

GUESTBOOK

The story of the psychiatric ward
in prague with portraits
of famous people



book

Guest



A FEW INTRODUCTORY WORDS

As a young assistant I was one day dashing from one place to another through the corridors of our renowned dean's office. An older colleague stopped me and asked: "You come from that psychiatric ward, you might possibly know – do institutions have a soul?" I don't know any longer what my answer was at that time, but I definitely did not consider it important in the rush of that day. But today I do know that institutions do have a soul. The founders, the heads, "the core" employees, but also the patients and important "passers by" form something, that inseparably belongs to each institution and creates its atmosphere.

Not long ago I heard this metaphor which is supposed to characterise humankind nowadays. People are sitting on a train that is always accelerating into a blind curve. Not many passengers know where they are coming from and nobody has a clue where they are going. And that is why it does no harm to think about the roots and traditions which together determine the direction and way of our lives.

The psychiatric Clinic at Karlov is one of the most important institutions influencing the development of its discipline. Modern Czech psychiatry was created in this campus. Daniel Tuke of York, the famous English psychiatrist, visited our Clinic in October 1853. In the Guestbook, he made the following comment: 'Visited the Asylum with much pleasure and admired the great cleanliness and good order of the institution. Every facility was afforded me by the excellent directors'.

In the Guestbook, we come back to the Heads of the Clinic and we mention the German part of the book that had been previously forgotten. But Arnold Pick, Otto Pötzl, Eduard Gamper and Kurt Albrecht belong to the history of our psychiatry – in good (mostly) and in bad, too.

This time we concentrated on the "passers by". One of the most important ones was the Emperor Franz Josef I, who visited this Clinic in the year 1866. In the Magazine of Bohemian Physicians they say, that he would speak in praise about the perfect Prague Institute, he would comfort each mentally ill patient and after entering the lobby of the Institute he was pleasantly surprised and touched, when "one mentally ill lady passionately played the Austrian anthem on the piano". There were many other well-known visitors, like Jean Martin Charcot, Carl Siegmund Franz Credé, Heinrich Philipp August Damerow, Wilhelm Griesinger, Jacques-Joseph Moreau, Jan Evangelista Purkyně, Karel Rokitansky, Josef Škoda or Julius Wagner von Jauregg. Some of them we shall mention in detail in separate chapters of this book.

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book



It is known that in 1884 Bedřich Smetana, the famous Czech composer, died in this Institute. But it is less known, that 10 years before in the same room the composer Vilém Blodek, the author of the opera *In the Well*, also passed away. And Albert Einstein, who in the years 1911 – 1912 was an assistant at Prague Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, when looking out of the window of his office into the garden wrote: “It is those kind of fools walking around there, whose heads are not haunted by quantum theory.”

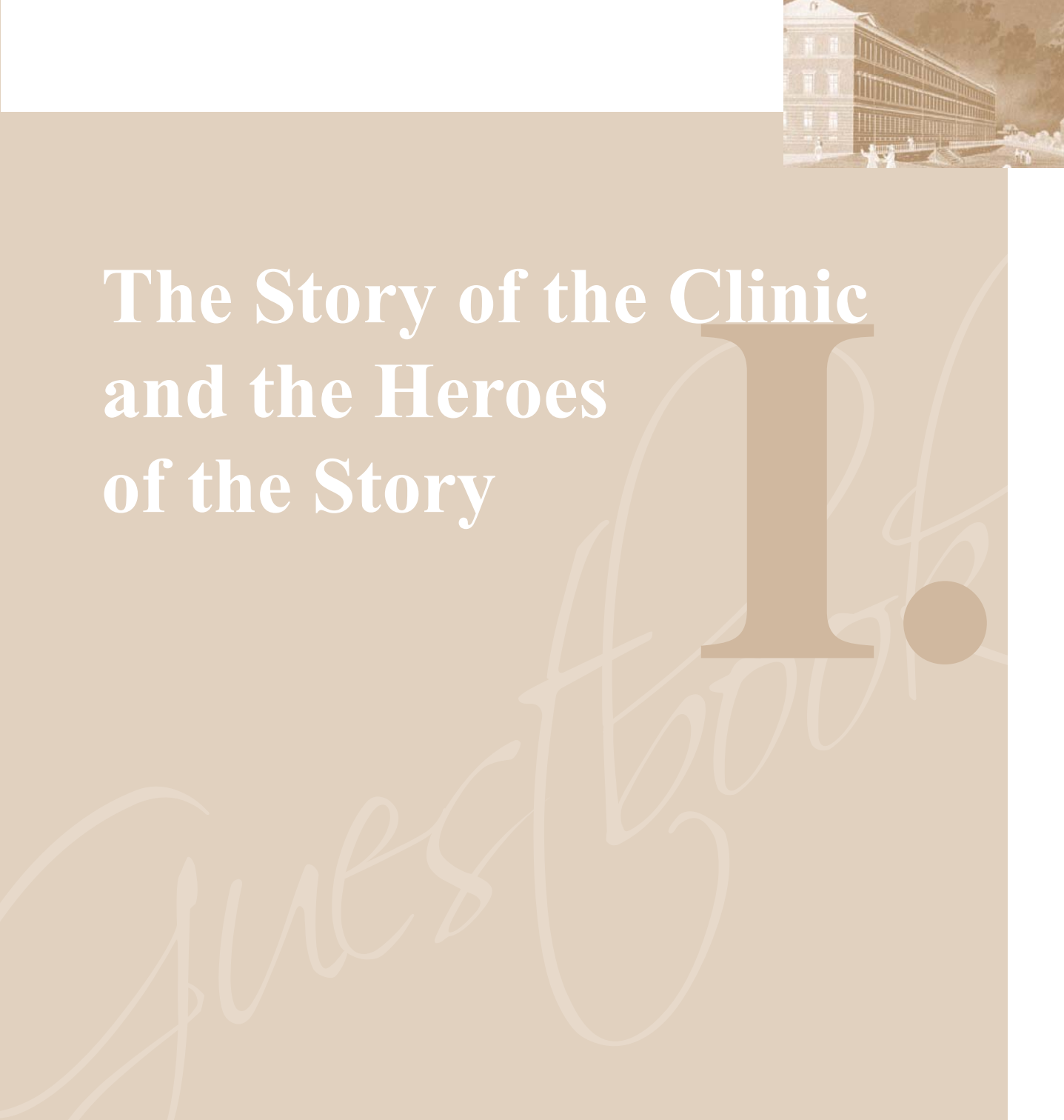
The last rector of the German Charles University Kurt Albrecht, born in Berlin, was also the last German head of the Clinic. There are two reports of his death. The “official” report from his German colleagues was that he was murdered by the Bohemians in the revolution of May 1945. However, people who remember him, say that after the war was lost, he shot his dog in his office and then hanged himself in the loft. That is why some physicians sometimes say that the Clinic is “haunted”.

Today at the Clinic we try to develop not only the professional but also the spiritual dimension of our place of work. In the lobby we placed a sculpture of the Science Allegory by Anton Schmidgruber from the second half of 19th Century which was originally placed on the unfortunately demolished mock renaissance Denis railway station. We put Kurt Freund’s original mechanical phalometer on display again. (which was originally created for the Clinic and is unique) and Vondráček’s „portable“ teacher’s desk in the library of our Clinic. After Jan Janský era, there is unfortunately nothing more left from the material things. The beautiful baroque church and original Augustinian monastery of Saint Catherine historically the second seat of our Clinic, founded in 1355 by Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV is again being reconstructed after three centuries. It is now in a long-term rent agreement with the hospital order of The Knights of the Cross with a Red Star. It’s new grand master has already visited our Clinic. Placing the sculpture of Sigmund Freud created for the 100th anniversary of his birthday in Pribor, Czech Republic is being negotiated.

If this book contributes at least a little to helping us realise more about where we’re from, where we’re going to and why we are hurrying, it has fulfilled its purpose.

*Jiří Raboch
Prague, April 2007*

The Story of the Clinic and the Heroes of the Story





book

Places where history happened are not always marked in travel guides. There are definitely more visitors coming to Prague Castle than those who visit the Psychiatric Clinic in Ke Karlovu street nr.11 in Prague. Not only the visiting guests, but especially medical students will feel some indefinite respect in the old buildings at Karlov. This place impresses them with its look and tradition and unconsciously it influences their thinking. It is sometimes called genius loci, although this expression is not really accurate. Genius loci indicates – at least this is what the dictionary says – atmosphere of a place. But it is volatile and inconsistent, it changes with the seasons, with lighting, decoration and colours of the corridors, it is even influenced by people who are just passing by at the time. Apart from elusive sensations there are some constants in the walls of old buildings that do not change with decorators coming and going or minor renovation works. The most important part is its history.

“The new building“, the seat of today’s department of Psychiatry of the First Faculty of Medicine of Charles University became old a long time ago. It has been used for treating patients since 1844 and clinical psychiatry lessons have taken place in it since 1886. During those years whole generations of medical students and esteemed professors have walked its corridors. Outside its walls thrones collapsed and new states were formed, The Austrian-Hungarian monarchy fell apart, then after the Czechoslovak republic there was the Munich betrayal and occupation, democracy and totality exchanged places. The echoes of the outside events weighed heavily, because not even the hospital works in a vacuum. Inside the massive walls, almost untouched by age, its own development was going on.

The history which took place in the buildings at Karlov may not have had the importance of world events. And yet tens of thousands of future doctors have passed through as medical students who would afterwards work even in the most remote regions of Bohemia and Moravia. Scared undergraduates with their heads full of great plans shared the space with bearers of famous names. Also in the rooms of the patients generations of doctors would change.

Medical science would change, too. After World War I, psychiatry was still a partially overlooked discipline. As opposed to surgeons and internists, the psychiatrist could not quickly deliver impressive results. Taking care of people with serious mental illness is a long term task and usually complex. The progress is often not so evident and many diseases have only recently been treatable. The brain still stays the least explored part of the human body. But development has not stopped because of that, new medicines lessen pain and suffering. Psychiatry has won its place in the limelight and today is an acknowledged and fast developing discipline.

Guest



A genius loci is created by the hope and searching, personal ambition and selfless service to people, suffering and the attempt to lessen it, the work of doctors, nurses and also cleaning ladies, (without whom the Institute would not function). All of this is interwoven in the walls that surprisingly do not look old. The visitors who come here to be treated feel this and so do the guests. They also contribute to creating the reputation of the Institute, they are also part of the relay passed from one generation to the next.

PREHISTORY OF THE INSTITUTE (OR FROM BURNING TO HEALING)

The new building does not at first sight look any different from other hospital and university buildings, that fill the large space between Charles‘ square, Albertov and the start of Vinohrady. It might only be the grids on most of the windows that surprise. It is set in a park with fully-grown beeches, acacias and chestnuts. With the entrance and tall vaulting halls of the entrance space, on one side a bulky relief by Carl Wilhelm von Heine (1838 – 1877), a German professor of Charles University, on the other side a huge sculpture from the 19th Century, a female figure, who with her book open and the globe symbolises the human longing for knowledge. The harshness of the corridors in the higher floors is diminished by flowers and plants, each department is decorated by paintings, textile tapestries and armchairs and seem almost domestic today.

The first impression is usually misleading, though. Psychiatry has been different from the other disciplines of medical science till today. A wandering spirit is a mystery much more complex than broken limbs. And it is the look into the past that allows for overlooking the length of the journey, that our society must have walked in the relation to its own insecurities. For understanding the history of the New building it is therefore necessary to mention at least briefly what was there before.

Medieval church scholastic medicine was helpless when it came to mental illness and the ill were placed out of the framework of medicine in those days. The existence of the mentally ill was seen as testament to the work of devils and daemons– it was the evil spirits who entered the mind and the heart, possessed them and the person became ill.



Due to this, mentally ill people became heretics and were burnt to death or persecuted as though they were fully responsible for their deeds or actions. They were punished for speaking nonsense, having hallucinations and not being able to control their feelings. Those who did not end up at the execution would survive in underground tombs often nailed to the wall. Their beds were usually made of hay dirtied by their own excrement.

Only with the renaissance views in the 16th Century would European medicine free itself from the bonds of religious fanaticism. The darkness which had covered the study of mental disease slowly started to lift. New views about natural science brought light on the soul of the ill, doctors would look for possibilities of how to explain and treat illness. Notably was the contribution of newly founded universities where it was possible to teach freely and study the science of mental illnesses not as a theological question but as a medical problem.

