

**Željko Oset, Slovene scientists during World War II. The life trajectories of Maks Samec, Fran Ramovš and Ljudmila Dolar Mantuani, and the impact of World War II on their careers**

**Summary**

World War II and its aftermath fundamentally changed the standing and position of Slovene intellectuals in society. While they were opinion leaders before the war, their influence somehow dwindled during that time. After the war it remained in a compromised form and shape, when the new Communist regime allowed intellectuals to express their views on selected issues. To conclude, their highly esteemed and independent position was lost, and not least, the political changes deprived them of their position as national leaders. As such, they were pressured by the occupation authorities in the Ljubljana Province to express public loyalty towards the new authorities. When the Slovene liberation movement gained traction, with the moral support of intellectuals, even more pressure was applied on leading intellectuals and even against families, while others successfully managed to ‘fly under the radar’. Everyone had to develop their own survival strategy. The intellectuals presented in the paper, i.e. Maks Samec, Fran Ramovš and Ljudmila Dolar Mantuani, were professors at the University of Ljubljana. Samec had excellent relations with German scientists, and was offered relocation to the Reich as a member of the Volksdeutsche in autumn 1941. Although Samec declined, he kept a good standing among German representatives, since he was offered a high political function in Ljubljana in September 1943. After the war, the new Communist authorities declared his habilitation void, but he was able to continue with his research. On the other hand Ramovš was one of the leading Slovene intellectuals, who forcefully promoted Slovene interests. As such, he was critical of the occupation regimes. Nevertheless he wrote a few loyalist statements, which can be interpreted in several different ways. Some of his actions were taken to protect his colleagues and his family. Ljudmila Dolar Mantuani was one of the few female professors at the University of Ljubljana, and was able to live a low-profile life and overcome general hardship. That dramatically changed in the last few months of the war, when she followed her estranged husband who fled Ljubljana in fear of his life. She was not prepared to take any chances since she was the sole provider for her son.

*Translated by Martin Petrovčič and Melvyn Clarke*

## **Blaž Verbič, Adéla Jůnová Macková, František Foit – Czech scholar and African explorer**

### **Summary**

František Vladimír Foit was a Czech sculptor and explorer who set off to explore Africa twice – before World War II and once again in the 1940s. Through many coincidences his second journey led through Africa to Slovenia. After moving from Kenya, he settled in Velenje and donated part of his extensive collection to the Velenje Museum. In this article we would like to introduce Foit not only as a sculptor but mainly as a teacher at Kenyatta College, where he influenced a generation of native African students, and as a collector who saved precious items of African art. The importance of Foit's collection of African art is documented in the second part of this study. As a teacher he taught his students to understand African history as well as sculpting techniques, and he introduced them to the materials collected and the techniques learned during his journeys through Africa. The items František Foit brought from Africa are now deposited at the Velenje Museum, the Náprstek Museum of Asian, African and American Cultures and the Hrdlička Museum of Man as well as the Telč branch of the Museum of the Highlands.

*Translated by Jana Rogovnik and Melvyn Clarke*

## **Kamila Mádrová, Eva Boháčová, „Jest české knize technické zrovna tak potřebí jako slunce květině.“ Dějiny, významné osobnosti a dochované archivní materiály České matice technické**

### **Resumé**

Česká matice technická byla založena 15. prosince 1895 jako svépomocný spolek techniků, který si dal za úkol vydávat a šířit české technické spisy. Prvním předsedou byl zvolen Josef Šolín, profesor stavební mechaniky na České vysoké škole technické v Praze. ČMT byla rozdělena na 10 odborů, v jejichž čele stáli přední představitelé jednotlivých technických oborů. Matice byla financována z členských příspěvků a finančních zdrojů od ministerstev, kulturních a vědeckých společností a od mecenášů. Roku 1918 zřídila ČMT na podporu autorů technické literatury Oslavný fond, ze kterého byly odměňovány práce z oboru železničního. Roku 1920 vznikl Velflíkův fond, z něhož byly odměňovány práce z oboru stavebního inženýrství. Od roku 1925 byla udělována Šolínova cena.

Do roku 1950 vydala ČMT přes 200 publikací. V roce 1995, kdy Matice slavila stoleté výročí, měla na svém kontě přes 450 spisů (odborné knihy, vysokoškolské učebnice,

slovníky) v celkovém nákladu přes 1,6 mil. výtisků. Od roku 1950 vydávalo práce vzniklé za podpory ČMT Technicko-vědecké vydavatelství a od roku 1953 Státní nakladatelství technické literatury. To bylo po roce 1989 zrušeno a ČMT byla nucena vydávat svá díla opět svépomocí či za pomoci mecenášů. Počet členů se z rekordních více než 23000 v roce 1950 snížil na necelých 500. I dnes plní ČMT úkoly, které si vytyčila při svém vzniku – vyhledává autory a podporuje vydávání jejich kvalitních děl ze všech technických oborů.

ČMT vždy spolupracovala s významnými českými techniky a jejich spolky. Nejužší spolupráce probíhala s Českou vysokou školou technickou (od roku 1920 Českým vysokým učením technickým) v Praze. Profesori ČVŠT a ČVUT byly u jejího vzniku, vedli její jednotlivé odbory a mnozí z nich byli i jejími předsedy (J. Šolín, K. Petrlík, A. V. Velflík, F. Klokner, Z. Bažant, T. Ježdík, L. Votruba ad.). Proto byly materiály týkající se činnosti ČMT postupně přebírány do Archivu ČVUT, kde se nyní nachází její fond.

