The second part of this year’s University celebrations — 1918—2018: The University and the Republic — is dedicated to this important anniversary.
1918—2018: 100 YEARS SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC

The University and the Republic

The centenary of the Czechoslovak Republic is also important for Charles University, whose representatives pledged themselves to the young republic in word and deed as early as the first few days after October 28th 1918. Back then, the Czech Charles-Ferdinand University, which shortly after changed its name to that of today, was the only university teaching in the Czech language in the whole country. The language and nationality of most of the students and professors distinguished it from the German University, with which it shared a history and the most significant university building — the Carolinum. It became a model for the then newly established universities in Brno and Bratislava, for which it provided a significant portion of the first professor bodies. Experts from the members of the academia from Charles University contributed to public life in Czechoslovakia in many fields — as ministers and ministerial officials, as diplomats and experts in a great number of scientific fields. Leading figures of Czech culture were also graduates of the Charles University. The first two presidents of the Czechoslovak Republic were both part of the professor body of the Faculty of Arts of the CU. Significant, although not always positive, milestones in the Czech and Slovak 20th century history were also logically reflected in the position of Charles University. On November 17th 1939, many of its students paid with the loss of their personal freedom and, in some cases, even with their lives, in open protest against the Nazi occupation. In February 1948, students of Prague universities, led by Charles University, were among those who openly stood against the Communist coup. Only two months later, the consequences of the February events manifested in deformed celebrations of the 600th anniversary of the foundation of the Prague university, intensively planned in the form of large national festivities. While Jan Opletal, a student of the Faculty of Medicine, was the symbol of the events of November 1939, it was Jan Palach, a student of the Faculty of Arts, who became a similar symbol in the fight and protests against the occupation of Czechoslovakia by the Warsaw Pact armies. It was his legacy to which the marchers referred during “Palach Week”, which set off events in 1989 that led to another November 17th, the anniversary of which we commemorate every year. Besides the historical symbols and events of “big history”, which are a solid part of the complicated development of the Czech lands and Slovakia in the 20th century, Charles University was, and still is, present in the everyday life of our land through its graduates.
Without Charles University alumni, not only would “Big” Czechoslovak/Czech history be unimaginable, but also regional and local history, where they work and have worked in schools, hospitals, offices, research institutions, self-governing bodies, etc.

Their academic oath creates an imaginary community and connects them with their predecessors from earlier centuries who have become recipients of a Czech university education of their own.

Prague university education, despite all the rigmarole of its institutional development, has always recognized its traditions, especially the personality of its forethoughtful and generous founder, Charles IV. Owing to the dramatic events of 1848 and 1948, the half-centenary in 1998 was the first opportunity to celebrate undisturbed by external political influences. When looking back over the century since the establishment of Czechoslovakia, it is clearly visible that, so far, the period since 1989 has been the most stable and the longest era in the modern development of Charles University to benefit from true freedom and autonomy. The view of historical breakpoints in 20th century Czech and Slovak history (1918—1938/39—1945—1948—1968—1989) should be sufficient reminder of the fact that conditions for the continuation of the current direction of the university are neither predetermined nor guaranteed, and it is necessary to constantly strive for them.
1348
2018
670
FOUNDING OF
THE UNIVERSITY
Ceremonial gathering of members of the academia

April 5th, 2018
Aula Magna, Carolinum, 2 pm
Organized by Charles University

The anniversary of 670 years since the founding of Charles University will commence with a ceremonial gathering of members of the academia and the public, as well as significant international guests in the Great Hall of the Carolinum. The convention will open with a speech by the Rector of Charles University, Prof. Tomáš Zima. Speeches will also be delivered by the President of the Senate of the Czech Republic, Milan Štěch, and the President of the Coimbra Group, Prof. Ludovic Thilly. Emeritus Dean of the 3rd Faculty of Medicine, Prof. Michal Anděl, will make a speech on the “Ability of the Czech Population to Perceive Risks”. Significant awards will also be presented — the Miloslav Petrusek Award for Presentation, the Bedřich Hrozný Award for Creative Action, and the Donatio Universitatis Carolinae grant. At the end, visitors will have the opportunity to hear “Bohemian Song” by Bedřich Smetana presented by the Mixed Choir of the Faculty of Education Collegium Paedagogicum under the lead of Mgr. Marek Valášek.
Awarding of Honorary Doctorates

April 6th, 2018
Great Hall, Carolinum, 1 pm
Organized by Charles University

The celebration of the 670th anniversary of the founding will also include the awarding of the greatest academic honour that can be bestowed by the university. Honorary scientific titles of Doctor Honoris Causa will be awarded to two scientists of world renown.