A radical change in observing the origin of mental disease and medical treatment for mentally ill is inseparably connected with the name of the famous French psychiatrist **Philipp Pinel** (1745 – 1826), whose requirements became milestones in treating the ill. Already during the French revolution, Pinel demanded the basic medical care requirement to be acknowledged – that all people in hospital are equal. He insisted that the mentally ill were taken out of the darkness and cold of the underground cellars and placed into hospital beds with all the other patients. His monograph on new methods of treatment of the mentally ill which was published in 1801 spread all over Europe and caused a major change in the approach to patients. Work therapy made the living conditions in the “madhouses” more human and brought them closer to life outside the hospital wall.

Pinel himself was an incredibly modern doctor. The Institute for the mentally ill represented for him an independent department of the hospital that was not only supposed to cure and treat but also teach. He had a decisive way of dealing with the ill, but he was also very kind so that he could create rapport. His therapeutic attitude was completely new. First of all he isolated the ill person from their domestic environment that would often make the disease worse. If the patient refused food they were fed by a gastrostomy tube. He used the straight jacket only in extreme cases. The medicine he used was mainly opium although he also added that most psychoses get better spontaneously in the end without any medication. He was also the first to promote work therapy differing by age, sex and physical state of the patients.

Pinel also kept precise documentation about his clients and divided the causes of mental illnesses into inner and outer. To the inner he would link mainly inherited



disposition, to the outer various factors for example poverty, misery, disappointment or somatic causes such as high fevers and brain damage caused by accidents to the skull.

This famous doctor proved with his work that mental illnesses are curable and the best environment for treating them is a psychiatric hospital. The reform of the care of the mentally ill, in his opinion, had to be a matter of state medical care not charity. The so called “prison style” with bonds and manacles he marked as impervious. Pinel became the model for all later progressive psychiatrists of the 19th Century.

In the following century institutions and hospitals dedicated to mental illness treatment started to originate all over Europe and Prague was no exception to this.

THE ORIGINS OF INSANITY

As far as systematic hospital care of mentally ill patients in Prague was concerned, the year 1783 was of major importance. On the 19th of March, the emperor Josef II. ordered through a court decree to establish a department for mentally ill priests in the Hospital of Merciful Brothers in Prague. Also the national philosopher Abbé Josef Dobrovský was treated there, among others, as he suffered from manic melancholic psychosis. Establishing the department for mentally ill priests did not represent a reform in the care of mentally ill patients itself. Only one year later, this institution started to look after all those who needed help. In 1789, a whole building of the newly formed hospital at Karlov was dedicated to treating “peaceful and silent mentally ill old people”.

The most important contribution of Josef II. to the Prague health care was establishing a General Hospital at Charles Square, today’s General Teaching Hospital. It was put into operation on 1st December 1790 and on the same day the first independent Institute for mentally ill patients was opened on its premises.

The Prague Institute was very modern. Alongside each floor there was a central corridor from which there was a door leading into the 19 patients rooms and into the nurses room. The whole two storey building was supposed to serve fifty seven patients. In the beginning, each patient had their own room, later there were two patients to one room. Each room had its own toilet, which was something quite extraordinary in those days. Not least exceptional was the fact that on each floor there was a bath tub and two vessels with water. If someone wanted to be admitted



to this hospital it was necessary to have a written consent that putting this person into the „madhouse“ happened with the awareness and consent of the authorities. The department was divided into three classes where the poor were cured in the third class for free. The new Institute also admitted ill people from the country. So the number of admitted patients rose. In 1817 the number of admitted ill people exceeded 150 per year. The need came to build a new bigger Institute for the mentally ill with doctors of the same quality.

The biggest contribution to the new Institute was no doubt Dr. **JAN THEO-BALD HELD** (1770 – 1851), a proud, physically beautiful medical intellectual of his time. It was him who in the years 1806–1814 laid the foundations for the later development of Prague insanity– this is what the care of mentally ill was called at that time. Although he was never named a proper university professor and that is why he could not become head physician of the General Hospital, during those years when he led the hospital as a substituting and provisory head physician he lifted the care to a high level. He improved food and heating, so the patients were not cold in winter anymore and he uprooted the “martinettish tone“ used by the wardens when they talked to the patients.

Psychiatry then was not an independent discipline yet and Held was mainly an internist. But when doing regular check ups with the mentally ill, he insisted on an individual attitude to each disease and noticed also the social causes of some mental illnesses. He rejected homeopathy and all miraculous healing and was an excellent psychotherapist. Already in those days he knew about the psychogenic state of some of the illnesses. An event from the year 1811 proves this. There were many mental illnesses in Prague then. People connected this phenomenon with a comet that showed up in the sky. At the same time the collapse of Austrian finances happened. The municipal physician Dr. Nádherný asked Held if the mental diseases had been triggered by the comet. He answered immediately: “Two comets showed up this year, one in the sky and the other on the Austrian financial horizon. The second one is the reason that there are so many mentally ill people, so much apoplexy and so many suicides.“

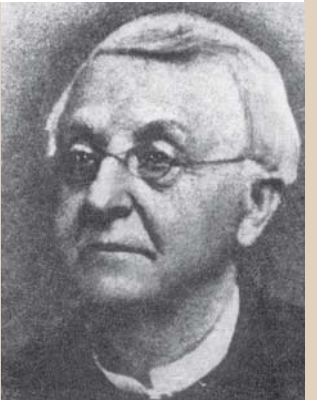
The worthiness of Held was not doubted by his contemporaries either. He was elected dean of the medical faculty four times and once he became the rector of Prague University. For his undoubtedly worthiness to public health he was also elected imperial counsellor in 1841. He was versatile and educated, spoke fluent Latin, German, French, English, Italian and partly Russian. Held was a popular family doctor of various noble families: Pachts, Kinskýs, Lobkowiczs. He lived until he was 81 and died in Prague in 1851, childless and single.



J. T. HELD

The next important milestone in the development in psychiatric care in Prague were the plans to build a new, bigger Institute for the insane. The inspiration came from the attempt of the newly developing field to have a stronger influence on the diagnosis and therapy of the mentally ill. After some searching, a new building was found to serve this purpose, it was the so called prior house next to the monastery of St. Catherine. It was adapted in 1822 so that all mentally ill from the General hospital could be placed there. In the following years 1823 to 1826 they also bought the former Augustinian monastery of St. Catherine with its land. The new Institute for mentally ill in which there could be up to 260 patients, included a complex of buildings connected with a garden and vegetable garden. It had a female and male ward, its own kitchen, a reading room and a lobby.

Dr **KAREL DAMIAN SCHROFF** (1802-1887) who became the first the head physician was a keen votary of Philipp Pinel’s views. Work became an important part of his therapy. Also **John Connolly’s** (1794 – 1866) so called “no restraint“, system was put in practise. By this system, all physical limitations of the ill were removed. Schroff laid the foundations of the day to day running of the Institute and he would stress philanthropy, kindness and patience when treating the patients. Apart from the library and reading room, it was him who founded the fruit, vegetable and flower garden and he established craft workshops. He was literary a reformer of mental illness treatment. For his worthiness he was promoted by the Emperor into a noble rank. He died in Graz in 1887.



K. D. SCHROFF

THE FIRST DOCTORS OF PSYCHIATRY

After Schroff, Dr. **Václav Bedřich Rilke** (1802 – 1849) was in the post of head physician from 1830 to 1836. He established eating rooms and an archive where there were various suggestions for reforming stored and also interesting case records and results of dissections. In the end of the year 1836, head physician Rilke left the Institute of St. Catherine and became professor of internal medicine at Prague University. He never went back to psychiatry.

His successor became Dr. **JOSEF BOHUMÍR RIEDEL** (1803 – 1870). This is when the golden years of the Institute started. It was in these times when the famous discourse of Josef Skoda about percussion and auscultation was published and when L. Pasteur discovered anaerobic bacteria.



J. B. RIEDEL



book

Guest



The Institute of St. Catherine could contain only 250 – 260 patients and it soon became too small for that. The walls began to burst. The growing number of patients had nowhere to be placed. That is why the new head soon after his naming started extensive building work. In the year 1844, the so called new house was opened and today it is the seat of the Psychiatric Clinic of the I. Faculty of Charles University.

For our story Riedel is of key significance because in many respects it was him who was the “father founder“. Not only did he excel as a scientist, he was also a capable organiser. It was him who came up with the idea of a Guestbook into which all important guests have made a comment until today. Riedel's fifteen years of work (1836 -1851) represent the most famous era of the Institute.

In the years 1840 till 1850 the Prague Institute with its 500 beds had the reputation of being the best run and equipped in the most modern way in all of Europe. Even in the time when the New house was beginning to be built in 1841 Josef Riedel had the reputation of a modest head physician of psychiatry and became the first head physician of psychiatry not only in Bohemia, but in the whole Habsburg's monarchy.

As the first head of the whole of the Austrian monarchy, Riedel started giving optional lectures to already qualified doctors. In these lectures he taught psychiatry with demonstrations of practical treatments for mentally ill patients. These lectures helped psychiatry became a distinct discipline in medicine. In the Austrian Hungarian Monarchy in 1821 it had already been made compulsory to teach „insanity“, but it was Riedel who first started to give lectures on psychiatry in a systematic and scientific way.

Chronically ill patients stayed in the original Institute of St Catherine (the so called Old house) while the rest moved into the new premises.

The New house was a two-storey building. On the ground floor there were the doctors' rooms, workshops, dining rooms, recreational rooms for the patients, offices, kitchens, detoxification baths and water treatment rooms and also the flats of the employees.

The first and second floors continued into two wings, the left wing was for men and the right for women. According to the way it was classified then there were rooms for the first and second level ill, on the second floor there were rooms for the third level ill. In both the side wings there were the rooms for the “restless, intolerable, unclean patients and patients who had the tendency to run away“.

Apart from work therapy, Riedel also introduced recreational treatment, music therapy, physical exercise to support health, school classes for the patients and edu-

cational therapy based on the background of his extensive personal home library. Also systematic pharmacotherapy and electrotherapy (in the year 1847 he bought an electromagnetic machine with a movable rheostat). He also laid the foundation of various workshops –bookbinding and weaving – and he made sure they had the necessary tools. The patients were paid for their work. Those with a higher education had the chance to read books in foreign languages, educate them selves in literature or paint pictures. Riedel had a carousel put in the garden for the patients' entertainment, skittles game and a shooting range. He organised dancing parties for them and also an all night carnival, which at that time was something absolutely unique.

In 1846 he gained administrative independence for the Institute from Prague general hospital and was named the first director of the Institute.

At the same time he held the position of the director of Prague general hospital. It was due to his influence that psychiatry became an independent branch of clinical medicine.

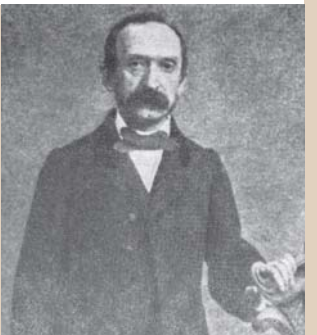
The high reputation spread and the most important dignities of the time visited the Institute or at least were in correspondence with Riedel.

After 15 years of being head physician in Prague, Riedel was called to the capital of the monarchy to become the director of the newly built Institute for mentally ill patients. Later, he was named emperor counsellor and even ennobled. He founded the association of Austrian Psychiatrists and was its head for many years. He died in Vienna of pneumonia on 7th November 1870.

Vienna slowly caught up with Prague in terms of taking care of patients. But still medical dignities from all Europe came to Prague to see the development that the Prague hospital made in the area of caring for mentally ill patients. The signatures in the Guestbook are an accurate documentation of this.

THE BEGINNINGS OF CZECH PSYCHIATRY

Dr. **FRANZ KÖSTL** (1811 – 1882) started work in the Clinic in 1852 and continued successfully in expanding the Institute. He had had the former monastery of servits Na Slupi adapted and used it as a hospital. In 1857 he bought the estate of Popelářka and in the following years the House of Voračický from Paběnice which was known as Herz house. The capacity of beds has now risen to 700.