**Summary: “We need technical works in Czech as much as a flower needs the sun.” The history, prominent figures and archive material behind the Czech Technical Foundation (Česká matice technická)**

The Czech Technical Foundation was established 15th November 1895 as a self-help association of technicians aiming to publish and disseminate Czech technical literature. The first President elected was Josef Šolín, professor of structural mechanics at the Czech Technical College in Prague. The Czech Technical Foundation was divided into ten divisions, each headed by a leading representative of the individual technical field in question. The Foundation was financed from membership fees and financial sources at the ministries, cultural and scientific societies and sponsors. In 1918 the Czech Technical Foundation set up a Celebration Fund to support the authors of technical literature, which was used to award railway literature. The year 1920 saw the establishment of the Velflík Fund to award civil engineering literature. The Šolín Prize has been awarded since 1925.

By 1950 the Czech Technical Foundation had brought out over 200 publications. In 1995, when the Foundation celebrated its centenary, it had 450 volumes to its credit (specialist books, college textbooks and dictionaries) with a total print-run of over 1.6 million copies. From 1950 it published works supported by the Czech Technical Foundation Technical and Scientific Publishers and from 1953 the State Technical Literature Publishing House. This was closed down after 1989 and the Czech Technical Foundation was compelled to publish its works again using its own resources or with the assistance of sponsors. The number of

members fell from a record figure of over 23,000 in 1950 to fewer than 500. Nowadays the Czech Technical Foundation performs the tasks that were set out for it upon its establishment – seeking authors and supporting the publication of their high-quality works in all technical fields.

The Czech Technical Foundation has always collaborated with prominent Czech technicians and their associations. The closest collaboration took place with the Czech Technical College (since 1920 the Czech Technical University) in Prague. Professors from the Czech Technical College and the Czech Technical University were behind its establishment and managed its individual divisions, while many of them were also its Presidents (e.g. J. Šolín, K. Petrlík, A. V. Velflík, F. Klokner, Z. Bažant, T. Ježdík and L. Votruba.). Hence materials relating to Czech Technical Foundation activities have progressively been accepted by the Czech Technical University Archive, where its fonds can now be found.

*Translated by Melvyn Clarke*

## **Adéla Jůnová Macková, Libor Jůn, Cesta Edvarda Beneše do Teheránu 1943 v dokumentech**

### **Resumé**

Dramatické osudy dr. Edvarda Beneše – významného československého diplomata, politika a posléze i prezidenta československého státu na sebe už celá desetiletí poutají nemalý zájem odborné historické i laické veřejnosti. O tom svědčí i celá řada monografických zpracování věnovaných jednotlivým úsekům prezidentova života. Mnoho z tohoto zájmu je soustředěno na krizová léta 1938 a 1948, případně na období 2. světové války a Benešovu úlohu v nich. Na druhé straně však můžeme v politickém a diplomatickém životopisu Edvarda Beneše nalézt stále mnoho míst méně známých či interpretovaných jen částečně a nedostatečně. To se týká i širšího rámce prezidentových diplomatických aktivit vedených v roce 1943 vůči Sovětskému svazu, vrcholících Benešovým moskevským zájezdem na sklonku roku 1943. Prezident o moskevské misi často hovořil jako o vrcholu svého diplomatického života. Akcent na popis a interpretaci okolností moskevských jednání završených podpisem československo-sovětské spojenecké smlouvy tak následně utlumil zájem o další aspekty Benešovy moskevské cesty. Studie a edice dokumentů jsou zaměřeny právě na oficiální návštěvu Edvarda Beneše v Teheránu a jeho jednání s mladým iránským šáhem Muhammadem Rezou Pahlavím, která předeštlá především válečné i poválečné hospodářské styky Československa s touto zemí, jež

měly být úspěšným pokračováním meziválečného zbrojního exportu. Prameny zmiňují rovněž prezidentova setkání s významnými spojeneckými politiky Charlesem de Gaullem a Winstonem Churchillem na trase zpět do Londýna.

**Summary: Edvard Beneš's trip to Tehran 1943 in documents**

Dr Edvard Beneš's dramatic fortunes – as a prominent Czechoslovak diplomat, politician and ultimately President of the Czechoslovak state – have attracted substantial interest from professional historians and the lay public for many decades. This is borne out by the large number of monograph treatments of individual periods in the President's life. Much of this interest has focused on the crisis years 1938 and 1948, as well as the Second World War and Beneš's role in it. On the other hand, we can still find many areas in Edvard Beneš's political and diplomatic biography that are less well-known or only partially and inadequately interpreted. This also applies to the broader framework of the President's diplomatic activities in 1943 involving the Soviet Union, culminating in Beneš's Moscow trip at the end of that year. The President often spoke of his Moscow mission as the crowning achievement of his diplomatic life. The emphasis on the description and interpretation of the circumstances surrounding the Moscow negotiations culminating in the signature of the Czechoslovak-Soviet Alliance Treaty has thus subsequently reduced interest in other aspects of Beneš's Moscow trip. This study and the collection of documents actually focus on Beneš's official visit to Tehran and his negotiations with the young Iranian Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, primarily involving the wartime and postwar economic relations between Czechoslovakia and this country, which were intended to successfully carry on interwar arms exports. The sources also refer to the President's meeting with such prominent allied politicians as Charles de Gaulle and Winston Churchill on the way back to London.

*Translated by Melvyn Clarke*