Prof. Rolf-Dieter Heuer, Ph.D. was Director General of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), the largest science centre in the world, from 2009—2015. He dedicated his entire career to the construction and use of large detection systems for the study of interactions between electrons and positrons.

Prof. Thomas Evan Levy, professor of anthropology at the University of California in San Diego, is a leading figure in contemporary scientific research in the field of civilization development. He was recently deeply involved in so-called “cyber archaeology”, using the latest technology for the documentation of archaeological research and its interpretation.
Open Day at the Carolinum

April 7th, 2018
The Carolinum, 10 am—5 pm
Organized by Charles University

During the celebrations of the 670th anniversary of the founding of Charles University, the historical Carolinum building will be opened to the public. Visitors will be welcomed by the university bedel in historical costume and during the tour will learn about the history of the university, its important personalities and events. There will be commented demonstrations of academic robes, an exhibition of major insignia of the university with explanations of their complex symbolism, and prof. Jan Royt will give a lecture on the significant monument that is Charles University. Another lecture on construction development and the history of the Carolinum building will be given by PhDr. Michal Patrný. Short organ concerts will also take place in the Great Hall.

A children’s workshop and fun knowledge game will be prepared for parents with children. The most skilful children will be awarded with replicas of old ducats. Visitors will even meet the founder of the university, Charles IV himself, and his wife, in the form of actors in historical costume. As a birthday present, every 670th visitor will receive a guided tour into areas which are normally prohibited.
Performance at the National Theatre

*La traviata*

April 7th, 2018
The National Theatre, 7 pm
*Organized by Charles University*

At the end of the celebrations of 670 years since its founding, Charles University invites the celebration participants, representatives of Charles University, guests, and friends to a performance of the opera “La traviata” at the National Theatre.
1918 100 2018 THE UNIVERSITY AND THE REPUBLIC
MAIN EVENTS

Social and cultural events for academia, and Czech and foreign guests.
MAIN EVENTS

Social and cultural events for academia, and Czech and foreign guests.
Ceremonial gathering of members of academia and the public

October 25th, 2018
Great Hall, the Carolinum
Organized by Charles University

The ceremonial gathering in the Great Hall of the Carolinum is one of the cardinal parts of the university celebrations of the hundredth anniversary of the establishment of Czechoslovakia. Members of the academic community will meet with representatives of international universities and social and public life. The gathering will commemorate the importance of the role of the university environment in the history of the Czechoslovak/Czech state and will present guests with “key moments” in history, when students, graduates, and professors of Charles University contributed to the formation of Czechoslovak society.
International Rectors’ Conference — The University and the Republic: 100 years of Czechoslovakia/the Czech Republic — Legacy of Democracy, Humanism and Responsibility

October 24th—25th, 2018
Patriotic Hall, the Carolinum

Organized by Charles University

In the jubilee year 2018, on the occasion of the centennial anniversary of the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic, Charles University will hold the International Rectors’ Conference, “The University and the Republic: 100 years of Czechoslovakia / the Czech Republic — Legacy of Democracy, Humanism and Responsibility”. The conference will host speakers and leading personalities from Charles University and representatives of prestigious international universities such as the University of Oxford, the University of St Andrews, the University of Vienna, Jagiellonian University, and the European University Institute.

The goal of the conference is to present important topics related to the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic in an international context. The conference will be opened together with the European Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, Věra Jourová. On individual panels, representatives of Charles University and other Czech and international universities will discuss the university’s historical and present-day role. As is alluded to in the title of the conference, the contributions of individual participants will be focused on the legacy of democracy and humanism, and the responsibility of universities in today’s world.