F. KÖSTL



The new part of the Institute was called “Slupi branch“. Köstl established a work colony here where the patients would devote themselves to growing vegetables and flowers, tree grafting as well as working in shoe or tailor workshops. In 1861 administration for the Prague Institute for the insane was given to the municipal city council and was no longer dependent on Vienna. The municipal board in Prague was not very generous, Köstl started to have problems with the authorities. Vice gerency written documents say about him: “From his own initiation and disrespect to high institutions he caused a loss of several thousands of gold coins and evidently built a renewed palace in Kateřinky with splendid exotics and he prescribes to the patients rice, chocolate and a 178 portions of roasted meat every day“.

Although the difficulties with Köstl were eventually reconciled, the Austrian authorities organised the next campaign against him in 1868.

The campaign was helped by a newspaper article written by a travelling Padre claiming that he has been inaccurately diagnosed and therefore unjustly locked away there. On the basis of this accusation, in 1869 Dr Kostl was asked to resign his position of director by the municipal city council.

Feeling disgusted by his unfair treatment Köstl left that same year to Gratz.

However he had a tremendously high reputation as a psychiatrist. In 1864 he was named the first professor of psychiatry at Prague University. He became the pioneer in inducing fever into psychiatry and long before Jauregg found out that some psychosis get better after the variola vaccination. He was the first to treat paralytic dementia by an artificial variola. He was an excellent pedagogist and his lectures in Czech were repeatedly published. These lectures formed the basis of what was to become the curriculum for future medical students.

He encouraged all his students to undertake independent scientific research and also to publishing their results in the newly formed *Magazine of Bohemian Doctors* (1862), which was formed out of the initiative of Jan Evangelista Purkyně. During his stay in Prague he acquired a high level of Czech language although it was not perfect and joined the authors of the magazine mentioned above. In this magazine he published the only study written in Czech named *Scientific report on the municipal madhouse in Prague* in 1863.

Köstl's organising skills were not as flexible as his predecessor's Dr. Riedel's. But he excelled with the depth of his focus and psychiatric knowledge. A visit to his Institute in 1865 by the Emperor Franz Josef I. was also proof of his reputation.



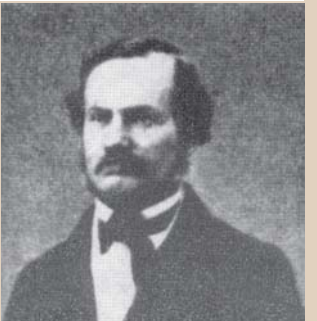
Dr. **JAKUB FISCHEL** (1813 – 1892). Under his leadership in the years 1869 -1885 the Institute kept on expanding. He finished adaptation of the former piaristic monastery in Kosmonosy and in 1875 he received the building of the old maternity hospital U Apolináře for his Institute. Prague psychiatric Institute with all its branches reached its highest capacity in those days – 800 beds. Fischel supposed that for the future development of psychiatry in Bohemia it was important that there were other Institutes built outside Prague and thanks to the influence he asserted, the municipal assembly of the Bohemian kingdom decided that there was to be a new Institute for the insane built in Dobřany u Plzně with a capacity of 600 places. Its managing physician became Fischel's assistant Dr.Pick, who later became a psychiatrist of world reputation. And it is him that Pick Disease – involution atrophy – is named after, as he was the first one to describe it.

Fischel was an excellent pedagogist, although he did not reach the fame of his teacher Riedel. He died in 1892 aged 79 and gave all his fortune of 90 000 gold coins to charity. After his retirement in 1885 the Prague Institute for the insane was constantly lead by Czech psychiatrists.

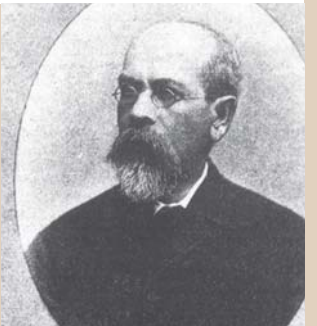
DR. JOSEF KRATOCHVÍL (1830 – 1893) became the new managing physician in 1887. At that time independent Czech and German Psychiatric Clinics were set up. The development that started in 1882, was as a consequence of growing language disputes in the Charles-Ferdinand university. Which was until then a whole unit, was divided into two new independent universities, Czech and German. Already in the winter term 1882 lectures in Czech started at the faculty of arts and the faculty of law, one year later it was the medicine faculty's turn. Since the winter term of 1886 psychiatry was lectured in Czech language. November 19th 1886 is considered to be the starting day of the psychiatric Clinic of the Czech University.

Director Kratochvíl was a specialist in work therapy. During his time at the Institute the bare slopes going from the building on Na Slupi up to the building on St. Apolinář changed into orchards and parks. Vegetables were grown there, and also fruits and vine grapes. In those days two very talented psychiatrists joined the Institute, Dr.Bohuslav Hellich and Dr.Karel Kuffner. Kratochvíl died in 1893 aged 63.

Prof. MUDr. **BENJAMIN CZUMPELIK** (later spelled Čumpelík) (1845 – 1909) was named the director of the Institute for the insane in 1889, as first temporary professor of psychiatry of Bohemian medical faculty in Prague. He fulfilled the post thoroughly for five years until 1891 when he resigned. He established a scholarly library, he had a clinic lab set up and had to his credit the building of several more Institutes for the insane. Before his resignation from the management of the Clinic (1891) he had habilitated Dr. Bohuslav Hellich and shortly after



J. FISCHEL



J. KRATOCHVÍL



B. CZUMPELIK



B.HELLICH



K. KUFFNER

him Dr. Karel Kuffner. He had severe diabetes and his left leg was amputated because of mortification. He walked with a replacement leg, and kept on working. He proved to be a very good manager. His important publication are Contribution to symphomalogy of delirium tremens published in 1901 in Magazine of Bohemian Physicians.

Prof. MUDr. **BOHUSLAV HELLIŠ** (1851 – 1918) was the second temporary professor of psychiatry. He was tremendously scientifically gifted and had a professional interest in neurology and psychiatry. When in 1895 Dr Kuffner was named chief of the psychiatric Clinic, liverish Helliš dedicated himself to his Phd studies, left Prague and took the post of the director firsts in Dobřany and later in Opařany. He focused on neuropsychiatry and was published many times. He returned to Prague in 1908, where he took over managing the Institute after Čumpelík. In 1913 he went to a new Institute in Bohnice. He died of malignant tumour in the larynx in 1918 aged 67.

Prof. MUDr. **KAREL KUFFNER** (1858 – 1940) is considered to be the founder of Czech scientific psychiatry. In 1900 he was named professor of psychiatry. He started a residency with Prof. Meynert at Vienna Psychiatric Clinic and became his dedicated student. He was occupied with pathophysiology of psychoses, his habilitation work concerned pathological anatomy of psychoses. He was a supporter of a biologically and organically oriented school and at the Psychiatric Clinic in Prague he founded a liquorological, histological and biochemical labs. He set up complex examination of ill people (physical and laboratory) and as the author of two parts of *Psychiatry for studying and practical need of doctors* (1897 a 1900) he became the founder of Czech psychiatric terminology. The book is a mastery in style and Kuffner's descriptions of psychotic symptoms are amazing. It is the first Czech psychiatric publication and was very modern for its time.

Kuffner had refined manners, he was kind, hard-working, systematic and gifted. Personally he was non demanding and "anxiously rejective to any personal advantage and merit". He was a distinctive man. He loved nature and long walks, he hiked great distances zig zagging through Bohemia. From Hradcany, where he was living he walked to Karlov every day. He hated alcoholics, although he considered anyone who had a beer with their dinner everyday to be an alcoholic. Around the year 1900 the changes in him were strikingly. The former strict self-criticism changed into loss of self-esteem. He stopped publishing his own work, he started to become shy and closed. He avoided the public and his colleagues. His students together with Prof. Mysliveček started to be suspicious, that he had fallen into a deep depression and oversensitivity. Later, a strong arteriosclerosis developed which

might have had an influence on his behaviour. It is not quite clear to what extent his scientific dispute with his student Prof. Heveroch, contributed to this. Shortly before his death, Heveroch was ad personum named head of the newly formed II. Psychiatric Clinic.

Kuffner's new concept of psychiatry opened the door to all progressive streams of laboratory, biological and non-speculative understanding of mental disturbances. That is why at his Clinic perfect histological and serological labs were set up out of which the basic works of blood groups of Jan Janský came and also Tausigg's work of cerebrospinal fluid. Also Prof. Haškovec (1866 – 1944) the founder and creator of independent Bohemian neurology belonged to Kuffner's students and so did Prof. Herfort, the founder of bohemian child's psychiatry.

Kuffner was the first to organise psychiatric education and the first physician in our country to make psychiatry popular with the public. His lectures were popular and desired and it was not only psychiatrists who would attend, but also psychologists and neurologists. He contributed to Otto's encyclopaedia where he elaborated all psychiatric notes in such a perfect way that they did not date for decades. He founded his own school of psychiatry, where his assistants were MUDr. Jan Janský, MUDr. Zdeněk Mysliveček, MUDr. Leo Tausigg, MUDr. Karel Bělohorský and MUDr. Hubert Procházka. His name is borne by the building of psychiatric Clinic of medical faculty of Charles University in Pilsen.

Prof. MUDr. **ANTONÍN HEVEROCH** (1869 – 1927) does not belong in the line of heads of the first Prague Psychiatric Clinic but he is, together with Prof. Kuffner an important personality of Bohemian psychiatry in the first decades of last century. He was running the Institute when there were approximately one thousand beds. The Institute was also made up of the 1st floor of the New Building as well as the old building of "Kateřinky" (today's Neurological Clinic) and " the old maternity hospital". The examination in those days were written on a piece of office paper cut lengthways, a typewriter was an unusual commodity. They used gas for lighting the departments and it was only later when Heveroch had electrical lights installed. There were no special psychiatric medicines and hypnotics were used in great amounts (Veronal, paraldehyde, amylenhydrate etc.). Beds with nets were common. The term psychiatry at that time meant mainly psychotic disorders and it had no effective therapy available. The possibility to work with neurotic disorders hardly existed. Neurotics visited internists who were usually at a loss what to do with them. In spite of that, internist had the title of "physician of illnesses inner and nervous". It is necessary to add that the term "nervous" meant mostly organic disease.



A. HEVEROCH



Heveroč originally studied at the faculty of law and only in 1889 he changed to the medical faculty. After graduating he devoted himself to psychiatry. In 1899 he became a private lecturer and in 1906 an extraordinary professor and in 1921 he was named professor of neurology and psychiatry. He was habilitated by Prof. Kuffner, but their relationship remained tense. That's why from 1904 he could no longer work at the Clinic. In 1924 he pursued establishing an independent department with an unusual title "Chair of psychiatry of Prof. Heveroč" which shortly before his death was changed to Clinic. In 1927 this Clinic stopped existing.

Heveroč was only thirty-five when he wrote and published the textbook *Diagnoses of mental disease for medical students and general practitioners*. The book contains classically simple descriptions of the patient, brief explanations of basic terms of general psychiatry and diagnostics. It was written in a beautiful literary style.

Heveroč was an excellent debater and he would sometimes dismiss his opponents completely. In his *Psychological-psychiatric cogitation* Prof. Vondráček describes one of his famous discussions: "The disease of Bedřich Smetana caused a sharp dispute in the Association of Bohemian Physicians. Prof. Baltazar and Prof. Haškovec were of the opinion that he was suffering from progressive paralysis. Heveroč claimed that it was arteriosclerosis. Heveroč won the dispute. Someone stood up at the meeting and thanked Mr Heveroč for keeping the memory of a great master clear from suspicion of a humiliating disease. Today we know that Smetana's psychoses was arteriosclerosis and his daughter died later of the same symptoms. Through examining her brain it was discovered that it had been an arteriosclerotic psychosis. The psychiatric diagnosis for Smetana was ania.

Heveroč founded the first medical professional society in our country – Purkyň's society for studying the soul and nerves – and the Prague hospice for epileptic women Valentinum, which he maintained by his own means. He stressed the importance of psychology and psychiatry of every day life. He made our psychiatry more psychological and considered it right to make psychology more psychiatric. His temper and the amount of public and professional activities made him an opposite of the shy Mr Kuffner. As vice-chair of the Society of the National Theatre he was in contact with actors and allowed them to observe mentally ill people at his department, whenever they needed it for their roles. He was among the founders of the Medical House. His life motto was : Clear thinking, right acting. He died aged 58.