The official language of the conference is English.
Conference:
The University and the Republic
1918—2018

October 23rd, 2018
Patriotic Hall, the Carolinum
Organized by Charles University

The conference, being attended by leading experts from Charles University, the Czech Academy of Sciences, and other important institutions, will endeavour to inform the academic community and the wider professional public about important topics in modern Czechoslovak history associated with the so-called “figure-eight anniversaries” (1918, 1938, 1948, 1968 and 1988/89) in chronologically defined sections. It will be an analysis of breakthrough moments in the creation of Czechoslovak and Czech statehood. The second aim of the conference is to interconnect scientific and populist approaches and to address — besides the experts — the wider general public, to initiate and moderate public debate on a given topic with the goal of developing awareness of the connections between important moments in history and contemporary issues. A specialist monograph published by the Carolinum Press will accompany the conference.
Celebratory concert for the centenary of the establishment of the Republic

October 28th, 2018
Municipal House (Obecní dům), Prague

Organized by the Prague Symphony Orchestra (FOK) in cooperation with Prague universities

The Charles University and other Prague universities will commemorate the centenary of the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic with a celebratory concert by the Prague Symphony Orchestra (FOK) at Municipal House.
EVENTS FOR THE PUBLIC

Cultural and social events aimed at the general public.
EVENTS FOR THE PUBLIC

Cultural and social events aimed at the general public.
STUDENTSKÁ LEGIE 1945
Charles University will contribute to the celebrations of the hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic by also organizing the exhibition entitled “The University and the Republic: 100 Years — 100 Items — 100 Stories”. This will commemorate a century of the coexistence of the University and the Republic through one hundred extraordinary exhibits, each of which will represent one year from 1918 to 2018. The exhibition will focus on the more famous, as well as lesser known stories not only from the histories of science and education, but also of politics and everyday life. Visitors will find out which professor wrote the first version of the Czechoslovak constitution; which two graduates met each other on one banknote; the origins of the production of artificial joints in Poldi Kladno; and which souvenir was brought back by Robert Záruba, graduate and external teacher at the Department of Journalism at the Faculty of Social Sciences, from the Olympic games in Nagano in 1998. The most valuable exhibits will include Prague graduates Gerta and Carl Cori’s Nobel Prize (1947); a vessel from the tomb of the vizier Ptahshepses discovered by Czechoslovak Egyptologists (1958); Jaroslav Heyrovský’s Nobel Prize (1959); Jan Palach’s briefcase (1969); the sceptre of the Faculty of Humanities (2000); and professor Tomáš Halík’s Templeton Prize (2013). The exhibit to best represent the year 2018 will be chosen by the visitors themselves and will be displayed in the currently empty display case during the last two weeks of the exhibition.

Exhibition: The University and the Republic: 100 Years — 100 Items — 100 Stories

May 9th (vernissage at 5 pm)
—September 30th, 2018
The Carolinum Cloister
Organized by Charles University
Exhibition of major insignia of Charles University

December 1st, 2018 (vernissage at 5 pm) — January 31st, 2019
Imperial Hall, the Carolinum

Organized by Charles University

The exhibition of major insignia of Charles University will present university and faculty insignia — items of university symbolism in their most representative form. Both the older history of Charles University and the lives of the new faculties and university disciplines that emerged after 1918 will be presented by these masterpieces of the applied arts. The second aim of the exhibition is to document the close relationship between events at Charles University and the “Big History” of the Czechoslovak/Czech state using examples of insignia.
Roundtables and a series of lectures on “Figure-Eight Anniversaries”

Taking place year-round in 2018
Patriotic Hall, the Carolinum
Organized by the Charles University

The project of roundtables and a series of lectures will present experts and members of the public with interesting and current topics related to the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic and other important moments of Czechoslovak statehood. During the roundtables, chosen guests will debate with visitors and seek inspiring views on given topics. The projects aim to promote the values of civil society, aware that the university should play a significant role in the development of democracy and freedom.

The lectures will be dedicated to crucial events from modern Czechoslovak and Czech history, presented in a classic academic format. Under the guidance of selected university professors, visitors will learn about the creation of the Czechoslovak state and other crucial moments from Czechoslovak and Czech history, as well as the contribution of Charles University to the establishment of Czechoslovakia in 1918.

Topics of the roundtables:

- First World War and the Establishment of Czechoslovakia (1914—1918)
- The Tragic Year 1938: Czechoslovakia and Europe on the Eve of Second World War
- February 1948: The Start of the Path to Communist Totalitarianism
- The Hope that Failed: Czechoslovakia in 1968
- From Late Totalitarianism to Democracy: Czechoslovakia (Czech Republic) in 1988—1993
Conference: The establishment of the “winning” successor states of Czechoslovakia and Poland: the role of sport in the creation of a new state identity

May 11th, 2018
CU Faculty of Physical Education and Sport

The conference is held by: CU Faculty of Physical Education and Sport, Faculty of Social Sciences of Charles University, and the Faculty of Education at the Jan Długosz University in Częstochowa.