Prof. MUDr. **JAN JANSKÝ** (1873 – 1921) occupied an important place in the history of Bohemian psychiatry and that's why it is necessary to mention him although he was never head of the Clinic. He did studies in haematology with psychotics. The discovery of four basic blood groups and the indisputable discovery of AB rewarded him with an internationally recognised name. This discovery was acknowledged at the international congress in 1921 in USA. Personally, Dr. Janský was a very sociable person with a great sense of humour. He bet on horses and his other hobby was gardening in his house in Černošice. He suffered from angina pectoris. He died aged 48.

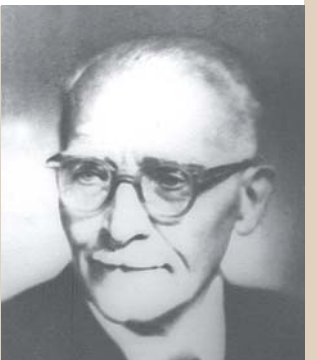
Prof. MUDr. **ZDENĚK MYSLIVEČEK**, DrSc. (1881 – 1974). If Kuffner laid the foundations of Bohemian and also Slovak psychiatry, Mysliveček expanded them and together with his students he had a poignant influence on it. This tremendous influence was not caused only by the personality of Prof. Mysliveček, but also due to the duration of his position. He was habilitated in 1917 and two years later, in the newly born Czechoslovak republic, he founded the Bratislava psychiatric Clinic. After ten years in Slovakia he started the post of the head of the psychiatric Clinic in Prague in 1930 and he was running it until 1957.

In Mysliveček's early days psychiatry was a private medicinal discipline treating only serious mental disorders and individuals who were considered dangerous to themselves and their surroundings. There were no serological, biochemical or electrophysical methods of diagnosis and physiological ones were only slowly beginning to be born. The Clinic worked in strict conditions. The situation was made worse by a general view of psychiatry as an almost "unnecessary" field. The doctors were only expected to perform a kind of maintenance of seriously ill patients. Officially there were only 130 beds, but in the ground floor there were usually squeezed up to 160 to 170 patients. The ill people had to lie on the floor. In the only lab they examined multiple patients at the same time and also carried out serological and liquo logical examination. The library was placed in the office of the head.

After the arrival of Prof. Mysliveček, there was a surge of research work that for some time had been stopped by the conservative and hyper critical attitude of Prof. Kuffner. Prof. Mysliveček had a deep knowledge of morphology and psychology. He was a supporter of a pathophysiological direction in psychiatry and he always defended strict "non-fictional" matter of fact-ness. In spite of his somewhat dull and emotionless personality the patients were placed at the top of his scale of ethics. Although he was primarily a morphologist and neurohistologist, he knew his way around psychology. He established medical psychology as a subject of



J. JÁNSKÝ



Z. MYSLIVEČEK



studies. In Prague, Mysliveček was the first to give lectures about conditioned reflexes. He had a deep understanding for new methods of examining and treating. When he received the first note from Manfred Sakel from Vienna in 1937 about the experience of therapy by insulin shocks he asked the physicians to test them and he personally assisted in the first electric shock therapy at the Clinic. In many ways, he supported his colleagues in becoming published, he highlighted to them interesting cases, delegated demonstrations and asked for their elaboration. He also supported laboratory work, both with examinations and research.

Aged 74, Mysliveček again started for the third time in his life building the psychiatric Clinic. On November 17th 1939 the Nazis' closed down Czech universities. On the first day of the May revolution in 1945, Prof. Mysliveček together with Prof. Henner returned to their Clinics and in spite of nazis shooting they together with the staff of the Institute maintained it till the end of the war. He retired in 1957. He died in 1974 at an honourable age of 93.

He seemed to have been a shy person, who was happiest in a histological lab. He wrote excellent books for the time, about general and special psychiatry. He was not a speech man, but he could hold the listeners attention. He considered compulsive neurosis to be one of the least therapeutically influenciabile mental disease. In one of his internal seminars at the Clinic he gave in to the requests of his assistants to say if he had ever seen a patient suffering from this disease be cured. After hesitating for a long time and with some embarrassment he gave a short description of a man, who had a compulsive obsession to wash his hands whenever he touched a handle. He got better when after an accident his hand had to be amputated.

GERMAN PSYCHIATRY IN PRAGUE

Parallel with Czech psychiatry, there was also a successful development of German psychiatry in Prague. Its centre was the German psychiatric Clinic in Prague, which was formed after Charles University had split into the Czech and German part in 1886. Its existence ceased with the fall of the Third Empire in 1945.

The most important representative of German psychiatry was Prof. MUDr. **Arnold Pick** (1851 – 1924). He was born in 1851 in Velké Meziříčí into an Austrian Jewish family. At the grammar school in Jihlava, he fell in love with natural sci-



ence, but also music and literature. After graduating in Vienna and being a resident in Berlin he settled for three years in the Prague Psychiatric Asylum in Kateřinská street where he habilitated. For four years he was the director of the Psychiatric hospital in Dobřany near Plzeň. From 1886 to 1921, for an incredible length of 35 years, he worked as head of the German Psychiatric Clinic in Prague. It was seated in the same building as the first Czech Psychiatric Clinic with its head, Dr. Čumpelík. In the school year 1891/92, Pick was also dean of German medical faculty. Out of 36 assistants that until 1918 had gone through Pick's Clinic, nine sooner or later received the title of professor, all except one for psychiatry and neurology.

Pick wrote over 350 scientific studies out of which some had a major importance for psychiatry and neurology. He devoted himself to psychiatric and neurological problems of language, tried to localise aphasia, some structures in the brain bear his name. In the year 1907 he described brain atrophy.

At the same time when Alois Alzheimer studied presenile dementia, Pick also studied it. Both of them described two basic types of dementia named after their discoverers – morbus Alzheimer a morbus Pick. For fifty years the contribution of both the researchers was considered equal. Then Alzheimer's disease became more common and appeared in all dictionaries, while the name of Arnold Pick is today known by professionals only. But this is not diminishing the importance of the head of the Prague psychiatric Clinic; in his day he belonged to the top class of his field and has been one of the important psychiatrists who ever worked in Prague.

At the same Clinic, MUDr. **Otto Pötzl** (1877 – 1962) became professor of psychiatry and neurology in 1922. In 1928 he moved to Vienna, where he became head of the psychiatric ward and later was named dean of Vienna University. His research began inquiry into brain pathology and catatonic states.

In the last decade before the beginning of World War II, MUDr. **Eduard Gamper** (1887 – 1938), professor of psychiatry and neurology became dean of the German medical faculty. He specialised in anatomical function of the brain stem, he founded the neurological ward at the Psychiatric Clinic. His description of arhinencephalie is famous. He and his wife died in a car crash.

MUDr. **Kurt Albrecht** (1894 – 1945), professor of psychiatry and neurology and a Berlin medical faculty graduate, became the last director of the German Psychiatric Clinic during W.W.II., in the time of Nazi occupation. He was occupied with neuroradiology. And it was him who in November 1944 became – in the time when Czech universities were closed down – the last rector of the German universities in Prague. Witnesses say that he, like all the other German professors went



to work wearing a uniform. On the day of the Prague uprising on 5th May 1945 he was found dead in the loft of the Clinic. It is not known whether he committed suicide or became a victim of the fight. There were hundreds of dead in Prague and nobody enquired about the circumstances of their deaths.

CZECHOSLOVAK PSYCHIATRY AT THE END OF THE WAR

In comparison with other fields of medicine, psychiatry was more connected to social background and political situations. Therefore it is of no surprise that already before W.W.II a lot of Czechoslovak psychiatrists belonged to left oriented intellectual elite in which there were many Jews. If they didn't manage to escape in time before the Nazi occupation and later also from the repression of semi fascistic Slovak state, then most of them died in Nazi concentration camps.

German psychiatrists who worked during the war in the area of Czechoslovakia at that time were at the mercy of the victorious nation and so together with approximately three million sudeten Germans were expatriated to Germany. This lead to the fact that at the end of the war in May 1945, in Czechoslovakia with approximately 12 million inhabitants, there were only forty psychiatrists left who then had double specialisation of both psychiatry and neurology. In neurology, the French influence of Charcot and Janet's schools prevailed thanks to Prof. Haškovec (the discoverer of akathisia syndrome, which he also named) and Prof. Kamil Henner.

Czechoslovak psychiatry had its sources in two schools that to some extent competed. The representative of the neurophysiological stream was Prof. Karel Kuffner, the representative of the psychological stream was Prof. Antonín Heveroch. In 1945 we had three departments of psychiatry, the Prague department was in the hands of Prof. Zdeňek Mysliveček, who came from Bratislava and was the continuator of Kuffner's work. In Brno the department was lead by head physician Zdeněk Lauterer, whose predecessor Prof. Miroslav Křivý, who had come to Brno before the war also from Bratislava, did not come back from a concentration camp. Prof. Ernest Guesnberger lead the Bratislava Clinic. Although he was oriented more to psychoanalyses, he could balance it with the neurophysiological direction thanks to deep polyhistorical education. Heveroch's continuator was Prof. Jaroslav Stuchlík, the student of Kraepelin, later a psychoanalyst, who after its founding

became the boss of psychiatric Clinic in Košice. Apart from university psychiatry there was a strong influence of a group of pre-war emigrants – psychoanalysts from Russia and Hungary (Dosužkov, Haas, Odarčenko, Osipov). An outstanding character in the field of social psychiatry and rehabilitation was Prof. Karol Matuály, the director of Psychiatric hospital in Pezinok.

For medical students there were provisory papers published where psychiatry was as a rule treated together with neurology. Neuropsychiatry was a common field of specialisation and it depended on the author of the papers whether he himself was a neurologist or a psychiatrist as to how the area was treated. Similar conditions applied to the rigorous exam that also was common for both fields of study. Psychiatry was taught from a General practitioners encyclopaedia which was published in paperback. The terms connected to psychiatry had been written by Dr Leo Taussig, before he was pulled to a concentration camp. There has been little need to change them until now.

University psychiatry had its own quality and tradition. It was influenced from abroad by European continental schools; German, Swiss and in a smaller amount also French and Russian. After six years of isolation, our physicians could learn something about the Anglo Saxon psychiatry from a group of American colleagues who came to Czechoslovakia to give lectures in 1945 with help from UNRRA. In 1946, Dr Jiří Roubíček and Dr Ferdinand Knobloch won a scholarship to stay at Maudsley Hospital in London. The still limited possibility of studying Anglo Saxon psychiatry came only through magazines, it was them who introduced Czech psychiatrists to modern Anglo-Saxon psychiatry.

It was not only psychiatry that suffered from a lack of doctors. German occupants closed down Czech universities for six years. So during the first years after the war the differences between major psychiatrists in the approach to psychiatry were suppressed by the desperate need to secure care for patients with a minimal number of psychiatrists. It was solved by speeding up the education of new physicians in general – the lectures in Brno and Prague for the first year medical students were held in big cinemas. The ministry of health solved the emergency situation by placing the graduates where they were most needed through some kind of recruiting orders called placement. In the document referring to the placement it said that refusing a placement was punished by a penalty or imprisonment.

After the communist putsch in February 1948, there was the need to terminologically suppress all that would be a reminder of the idealistic term of the soul (the psyche). The activity of the soul was replaced by "higher nerves activity" and the teaching of I. P. Pavlov was supposed to solve all questions of science and practice.





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After 1948, Marxism-Leninism ideology overwhelmed all other official sources and methods of scientific research and medical practise. In medicine, the main tool for teaching became the teaching of I.P. Pavlov of higher nervous activities. The main means of therapy were inducing a protective inhibition and healing sleep imposed on patients. Psychoanalysis was banned. Soviet psychiatry was supposed to become the model.

Pursuing this neurophysiological direction made it easier for modern psychopharmacology to be introduced. It was possible to argue that chlorpromazine with its calming influence on the gyn frees the brain cortex from the ruinous influence of drives and affects and enables the right function for this part of the brain, which is the youngest in development. Good knowledge of how to work with conditioned reflexes was also an advantage for our pharmacologists when testing efficiency of newly synthesised original Czechoslovak psychopharmacology.

An important post-war milestone in the development of Czechoslovak psychiatry was the IV. National Conference of Neurologists and Psychiatrists in Bratislava in December 1955. The decision was made to divide the Society into a neurological and psychiatric one. In the same way the magazine that had been Published since 1904, was also split.