Using topics chosen from the interwar period, six Czech and six Polish historians will present the contributions of sportsmen of both countries on the formation of the state/national identities the two newly established countries were struggling to create after World War One.
International Symposium on Czech as a Foreign Language. One hundred years of the development of the Czech language and literature in a sovereign state.

August 14th—17th, 2018
CU Faculty of Arts
Organized by Institute of Czech Studies of CU Faculty of Arts

The IX. International Symposium on Czech as a Foreign Language will be held as a part of the Summer School of Slavic Studies from August 14th—17th 2018 in Prague. The theme of the symposium will be one hundred years of the development of the Czech language and literature in a sovereign state. The symposium will enable professional, educational, and the general scientific public involved in Czech as a foreign language to meet. The aim of the symposium is to reflect on linguistic and literary development in the historical framework of the one-hundred-year existence of the sovereign Czechoslovak/Czech state, to discuss the current state of the teaching of Czech as a foreign language in the world, and the presentation of new scientific discoveries, new teaching materials and electronic applications. At the end of the symposium, at the invitation of the Foundation of Josef and Zdenka Hlávek, participants will be invited to visit the chateau in Lužany, where they will meet representatives of the Hlávek Foundation, enjoy a tour of the chateau, attend a concert, and take part in a discussion with a prominent personality from Czech cultural life.
Commented tours of university buildings and institutions

October 27th—28th, 2018
The Carolinum, Faculty of Arts, Catholic Theological Faculty, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Science.
Organized by Charles University

The individual faculties and institutions of Charles University developed in close connection with the formation of the Czechoslovak statehood, in most cases responding immediately to important historical events (the enthusiasm of the First Republic, Czech–German conflicts before the Second World War, attempts by the Communist regime to reform university education, etc.).
Open buildings include the Carolinum, the buildings of the Faculty of Arts, the Catholic Theological Faculty, the Faculty of Law, the Faculty of Science, and the First Faculty of Medicine and the Purkyně Institute. The aim is to present interested visitors with the history and recent activities, as well as the use of university buildings and institutions. Visitors will also learn about the ideological concepts of educational politics in Czechoslovakia/the Czech Republic in modern history.
Open-Air Festival: “The First Republic”

September 15th, 2018
Vyšehrad Castle, Prague

The festival is designed as a commemoration of the atmosphere of the first Czechoslovak Republic. The aim is to present historical reality; the blossoming of Czechoslovak culture and education during the First Republic. Besides entertainment elements, the festival also aims to be educational and introduce visitors to the history and life of modern Czech society. The programme will be divided into three parts: the morning and afternoon will be held in a historical spirit, with legionnaire traditions presented along with a field hospital, vintage cars, historical costumes, refreshment stands with a “beer trail”, and children’s workshops. The evening will be dedicated to concerts by music bands. Besides the main program, there will also be many accompanying activities; for example, scenic reading, a cinema showing old Czechoslovak movies, and a swing dance hall.

Visitors will also be able to participate in a quiz competition: Individual stations will ask questions on history, and the completion of all the tasks and filling in of a contest sheet will be followed by a prize draw. Thanks to the unique combination of the entertainment and leisure aspects of the event and its educational dimension, visitors of all generations will be able to consolidate their relationship with Czechoslovak/Czech culture, tradition and national identity.
Festival: Night of the Faculty
The Czechoslovak Faculty

November 7th, 2018
CU Faculty of Law

Organized by CU Faculty of Law

After the last year’s “Interdisciplinary and Multidimensional Faculty”, the second year of the Night of the Faculty festival in 2018 will transform the faculty into the “Czechoslovak Faculty”. On the occasion of the celebration of the centenary of the establishment of Czechoslovakia, the festival will be dedicated to important anniversaries through which the oldest Czechoslovak Faculty of Law yielded to the Czechoslovak state.

Visitors will be able to attend lectures from various sectors of law and related sciences. The festival will also be a part of the Week of Science and Technology of the Czech Academy of Sciences. For visitors interested in different fields, there will be lectures presented by physicians, philosophers, and political and natural scientists. Participants will have the opportunity to listen to contemporary eyewitness accounts of historical events, visit an exhibition, ride the unique patronoster lift, and participate in practical workshops. There will also be time for a pleasant meeting with music and dancing.
Quiz Competition for Secondary Schools

May 16th, 2018
Faculty of Education
Organized by Faculty of Education of Charles University

Faculty of Education is organizing a competition for faculty secondary schools. There will be six teams competing in six different thematic sectors, including questions and tasks on anniversaries between 1918 and 2018 (on film, music, famous personalities, social life, Czech and European politics, and Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk). The winners will be awarded prizes. The project aims to commemorate individual anniversaries in a “playful form” from different perspectives — political, economic, cultural, and everyday life.