THE PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC FROM THE END OF THE WAR TO THE END OF THE CENTURY

After the revolution, new laboratories were created, new departments and lecture theatres. The Institute for brain research started to be formed under suggestions by Prof. Ladislav Haškovec, Dr. Guttmann and Dr. Fišer. It had no time to develop: it ceased after Prof. Vladimír Haškovec was arrested and as presidents Klement Gottwald's physician at the time of artificially created political processes only just escaped execution.

Mysliveček could finally work in an independent histological laboratory, but still without a lab assistant. The liquorological laboratory got more space. Also a neurophysiological laboratory was created under the leadership of dr. Václav Čedík (1908 – 1955), later expanded by doc. Milan Černý. In 1947 doc. Jiří Roubíček started as the first in the republic doing electroencephalographic examining. From the initiative of prof. Mysliveček, there was also a psychological

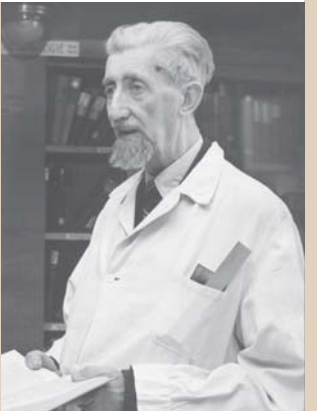
laboratory founded which was lead by doc. Svetožár Nevole, then a photographic laboratory, x-ray for orientation examination of chest organs, endocrinological emergency department (dr. Skaličková) and a general emergency department. Completely new departments were built: for treating alcoholism the famous “Apolinář“, which thanks to Dr Skála reached a world standard, then a children's department, the building of which was mainly contributed by Dr Josef Apetaur, and finally the open departments of which the management of these was given to Prof. Vondráček by doctor Mysliveček.

Prof. MUDr. **VLADIMÍR VONDRÁČEK**, DrSc. (1895 – 1978) became head of the psychiatric Clinic of Charles University in 1958. He was famous for his sense of dry humour and witty remarks. Not only did he write a lot of professional studies but also few very readable books of memoirs. Here only the basic facts are pointed out as there is reference to them in the appendix. From 1923 he published many books not only from the area of psychiatry and medical psychology but also neurology, internal medicine, biochemistry, pharmacology and he also wrote about general medical issues. He published lots of books starting in 1935 with the famous one called *The Soul Pharmacology*. Together with O. Riedel and a few other writers they Published *Clinical toxicology* (1954), which was Published five times. A few monographs were dedicated to psychology and psychopathology – to name a few *Doing and its Defects and Evaluating and its Defects from the Point of View of Psychiatry* (1964). Also his lectures for non-medical students were famous and frequently attended. He contributed to diminishing psychiatry's stigma in society.

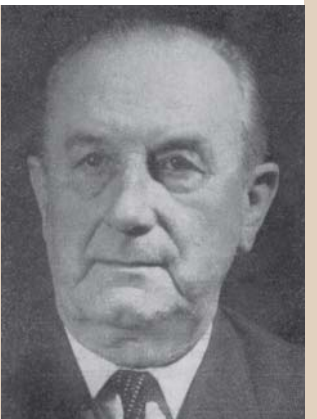
Prof. Vondráček is considered to be the founder of several fields in our country – medical psychology, psychopharmacology, dietetics (together with Prof. Prusík) and psychiatric sexology. In spite of a certain distance in normal life he could be in moments of crisis unexpectedly emphatic. He was a kind and wise head of the Clinic. He died of a sudden vascular brain attack in 1978 aged 83.

An important event for the Clinic was building the research laboratory in 1958. At the time of its biggest expansion it had a department of CNS patophysiology, biochemical and EEG, a cybernetic group, and in 1963 an electronic laboratory, initially shared by the department of psychiatry and neurology.

Prof. MUDr. **JAN DOBIÁŠ**, CSc. (1914 – 1990). He was born in Opatovice in the family of the schwarzenbergs' caretaker. He survived the nazi concentration camp, after the war he worked as a doctor on a Czech navy ship on which he survived a big typhoon. He sailed into his ultimate harbour of the psychiatric Clinic in 1955, when he was 41.



V. VONDRÁČEK



J. DOBIÁŠ



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He was an “extraverted introvert“, who kept the positives of both types, an excellent organiser, extraordinary pedagogist, thinker and psychiatrist with great erudition in all fields. His knowledge was deep and organised, philosophically and psychologically processed. Vondráček used to compare Dobiáš to Socrates (“even in a daily chat he unknowingly teaches his partner and entertains them at the same time...“). Dobiáš had great charm of personality. Although he did not strongly believe that there could be major discoveries done in our conditions, he supported the development of research laboratory which during his time reached its biggest expansion. During his era the lessons of medical psychology for doctors started. His personality radiated kind wisdom spiced with gentle humour. He used to say that humankind is immortal if children are able to survive their parents upbringing.

In Vondráček’s and especially Dobiáš’s time there used to be an electrophysiological department in laboratories, which was lead by Dr Milan Černý, who was also in charge of all the other labs. A biochemical laboratory became common which Dr Radoslav Krulík enriched with very good facilities. The genetic unit also became part of the research psychiatric laboratory. The main interest was the study of genetics of affective disorders (Dr. Petr Zvolský). The unique study of Dr. Hana Drábková describes how they had been monitoring the development of intelligence with twins for many years with the effort to capture the inheritability of the individual parts of intelligence. In close co-operation with the Clinic and laboratory, the prophylaxis of affective disorders lithium salts was introduced by Prof. Dr. Pavel Grof. It enabled laboratory testing of the lithium salts level in the plasma. This topic which has not yet been closed has been explored in co-operation with IGSLI (International Group for Study of Lithium Prophylaxis) also on a molecular genetic level.

In 1964 the Samaritans were created, lead by head physician MUDr. Miroslav Plzák, together with PhDr. Františka Martonová. Dr. František Faltus, founded the well-known unit for eating disorders treatment at the Clinic. The department of psychiatric sexology was founded, its initial leader became Dr. Kurt Freund. He made the Clinic famous with inducing phalography that makes the real sexual orientation of the object objective by measuring the tumescence of the penis. The sexuological department was later lead by Pavel Zemek and Jiří Raboch and in the form of phalographic lab it has been operating until now.

Prof. MUDr. **JAN MEČÍŘ**, DrSc. (1925) had already worked at the psychiatric Clinic with Prof. Mysliveček during his studies at Charles University. After graduating he was leading the alcohol treatment counselling part-time. He belonged to the major specialists for child and adolescent psychiatry, he worked in



J. MEČÍŘ

this field for more than twenty years. His thesis named *Alcoholism of Youngsters* was focused on youngsters along with the thesis called *Murdering Behaviour*. Prof. Mečíř wrote a few monographs and published 157 scientific studies. He became the head of Psychiatric Clinic of medical faculty in Prague in November 1984. He was the first child psychiatrist in this position. For four terms he was the chairman of Psychiatric Society. He founded the first specialised consultation unit for young alcohol addicts. He trained many specialists for the future development of pedopsychiatry. He had tremendous skills to lead the Clinic so that he was not too prominent. He made sure that the Clinic resembled a well playing orchestra without the conductor.

Prof. MUDr. **PETR ZVOLSKÝ**, DrSc. (1933). The student of Prof. Vondráček and Dobiáš is the founder of Czechoslovak and Czech psychiatric genetics and one of the propagators of lithium prophylactic treatment of manic-depression in our country and abroad. He is the author of the monograph *Genetics in psychiatry*, which is the first publication of this kind in central and Eastern Europe and applies the basis of molecular biology and genetics in psychiatry.

After graduating from the medical faculty he started work as a secondary physician at Prague Psychiatric Hospital in Bohnice and afterwards at the Psychiatric Clinic of General Medical Faculty at Charles University in Prague where he later became an independent scientist. The previous political system did not support him at all and so he only obtained the title of Professor of Psychiatry in 1991. In the nineties he worked in the post of head of psychiatric Clinic of Charles University and General Teaching Hospital in Prague 2, vice-dean at 1. Medical faculty of Charles University, head of the committee of Czech Psychiatric Society and regional representative of WPA (World Psychiatric Association). Since 1998 he has been an honourable member of the Czech medical society JEP. He is an honourable member of the Czech and World Psychiatric Associations. Prof. Zvolský received international fame thanks to his research projects in the area of genetics and prophylactic healing of affective lithium defects on which he worked on during long-term stays in Canada and Great Britain. He is the author of almost 150 publications, co-author of scripts and psychiatry textbooks. He is one of the most frequently quoted Czech psychiatrist. In 2005 he was given a State Medal for Credit. His faultless manners of an English gentleman combined with a dry sense of humour has a genetic feature character and was possibly not only learnt through staying and studying abroad.



P. ZVOLSKÝ



J. RABOCH

PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

Professor MUDr. **JIŘÍ RABOCH**, DrSc. (1951) has been closely connected with Prague medical faculty all his life. His father was also a professor and for many years was the head of the Sexuological Institute at Charles University.

He graduated from the Faculty of general medicine sub auspiciis. He has been faithful to it since. After graduation he started work at the Psychiatric Clinic of Prof. Dobiáš as a secondary physician where he still had been experiencing Prof. Vondráček. In 1992 he was named professor of psychiatry and in 1999 was designated as the head of the Clinic.

Today, he leads the Clinic in concurrence with its successful past also in the conditions of a widening Europe and growing international co-operation. Besides other things he saw the conclusion of introducing new methods of repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation of the brain, modernisation of electroconvulsive treatment, founding an addictological centre and Centre for neuropsychiatric research of traumatic stress and obtaining research grants and further development of international contacts.

He visited, studied and worked for a short period of time in Berlin, Hamburg, Munich, Washington and many other places. He published almost 450 scientific works and other articles out of which one third was abroad. His scientific research work was praised by Czech Sexuological Society awards (1990), Vondráček's Award (1997) and Kuffner's Award (1999). The first modern textbook of psychiatry after introducing ICD 10, which he edited with his predecessor Prof Zvolský, was given the prize of rector of Charles University and Czech Medical Society Executive Committee (2001). He is a co-author of works that were awarded A. Alzheimer's prize. He is the bearer of 1. School of Medicine in Prague honorary medal.

Prof. Raboch is an internationally recognised personality. In 1996 he founded a new tradition of national psychiatric conferences in Špindleruv Mlýn, he organised a Regional Symposium of World Psychiatric Association in Prague (1995) and one of the most successful European Psychiatric Conferences (2000). Together with other colleagues he is preparing the World Psychiatric Conference which is due to happen in Prague in September 2008.

He was a member of the executive board of the Association of European Psychiatrists (AEP). Today, he works on the Committee for Conferences of World Psy-

chiatric Association. He has worked in the scientific boards of World psychiatric conferences in Jokahoma (2002) and Cairo (2005), he was an elected member of the prestigious Academy for Sex Research (IASR) and in 1996 – 2001 the representative of Czech Republic in the section and board for psychiatry of UEMS. Together with Prof. Vymětal they founded the Phd program called “Medical psychology and psychopathology” respecting the biopsychosocial approach to mental disease, in the framework of Charles University. Since 1996 he has been the president of the Czech Psychiatric Association. He is an honorary member of the Czech, Slovak and World Psychiatric Societies. At the same time, he is a national co-ordinator of several European research projects.



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Guestbook

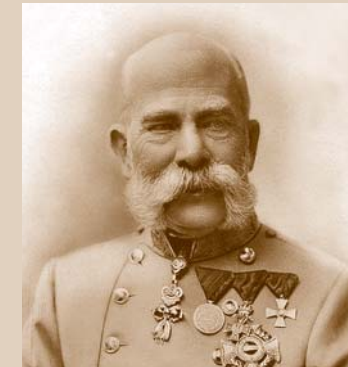
II.



PORTRAITS OF FAMOUS PEOPLE WHO LEFT THEIR SIGNATURE IN THE GUESTBOOK

Apart from medical doctors, also important visitors of the former Prague Institute for the Insane, which later was changed into the Psychiatric Clinic, became part of its Genius loci. And it is their names written in the Guestbook that became the standard of significance the Institute has had since 19th Century in scientific and also political world. The signatures have become a racy testimony about the Institute, its aspirations and its spirit. The presented portraits of important visitors capture the context of the time in which the Clinic has been developing in a broader sense. Together, they belong to its history with all the names of excellent physicians or famous patients.