Children’s Day

September 28th, 2018
The Carolinum
Organized by Charles University

Through a “playful form”, Children’s Day aims to entice children and young people into the atmosphere not only of the first Czechoslovak Republic, but also into other periods of modern national history.

Visitors will be able to find out about legionnaire traditions from the First Republic (uniforms, weapons, etc.) and First Republic fashion; they will learn about the lifestyle and acquire the skills of their grandparents (how to use a spinning wheel, one of the first sewing machines, a historical typewriter, etc.). There will also be a presentation of the differences between urban life and rural life during the First Republic.

An accompanying program will provide musical productions, a puppet theatre, and an art workshop on the theme of children’s illustrations by artists of the First Republic.

The event will also include a game in the centre of Prague for parents and children inspired by the works of Karel Čapek. The aim is to teach children in an entertaining and instructive form about important moments from Czechoslovak / Czech modern history. Children will acquire an overview of the crucial events of our national history.
PUBLICATIONS

Many scientific and popular science publications will be issued on the occasion of the celebrations.

TO THE 670th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF CHARLES UNIVERSITY
TO THE CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA
TO THE 670th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING
OF CHARLES UNIVERSITY

TO THE CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS OF THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

PUBLICATIONS

Many scientific and popular science publications
will be issued on the occasion of the celebrations.
The launch of books and publications issued for the celebration of the 670th anniversary of the founding of Charles University and 100 years of the University and the Republic

October 25th, 2018
Patriotic Hall, the Carolinum

University for the Republic — Republic for the University

Tomáš Zima, Martin Kovář (eds.)

The publication introduces, in the form of interviews, dozens of Czech ambassadors — in all cases graduates of various faculties of Charles University — their personal memories of their years of studying, their opinions on what the University gave them, their memories of the era and the political situation during their studies, as well as the ways in which they have been able to help Charles University during their own demanding and responsible work in the countries in which they used to live, or are still living as ambassadors.
Honorary Doctors of Charles University in Prague 1848—2015

Josef Petráň, Lydie Petráňová

The tradition of awarding honoris causa doctorates at Western European universities, which began in the late 15th century, started at the Prague University slightly later and for somewhat different reasons. The first time the university honoured a number of prominent personalities with honorary doctorates and honorary membership of the doctoral colleges was in 1848 in order to add a touch of glamour to the celebrations of the 500th anniversary of its founding. By awarding honorary doctorates, the university not only strengthened the nation's intellectual elites, but also increased its international prestige. During candidate selection procedures up until 1945 there were often clashes between opposing nationalist-ideological opinions and interests, especially after the division of the University into Czech and German institutions in 1882. The authors attempt to capture prevailing opinion trends in individual historical periods and, at the same time, the degree of state influence on academic freedom. The book is structured according to the history of university education and general social development. The celebrations of the 600th anniversary of the founding of Charles University, the culmination of which was supposed to be the awarding of honorary doctorates to important foreign dignitaries on April 8th, 1948, was adversely impacted by the February Communist coup, as well as the period that followed. The wrongs could have been righted as late as after November 1989 with additional awarding and the acceptance of honorary diplomas. The honorary doctorates granted on April 8th, 1998, during the celebrations of the 650th anniversary of the founding of Charles University, were already guided by principles enshrined in the new code for awarding honoris causa doctorates in 2000: awarding honorary doctorates to dignitaries who have internationally contributed to the development of science or culture to the benefit of humanity, and also have connections to Charles university.
University Prague

Josef Petráň, Lydie Petráňová

The volume “University Prague” by Josef Petráň and Lydie Petráňová, included in the edition “Praha” (Prague), connects academic life with cultural and political life in the Czech capital. On this basis, from 1348, a vertical time line observes the gradual establishment and development of Charles University and eight other public and still active universities: Czech Technical University in Prague (1718), Academy of Fine Arts (1799), Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague (1885), Academy of Performing Arts in Prague (1945), Czech University of Life Sciences (1952), University of Chemistry and Technology (1952), University of Economics (1953) and the Police Academy (1993).