The Guestbook founded by Josef Riedel opens with the date of September 5, 1834.



FRANZ JOSEPH I.

EMPEROR OF THE HOUSE OF HABSBURG

The most important and famous signature is to be found as first in the Guestbook, dated 27. October, 1866. It is the only one on a blank page, probably written on a blank piece of paper and providently kept for such an occasion. The signature is big and tidy, written by a hand that was used to writing tens of documents daily.

An Emperor deserves the cover page in the Guestbook. His marks in history are the most significant from all the famous men that have visited the Prague Institute – although it was not in a way he might have wished.

The times of his Prague visit were insecure. Austria had just lost the war with Prussia and the most important battles took place in Northern and Eastern Bohemia. The Austrian army suffered a defeating loss near Hradec Králové. Austria had to vacate the premises in Germany and watch winning Prussia getting a significant influence. The lost war also caused problems within the Habsburg monarchy, and Vienna was soon going to try to lessen it by moving part of its power to Budapest. Unified Austria changes within the Austrian-Hungarian balance into two states connected by the figure of the Monarch. But Bohemia is urgently vocaling. So the Emperor's visit to Prague is of no coincidence and has a clearly political flavour.

Why did the young Emperor head just for the Institute for the insane in Prague? Neither here it is hard to find the answer. The Institute belonged to the top of Prague medical care and treated its subordinates regardless of nationality. The





Emperor who sat on the throne for an incredibly 68 years considered decency very important. He would get up at 5 every day and start work in his office. When he was older he would even get up at four. And by the way this is why it is common for Czech factories to start work at six. When the Emperor worked the court could not sleep, high officers requested the co-operation of the low officers and nobody wanted to look like a lazy body lying in bed while His Majesty was attending to documents.

The one before last Habsburg Emperor tried to be a thorough monarch to his subordinates. Even as a boy with blue eyes and blond hair he exceeded with diligence and obedience. Since his early age he had been brought up to fulfil his duties. He had to tidy his toys up himself and politely respond to questions. When he was two he got a little uniform and also a rifle a sword and a hat. When he was six, private teachers would give him 18 lessons a week, when he was seven he spent 32 hours weakly studying and when he became a teenager, he studied for an incredible 50 hours. As a young boy he learnt seven languages so he could talk to the main nations of the monarchy without interpreters. They say he could master Czech language quite well, too, although he had to read his speeches. He could speak Hungarian without a foreigner's accents. When he was 18 this intensive education stopped because the young successor had to sit on the throne. His predecessor Ferdinand – who was by the way the last Habsburg monarch crowned also in Prague – had to resign because of his mental illness. He did not know what to do with revolutions that started in 1848 in Vienna, Prague and Budapest and improvidently promised constitution to his nations. The conservative circles condemned similar changes. There was a silent revolution in the palace and a young man sat on the emperors throne, the new emperor Franz Joseph I.

The one before last Habsburg Monarch, a man of iron health and discipline, reigned for 68 years, the longest of all European monarchs. In this length of time, there were 17 American presidents in office in the USA, even among his subordinates three generations would change. The Emperors contemporaries got old and died, and the Emperor himself changed from a young man into an honourable old man, who would put himself slightly into the role of the father of his nations.

It was exactly this longevity of the Emperor that was paid for dearly by the Habsburgs. In Europe, the second half of the 19th Century was the times of sudden changes. Little craft workshops quickly grew into big factories, horse teams were replaced by steam engines and first cars showed on the roads and first planes flew in the sky. The political situation changed with the same speed. The monarchy could still control the revolution from 1848, but not the consequences of the Hungarian



uprising. As a result of the defeat in the Prussian-Austrian war in 1866, unified Austria changed into two states and part of the power moved to Hungary. Vienna, pushed away from Germany had to watch the new ferocious empire growing in the neighbourhood with its seat in Berlin. Nationalism started to grow in Europe and political parties started to be formed and voices for a general vote right began to be heard. The tension grew especially in countries of mixed nationalities and Austria-Hungary was hit by it fully. Language storms in Bohemia started to threaten the stability of the whole monarchy, restlessness got stronger between the Poles and in Yugoslavia.

Franz Joseph I, in spite of all his diligence, personal modesty and good will remains a very average monarch. His upbringing made him believe in the superiority of a monarch who is chosen by God. Now he is supposed to face challenges that exceed his possibilities. In the times, where new ideas and concepts are required, he stays a conscientious clerk with no imagination, who responsibly attends to all documents and files, is a cold ward of traditions, a man who already in his young age was very conservative and whose thinking gets with age more and more rigid.

He does not give much space to his son, the crown prince Rudolph, who commits suicide at chateau Mayerlink. The Emperor's brother Maxmilian prefers to throw over to the succession and instead of waiting for the throne in Vienna he accepts the imperial crown in Mexico. The effort to stall monarchy on the premises of the New World is not successful and the deposed monarch ends up at the execution squat. Alone at Konopiště, the next successor of the throne Franz Ferdinand d'Este for whole decades frets about plans of reforms. Eventually, he becomes the victim of assassination in Sarajevo in 1914 – while the old Emperor keeps reigning in Vienna. The assassination of the successor of the throne becomes the impulse for World War I, which changes the map of the whole world and finally ends the reign of Habsburgs for ever in central Europe. Austria-Hungary, one of the main European great powers, falls apart into a number of states. One of them is Czechoslovakia.

In his own way and indirectly, the Emperor Franz Joseph has written his name not only into the history of Europe but also the history of psychiatry.

He was 84 and probably did not wish for a great European war and was by his surroundings manipulated into it. Nevertheless, there is his signature under proclamation "To my nations", starting the fatal attack on Serbia. Thus he bears his part of the responsibility of the war that was going to cause death to 10 million people and was going to be the borderline between the almost idyllic times of the 19th Century and modern times.



book

Most of previous wars lasted for a few weeks or months and in each of the battle relatively little armies would fight. In the Prussian-Austrian war, which lasted five weeks and started in 1866 and decided about the unification of Germany, the whole Prussian army was formed by 150 thousand men. This situation was changed by railways, barbed wire and machine gun: the defensive weapons were suddenly more effective than the offensive. One battle did not decide, instead of the breakthrough the opponent would quickly bring support, machine guns and more and more efficient cannons would change each attack of the foot into a slaughter. As a consequence of the national service, all the parties involved in the war would sent armies that were bigger and bigger into the fight, but even this did not mean their victory. The war had fallen out of control and finally changed into a huge butchery eating men in millions. Generals did not know how to win, politicians were at a loss to stop the slaughter, there was starvation in the rear. The fight would only end after a general depletion. The existing order collapsed, the rulers and aristocracy lost their authority, and so did the priests and teachers, the innocent 19th Century was gone for ever. Bitter home comers from trenches did not believe into big words which had sent them to death. Times of confusion and revolutions came, of fascism and communism, restlessness and emptiness.

Changing the way of leading the war brought an important turning point in psychiatry also: it was the first time that war traumas showed up in a larger scale and scull injuries, fear and terror tested the extremity of mental endurance, the collapse of life securities brought ten thousands of patients to clinics in all Europe. But those are never visited by presidents and kings.



JOSEF JUNGMMANN

Josef Jungmann

THE NOTELESS LANGUAGE CREATOR

The signature of Josef Jungmann in the Guestbook can surprise at first sight. What had this silent linguist creating thousands of words that had been missing in Czech language in the peace of his study to do with the Institute treating mentally ill? Jungmann was not a politician nor a journalist, his shyness would rather avoid company. His dream was to prove that the fast developing Czech language can be equal to German as far as richness of the vocabulary was concerned and he used all his effort to reach this goal.

And this is where the connection might be found.

Younger and less known Joseph's brother, professor of obstetrics Antonín Jungmann created in his anthropological discourse *Člověkoslovi* (*Humanology*) the basic medicinal and especially anatomical terminology. He created words in Czech like bránice (diaphragm), játra (liver), žláza (gland) or žluč (gall).

Jungmann's signature in the Guestbook shows expressively where Czech medicine started: by creating words and terms that were common in other languages. The longer the journey for the pioneers was. One would say it is only words...

Josef Jungmann, whose sculpture we find not far from Karlov today, in the centre of the Prague square bearing his name, was born in 1773 in Hudlice. He came from a big family and should have been a priest originally. But he became a teacher and for 45 years worked as a grammar school professor – sixteen years in Litoměřice and later at the renowned Academic Grammar School in Prague.

They called him “the silent genius”, which was not very precise (he could also flatter people and sell himself in the name of a good thing). But he had merit in





renewing and expanding Czech language in an incredible way. He was not alone. His peers – Karel and Jan Presl – created Czech terminology in botanics, chemistry, mineralogy, geology and technical subjects. His brother Antonín enriched the medicinal dictionary. But a huge amount of work was performed by Josef Jungmann. He was in many respects the constructor of Czech vocabulary and finished building modern Czech language with such precision that Czechs themselves are not aware of it and take the terms created by him for granted. In translations (e.g. Milton's *Lost Paradise*) Jungmann helped himself – and thus newly created – with words from Polish, Russian, Croatian or Serbian. Today, we don't even know that words *plod*, *chlum*, *luh*, *látka*, *poznatek*, *časopis*, *kyselina*, *přívuk*, *čtverec*, *trojúhelník* and many others are Jungmann's new forms.

For thirty years, he collected one word after the other, searched their meaning and then finally put together the monumental *Czech German Dictionary* (1835 – 1839), in five volumes, with 4689 pages of Czech vocabulary (approximately 120 000 expressions) and proved its equality to German language. And all this in times where every Czech text in documents had to be fought for, every Czech sign, book or school or theatre.

He completed this extensive work when he was sixty and the next five years still spent with works connected with printing and editing the dictionary. Materially and financially he definitely lost more than gained. But Czech language received its literal and correct norm and Josef Jungmann built himself a monument – still invisible then. A monument from stone, built on the square with the same name, was built in 1873 – 1878 as a first monument dedicated to a Czech revivalist.

The private life of the silent genius was calm and tidy – he married Johanna Světecká in 1800, a girl from a rather wealthy municipal family, from the peaceful marriage there were four children, two of them died early.

As most great spirits of the revival, Jungmann was an incredibly diligent and versatile man. Not only was he a lexicographer, but also a literary historian, educationalist, translator, poet and organiser of the scientific life in his days. He resembled the other revivalists whose universality is not only admirable, but today almost hard to conceive. Those men literary breathed for the things they believed in – and worked very hard. Even before the dictionary another book of theory of literature was published in 1820 called *Slovesnost*, with a reader which served as a pioneer textbook at grammar schools. The next work, *History of Czech literature* (1825) deepens the current view on older Czech literature and brings it into public awareness of people often still using German. Jungmann was also a master at translating; he would introduce Goethe, Schiller, Herder, Chateaubriand and Milton in Czech language.



With passionate reviving of the national language there were also some complications connected nobody first had a notion about. “In language, there is our nationality”. Proclaimed Jungmann and this slogan was slowly taken over also by the other revivalists. They were no different from any other idealists of other nations, especially Germans. It was in Germany where in the works of thinkers such as Johann Herder or Wilhelm von Humboldt, the modern shape of European nationalism was born, connecting the nation with its culture and first of all language. This new shape of patriotism caused enthusiasm and unselfish devotion and connected millions of lonely individualists into a whole. It uplifted the human spirit, but in the shape of extreme nationalism it knocked Europe into the hell of wars and ethnical clearances. First problems already started in Bohemia during Jungmann's life.

The argument of the revivalists that Czech nation only includes those who speak Czech indirectly excluded the Czech Germans, who had lived and co-created the area of the erstwhile bohemian kingdom for centuries, from the national community. The nation who had been bilingual only areaways started to split into Czechs and Germans, their common home changed into a sharply competitive space. Both the nations became rivals in the economical and also cultural field and the emulation was transferred gradually into all areas of life. German and Czech theatres and gym clubs were created, the common university split into the Czech and German parts, university clinics and treatment a scientific institutes were also divided. The Czechs started to walk down the Ferdinand's today's National Road, Prague Germans would stroll at Příkopy. On the turn of the nineteenth and twenties century, the 25 thousand Germans in the capital city still had two rich theatres, two universities, five grammars schools, four secondary schools and two journals that came out in the morning and in the evening. A nationally conscious Czech would never light a cigarette with a match from the German Schulverein box, a German would as a rule never buy the Czech matches of Ústřední matice školská. Even concerts, orchards and playgrounds and swimming pools were divided by language. The hostility, which resulted in Munich betrayal and displacement (expulsion in the German concept) of Sudeten Germans in 1945, started here already.