University Professor

Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk

Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk (TGM), “the President Liberator”, was not only a politician. For most of his life he was also a scientist, philosopher and teacher. His extensive work is well documented, and the social sciences acknowledge his role not only in the field of politics. Less known is his contribution to sociology, which he, with his theoretical foundations, actually helped to establish as a modern scientific field.

The publication includes examples of Masaryk’s noteworthy writings and lectures, revealing the interconnection of politics and social theory, which is extremely characteristic of his thinking. Examples of this include his works “Suicide”, “Modern Man and Religion”, “Essence and methods of Sociology”, and “Russia and Europe”. Masaryk is introduced to the reader as an academic and a scientist who, with his lectures, publications and public activities, co-founded sociology; at the same time, his humanitarian and state-forming thoughts are presented in a wholly new context.

The book, for example, presents Masaryk’s opinion on Comte, the relationship between Jan Hus and the Czech reformation, his perception of Bolshevism, the theoretical foundations of his opinion on the importance of work, as such, the relationship between democracy and theocracy, etc.
Interview

Jiří Přibáň, Karel Hvížďala

The book of interviews by Karel Hvížďala with professor of law philosophy in Cardiff Jiří Přibáň mainly focuses on themes related to state, statehood and the nation in history and the present day. It also touches on the relationship between the media and the state, European identity, and significance of the history of Czech statehood. Professor Přibáň is a leading Czech lawyer and sociologist. In 2002 he became a professor in the theory, sociology and philosophy of law. Since 2001 he has been at the Cardiff Law School, University of Wales. He has lectured, for example, at Stanford University, New York University, and the University of California, Berkeley. Karel Hvížďala is an important Czech journalist, dramatist and writer.

T. G. Masaryk and Theology

Ctirad Václav Pospíšil

The publication introduces the life and work of the first Czechoslovak president, Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, from the point of view of a present-day Catholic theologian. Among other things, the text focuses on Masaryk’s relationships with (not only) Czech Catholic theologians, and his relationship with Austria and the Hilsner Affair.
T. G. Masaryk and Judaism

Miloš Pojar

The book offers a summary of the relationship between Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk and the Jews and the Jewish question in a Czech and European context. It attempts to capture the development and transitions of Masaryk’s opinions on Jews and Judaism from his youth, and to describe key events that shaped his opinions. The final chapters focus on the situation of Jews in the First Republic, the president’s visit to Palestine in 1927, and his interest in a number of important Jewish personalities, as well as the opinions of scholars and politicians of Masaryk and his activities over several decades. The English translation presents historians and Judaists with a condensed synopsis of Masaryk’s opinions which until now were disseminated in his publications and speeches and not accessible to foreign readers.

T. G. Masaryk and Antisemitism

Robert Burton Pynsent

For the famous British Bohemist, the personality of the founder of Czechoslovakia is one of his lifelong subjects, and antisemitism in Czech society is the object of many of his scientific discoveries. With regard to the latest research (the works of TGM, volume 23, dedicated to the Hilsner Affair) and his own long-term literary research, Pynsent shows Masaryk not as a traditional protector of Jews and fighter for the rights of the others, but mainly as a person whose opinion on “the Jewish question” developed over time. Czech society was not exceptional in Central Europe in the non-existence of antisemitism, but in the personality of Masaryk; however, this does not mean that there is no need to remind ourselves of historic antisemitism and make it the subject of provocative research.
Philosophy “En Noir”
Miroslav Petříček

The book is based on parallel language versions. It is based on the author’s lectures on the role of, and even the possibility of philosophy in today’s world. It is an original report on the great European debates on thinking after the Holocaust, which are the foundation of the post-war ideological world of Europe. The impenetrability of the experience, the (im)possibility of bearing witness, the meetings are viewed in a broad perspective from trivial literature to Derrida, Agamben and Didi-Huberman.

Interviews with Švehla and about Švehla
Eduard Kubů, Jiří Šouša (eds.)

A critical edition of the important memories of Karel Mečíř (agrarian diplomat and journalist) on Antonín Švehla. The recollections create a lively, readable historical source on Antonín Švehla; to a certain extent, they resemble Čapek’s interviews with T. G. Masaryk. The reader learns about Švehla, his childhood, his career, and his relationship with Masaryk through a multitude of facts and statements, so personal and principally non-public that they would not, or should not, be placed in the “good” remembrances shaping the myth of the profile personality. The perfectly readable text of memoirs, provided by an interpretive scientific apparatus explaining the historical context, will be supplemented by a study of K. Mečíř, photographs, and historical documents.
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