A similar development happened in most of the multi-national parts of Europe. But this could Jungmann and his contemporaries not predicts. And maybe it is only the effort of European unification that can change this – if it is successful. Let us bow down to the zeal of the revivalists, which in the course of one generation changed Czech language from a half-forgotten dialect which could only express basic terms into a rich, flexible and lovely modern language.

Josef Jungmann was appreciated during his life already. And his funeral in 1847 became almost a national manifestation.



FRANC ANTHONY LIEBSTEINSKY COUNT OF KOLOVRAT

A PATRIOT AND HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL OF THE MONARCHY

Franz Anthony Liebsteinsky count of Kolovrat wrote his name down in the Guestbook as one of the first. A Czech nobleman and high ranking official of the Austrian monarchy started to be deeply interested in hospitals and mentally ill people when he himself started to be ill. Nevertheless, he visited the Prague Institute for the insane at Karlov when the reputation of the new Institute only started to spread. It shows that he was a patriot interested in matters of the Bohemian kingdom even in times when he belonged to the most powerful ministers of Vienna government.

Count Kolovrat, the descendant of an old bohemian line known already in 14. Century was born in 1778. He received perfect social upbringing and when we grew up he entered state service with the outlook of a fast career as an officer. His rise was indeed fulgurant, he was named Prague district officer when he was only 24. In times of war with revolutionary France he worked as a municipal inspector and in 1811 he was named highest burgrave in Bohemia. In the same year he became minister of municipal government. In 1826 he was promoted and became state minister in Vienna.

In times of hard repression, especially after the Napoleon defeat, he is seen as a politician defending Czech interests in Prague. With his influence in Vienna he would balance the power of the almighty prince Metternich, minister of foreign affairs and enemy of national movements in all Habsburg lands. The emperor Ferdinand hardly interfered in the state matters.

Kolovrat and Metternich ruled in the name of the emperor until the revolutionary year 1848 came. They resented each other all that time. That is why Vienna inhabitants would compare them to the imperial eagle with two heads: one looks right, the other one left..

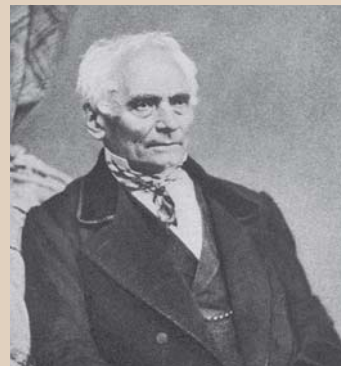
The revolutionary year 1848 first wiped away Metternich as a symbol of reaction. Kolovrat became for a short time Prime minister of the first Austrian constitutional government. After the conservatives came to power, he lost his function, and left the career of an officer soon after.

Franz Anthony Kolovrat believed that small nations can best be challenged if national feelings are appropriately supported. But as most Czech noblemen he perceived the nation more in the sense of the area than feeling. They considered all citizens of the Bohemian Kingdom, Bohemians and Germans, to be inhabitants of the country, which since Celtic times had been called Bohemia or Böhmen in German. Apart from the dominant German language, the noble rank deliberately supported the development of Czech language. They considered the language to be an irreplaceable tool of thinking in arts, science, industry and agriculture. Count Kolovrat had, faithful to his principles, merit in founding the Museum of Patriots in Bohemia, today's National Museum. Before he died in 1861 he had bequeathed to the museum a rich library with 35 thousand books. This is the context the visit of the Austrian prime minister in the Prague Institute for the insane is put into.

One of the main Prague shopping streets, part of the Golden Cross and Příkopy, was at the end of the 19th Century in the memory of the Czech noble man officially and festively called Kolovrat Road. But the non-historical title did not stay and Příkopy kept its original name. Today, a small theatre named Kolowrat, part of the National theatre, is not far from there. Tomáš Kolowrat, who passed away not long ago, rented it for a symbolic price of one crown to the National Theatre.



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JAN EVANGELISTA PURKYNĚ

Joh. Purkinje Dr. u Prof.

THE MOST FAMOUS CZECH DISCOVERER

Jan Evangelista Purkyně could not be missing in the Guestbook. In the nineteenth century, there was no other Czech scientist who would receive greater fame in the world. The weariless experimenter and great physiologist known all over Europe was offered membership by all important Czech scientific and cultural societies. He belonged to the Society of the Museum of Patriots, Royal Educational Company and Matice Ceska. Every organisation, significant in the national life, attempted to be privileged to call him its member. In physiology, to the founders of which he belonged, his names has been renowned till today.

His journey to science was not easy at all. He was born in December 1787 at Libochovice chateau, where his father was working with the Ditrichsteins as a scribe and benefice. The breadwinner died, though, when the son was six. The Ditrichsteins helped the widow to send her little boy to study with the piarists in Mikulov. He wants to become a teacher and in 1807 – 1809 studies philosophy in Prague. He teaches for three years in the family of baron Hildprandt in south Bohemia, in Blatná. In the age when others finish their studies he studies in the years 1812 – 1818 medical faculty in Prague. He graduates aged 31.

But his troubles did not end. He can not find a job, and in spite of his study results he gets rejected by universities in Prague, Budapest and even Graz. He is not aware that he is suspicious of being a member of a secret society of illumina-

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tors, which in times of Meternich absolutism was enough reason to be put on the black list. But bad luck encourages his persistence. Finally, he gets at least the post of the dissector in Prague anatomic Institute. He converts the drawback into an advantage. He learns to dissect and watch every detail carefully.

His starry years start in 1822, when he becomes professor of physiology and pathology at the Prussian university in Vratislav. But it was no bed of roses there either. He had been a passionate experimenter since young age, which differs him markedly from his peers. Practical experiment were not common in natural science then, and physiology was more or less a speculative field. Even educated colleagues consider animal testing evil and profane. Moreover, they consider the new professor not very sociable and rather strange at his lectures. But he knows exactly what he wants to achieve. He has no time for chatting. First he is interested in sight: where do the blurs come from when looking at the clear sky? What happens in the eye when it is pressed with fingers? He is also interested in vertigo. First he does not even have a microscope and only uses magnifying glasses, his flat serves as a lab.

He experiments with himself and also describes effects of various medications and drugs, among others ether, grain alcohol, camphor, belladonna, turpentine, or opium, so popular in those days. He enters a new, undiscovered and dangerous field of experimental pharmacology: when testing camphor he falls into a long unconsciousness. We have to bear in our mind, that in his days physiology was a discipline in a much broader sense – overlapping to biology, embryology and histology.

Purkyně visits the Prague Institute for the insane already in 1835. His curious spirit is interested in the whole field of natural science – including medicine. He still writes his name down into the Guestbook in German: Joh. Purkinje, Dr. und Prof. Medizin in Breslau. But his biggest success is still waiting for him.

Only in 1839 – after fifteen years of effort – he builds his dream research Institute which becomes the first physiological Institute in the world.

The width of his interests and research is amazing, and he keeps consistent systematic way of work. He becomes a pioneer in team work, he delegates topics of research to his colleagues – students and makes sure they are elaborated. With his students, he was engaged in studying the human skin, parts and functions of the heart, microscopic bones structure, joints and teeth. He is interested in muscles, fibres of the cerebrospinal system, structure of the stomach mucous membrane and glands, sight physiology, colour blindness, speech physiology, phonetics but also the structure of an animal egg, movements in the inseminated egg...It is not pos-

sible to name all. Purkyně not only forms the fundamentals of modern physiology, but also histology, logopedy and stomatology.

The greatest Czech scientist of the nineteenth century elaborates microscopic technology and methodology in a new way – he was the first to view findings of the newly discovered Daguerreotype and became the pioneer in using photography in microscopy. Purkyně studied streaks and pictures on the skin of fingers and palms, which had first been overlooked. He set nine classes of footprints and they indirectly influenced the origin of dactyloscopy. In Purkyně's "grain theory" the grain, meaning the cell, is the foundation stone of ever life matter. This is considered to be the first attempt to formulate cell theory. He is the author of the word "protoplasm", describing the life matter of the cell. Soon after his discoveries, protoplasm started to be considered the basic material of all alive beings, the substance of life itself.

In 1850 he comes back from Wroclaw to Prague for good. Instead of pure science, he is engaged into organisational and social activities, but his energy does not fade. He remains Professor at the stool of physiology in Prague until his death, builds his own Prague physiological Institute (open in 1851). Apart from being a member in the most prestigious scientific institutions of his time – The Royal Scientific Society, Matice česká and the Society of the Museum of Patriots – he is in the years 1857–59 also the director of the first Prague industrial school which he founded, municipal member of parliament, first leader of the Czech Medical Doctors Association, co-founder of the Živa (which comes out also in 20th Century magazine and Magazine of Czech Medical Doctors. He dies in 1869.



JOSEF ŠKODA

Dr. Škoda

FOUNDER OF THE MODERN MEDICAL SCHOOL OF VIENNA

The signature of Josef Škoda, internist and professor of internal medicine in Vienna does not surprise in the Guestbook either. Maybe only the date, the year 1835, which is his early years.

Škoda was born in 1805 in a poor family, his father was a locksmith. He studied grammar school in Pilsen and went to study medicine in Vienna. In 1837 – 38 he was the secondary physician in Vienna general hospital. Being exposed to human suffering, he quickly realised that only thinking about the body of the ill person according to the spirit of those days of the modern "natural philosophy" does not heal. Without a sober and unprejudiced observation the doctor discovers nothing. So he left the deductive method, which in his days was exclusively practised and required making a diagnosis based on proper examination.

Today, a similar procedure seems to be taken for granted. But in the first half of 19th Century this was almost a rebellious opinion. Škoda published a discourse on how to use acoustic devices to investigate lungs and heart disease. This had been an unknown thing until then! The followers of the old methods were exasperated.

Škoda's "percussion and auscultation" became the target of jokes and laughter in Vienna. They laughed at his "anvil and trombone." The patients sued him at

the Highest Court, claiming that when they had suffered from pneumonia, he had examined them, while the other doctors would use bleeding immediately. In some cases he was even accused of murder.

Acknowledgement only came when he treated and healed the Emperors. He was honoured by the Iron Crown Order and later obtained the title of the court counsellor.

The younger members of the Vienna Medical School, where Škoda belonged to, left the “natural philosophy in medicine” and started to base their work on pathological and anatomical experience. When setting the diagnose it was not only experience and intuition that played the main role, but also the *physical examination* of the ill. The man from Pilsen laid the foundation of physical diagnosis, which today is common.

The important internist also contributed to the reform of medical education. In the stormy year of 1848, Škoda became member of Imperial Academy. In the same year he also asserted that the lectures at Vienna university are no longer in Latin. Not every student mastered Vergilius language perfectly and even talented students sometimes missed medical connections only because they had to be thinking of Latin grammar at the same time. Lectures in the mother tongue, German, were more comprehensible and practical for the students. A successful compatriot supports the self-esteem of his countrymen, who long for every evidence of Czech skills to assert themselves in the world. Ladislav Rieger writes with enthusiasm that Škoda and Rokitansky “...fired the torch of medical science in Germany...”

A Czech from Pilsen, Josef Škoda, professor of medical clinic in Vienna, became one of the most famous medical doctors of his time. His main work comes from the year 1839 and is named *About percussion and auscultation* (*Abhandlung über Perkussion und Auscultation*). He dies in Vienna in 1881.



JEAN MARTIN CHARCOT

J. Charcot

THE FOUNDER OF NEUROPATHOLOGY

The French neurologist Jean Martin Charcot became famous thanks to his own research and also thanks to organising health care for nervous and mentally ill patients. The more his Prague colleagues were pleased that he highly appreciated also their results. He had a major impact on professor Josef Thomayer. From Charcot's students, the founder of psychoanalyses Sigmund Freud and Pierre Janet reached the greatest fame. It was Janet who continued in Charcot's research of the hypnosis. In his “psychological analysis” he came to similar conclusions as Freud, who was criticised for his psychoanalytical pansexualism.

Charcot was born in Paris where he graduated from medicine in 1853. After his medical praxis in Central Paris Hospital he was named university professor in 1860. His lectures of pathological anatomy, given twice a week, gained great public acceptance, there were sometimes up to six hundred students in the lecture hall, some of them were standing up. As a pathologist he was interested in problems of tuberculosis, rheumatism, pneumonia and fever states. In spite of the success in this field, Charcot started to focus on neurology in 1862 in the famous women hospital Salpêtrière and was completely absorbed by it. It did not take long to see the results. The newly formed clinic quickly reached international fame and started to attract specialists from many countries.

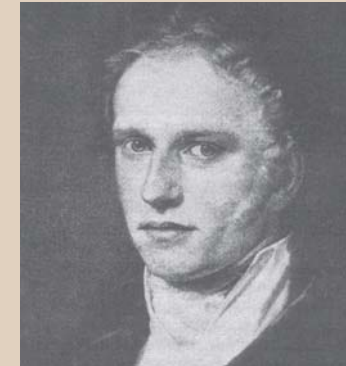
Charcot was the first to study brain bleeding and changes in periphery nerves caused by infectious diseases. He found new pieces of knowledge about localising brain functions and pathogenesis of most nervous diseases. He also investigated healing effects of hypnotism, had an impact on views on hysteria and always stressed the healing effect of trust in oneself and the ideal that is beyond humans and their limited stay on the earth. With mental disease he was interested in the physical origin. He applied metals and magnets in treating, put his mind in symptoms of amyothrophic lateral sclerosis. One of the types is called Charcot's disease.

There are many terms bearing his name in medicine: Charcot's syndrome: lifted eyebrows with facial paralysis with polio. Charcot's triad: nystagmus, intention tremor and staccato speech; the triad was considered a characteristic feature of sclerosis multiplex. Charcot's walking: typical for Friedrich's ataxia. Charcot's joint: destructive joint atrophy due to neuropathology usually secondary to syphilis, but also seen with leprosy, diabetes and syringomyelia.

Some of the terms exist in connection with names of medical doctors, who developed some of the discoveries made by Charcot. E.g. two physicians from Boston Weis and Baker started to name the syndrome of ill sinus Charcot-Weis-Baker syndrome.

Charcot is the author of famous works and precious pieces of knowledge about disease of central nervous system. Under his leading one of the basic books on hysteria *Etudes cliniques sur l'hystéro-epilepsie ou grande hysterie* (1881) was written.

In France, Charcot's son Jean is also famous. He was born in 1867 in luxurious Neuilly-sur-Seine, where the family was living. Jean got famous with his oceanographic discoveries in the polar area. He also died in the sea in 1936 during a scientific expedition on the Pourquoi-Pas (Why not) ship.



FRANTIŠEK PALACKÝ

Frant. Palacký

FATHER OF MODERN CZECH HISTORY

Palacký's signature in the Guestbook comes from 1845, which is before he fiercely emerged in the political scene. The father of modern Czech history and later the most significant Czech politician signed the Guestbook in German: "Franz Palacky, ständischer Historiograph". He has no problem with this, although he himself is Czech, his wife is a woman brought up in the German way and he moves between the members of both ethnic groups.

František Palacký who as a young man worked as an editor of the magazine of the Society of the Museum of Patriots, in these times seems to be a patriot and a scientist acknowledged in Europe. He was at the birth of building the National Theatre, Matice česká and Society of Czech writers Svatobor. He focuses on cultural, economical, social and scientific ennoblement of the Czech nation. The prestigious Institute for treating the insane, which was only a few steps from his home, could not fail to come to his attention.

Father of Czech history was born in Hodslavice in Morava in 1798. A boy with phenomenal language talent (he mastered eleven languages when he was an adult) studied evangeic Lutheran lyceum in Prespurk (today's Bratislava) and it was not clear whether he was going to become a poet, preacher or scientist – his talents were universal. In the end, he decided for history.



He comes to Prague when he is twenty-five years old, already very educated and at the same time eager to learn more. He continually reads and keeps educating himself and astonishes Dobrovský and Jungmann, in those days the top scholars, with his originality of thinking. He tries to study all existing sources of Czech history. He starts almost as a teach himself man, because apart from languages he has studied aesthetics and philosophy mainly. Abbe Josef Dobrovský becomes his teacher and adviser. Dobrovsky is an extraordinary personality and a scholar (but their opinions will later split) and he recommends Palacky to count František Sternberk, who looks for a specialist capable of putting together a decent family tree of the counts family out of old documents.

Palacký dives into this work, which means he spends all his time in archives. This becomes almost an obsession and follows him all his life – out of the darkness of the archive he brings „foundation stones“ into the light of Czech history with all its complications. He does not worry about his tiredness. He copies, sorts out, organises, files all he considers important for enlightening, sorting and especially finding connection of the history of Czech nation. He studies and examines in about seventy main European archives and as a first Czech he is granted admission to the almost inaccessible Vatican archive. He also investigates in a secret court archive in Vienna. The goal he sets for Czechs is to join again mature European nations, as it used to be in the past.

Palacký also participates– as we have said before – in preparing the Czech and German museum magazine and for ten years runs its publishing. He has a tremendous merit in founding *Matice česká* (1831), which is a supporting fond for publishing technical and artistic Czech literature. He gets the post of a professional historiographer of Bohemian Kingdom. He reorganises the Czech Museum as its secretary. He is a member, secretary and since 1868 president of Royal Czech Scientific Society.

In spite of being a protestant he marries (in 1827) a woman from a Prague bourgeois family of German education and catholic faith. And in spite of malicious attacks accusing him of marrying her for her wealth to win time and money for his “splendid isolation“, he lives happily with his wife Terezie. It is true that she does not speak Czech much, but their marriage is placid and harmonious. He meets freely Czech aristocracy and Czech Germans – which he always uses to help Czech national efforts. Critics find this impossible to understand. But he goes his own way.

In 1832, he starts work on the monumental five volume *History of the Czech Nation in Bohemia and Moravia*, first published in German and in 1848 in Czech.

It is the first modern synthesis of old Czech past. From the huge amount of data he creates a brilliant story and clearly captures the deeper sense of Czech history. He works precisely on the basis of studying sources and writes in a refined literary style. The result is a unique picture of Czech history, state and national spiritual and reforming traditions, a clear source of national self-respect and self-esteem.

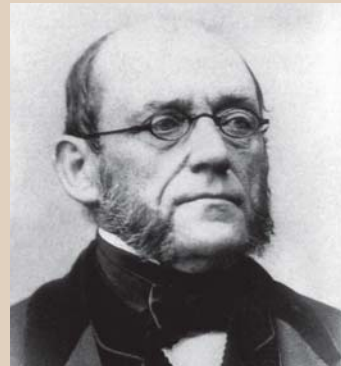
He showed himself significantly as a politician in the revolutionary year 1848, when he refused Bohemian Kingdom (together with the western part of Austrian monarchy) to be part of the German national state. It was caused by his fear that a small and still immature Czech nation would dissolve in the German sea like the Sorbs did. In the Habsburg Monarchy, with a number of Slavic nations, Czechs could stand out for their equality together with Poles, Slovaks, Ukrainees and Yugoslavians. He published his political ideas about so called austroslavism in 1865 in eight articles called *The Idea of the Austrian State*.

The recognised Czech historian became as the front member of the National party for some time also the most influential Czech politician of his times. He was one of the first to come with a vision of a free, democratic federation of central European nations, which would secure a national development to the Czechs: “This nation might be small, but has always been special.....“ He dies in May in 1876.





book



KAREL ROKITANSKY

Karel Rokitský

THE FOUNDER OF MODERN PATHOLOGICAL ANATOMY

The founder of the German pathological-anatomical school was a Czech. In his famous work *Handbuch der Pathologischen Anatomie* he created a major part of the new German terminology. František Rieger in his dictionary from the year 1868 says emotionally about him:

“Rokitanský, renowned all over Europe and outside Europe, a scholar and a medical writer was born 19. February 1804 in Králové Hradec in Bohemia. When he was young he studied in Bohemia. As a young student of the Prague technical college he studied three so called philosophical years and put his mind into the art of medicine. But he spent only three years at medical schools of Prague. He was recruited to Vienna and devoted himself with zeal to clinical studies.

He became a medical doctor in 1828. Soon, he became an assistant at the anatomical-pathological Institute and in 1834 was named professor of pathological anatomy.

With the professorship the post of the prosecutor of the General hospital has been connected since ever. And also with the court anatomist of the seat city Vienna, so an appropriate material was at his disposal. The number of corps dissected by him is 30 000. He did microscopic research and treatment. The findings on the corps he would always put in harmony with the symptoms during the disease. And so his clever spirit recognised the law and process of the disease.“

Guest



Not only the encyclopaediaist Ladislav Rieger was thrilled by the scientific performance of his countryman.

Rokitanský's German colleagues admired his exact terminology. When in 1841 the third part of the already mentioned *Handbook of pathological anatomy* came out dealing with the organs of the enterocoele and thorax, the attention of the whole medical world turned to Rokitansky's dissection table. And it is this third part where he showed himself as a discoverer of new ways, reformer and scientist. He judged effect by cause with firm logic. He connected and compared not only what the dissection knife had shown to him, but also evaluated the results of chemical research and clinical observations. Only then he would formulate the diagnosis. Into reaching the diagnosis he would involve more physicians, which in the 40ies of the nineteenth hundreds was very unusual and creative. Rokitanský should be admired for his honesty with which he was able to appreciate discoveries of his peers and knowledge of his predecessors. When he found out he was wrong, he left his wrong conclusions without hesitation. The theory of mixing blood (crasis sanguinis) which he had worked on for a long time he forsake with regret, but thoroughly. This is not so common in the world of science either.

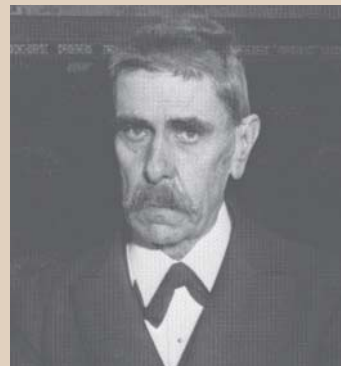
In the medical world, Karel Rokitský from Hradec Králové remains the professor of anatomy at Vienna university, the founder of modern and scientific approach to pathological anatomy and thus the pioneer in investigating the cause of disease. He has been an authority in his field till nowadays.

As Rieger reminds us “The reformatory spirit of the curious researcher looked for new ways, opened unknown scenery in the medical field. He became member of Vienna Science Academy, honourable member of the Medical faculty in Prague and Medical-Surgical Society in London, member of Société anatomique in Paris and American Academy of Arts and Sciences in Boston“.

Rokitansky often visited Prague. His interests in medicine as an honourable member of medical faculty in Prague brought him to the Prague Institute for the insane. Here, he wrote his name down into the Guestbook in 1845, which was already during his years of fame. He died in Vienna in 1878 aged seventy-four.



book



JULIUS WAGNER VON JAUREGG

Prof. Wagner Jauregg
84/IX 910.

THE NOBEL PRICE LAUREATE

The famous Austrian psychiatrist Julius Wagner von Jauregg visited the clinic at Karlov from a collegial interest – the co-operation of Viennese psychiatrists with their Prague colleagues had not been interrupted by the fall of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire and the formation of two independent states. The head of the clinic at Karlov František Köstl had already before mentioned the possibility of treating some mental illnesses with inducing fever and he had also found out, that some psychosis had got better after variola vaccination.

Julius Wagner was born in 1857 in Vienna in the family of Adolf Johann Wagner, knight of Jauregg. After completing the famous Schottengymnasium in Vienna he chose to study medicine at Vienna university. Later he attended the Institute of general and experimental pathology and in 1880 finished writing his thesis with the theme of tachycard causes. (*L'origine et la fonction du coeur accéléré*) and defended his doctor title. After leaving the Institute he put his mind into laboratory work and there he met the possibility of animal testing, which still had been unusual in his days. A short praxis followed at the department of internal diseases under the leading of dr. Bamberger.

In 1883, Wagner was intrigued by psychiatry and without previous experience in the field he took the place of an assistant of dr. Leidesdorf at the psychiatric clinic. From 1885 he gave lectures on pathology of the nervous system and devoted

quest



himself to the research of the function of nerves. After Leidesdorf got ill at the end of 80. he took over the post of the head of the clinic and in 1889 was named professor of Medical faculty of Gratz University and at the same time director of neuro-psychiatric clinic. Here Jauregg started to investigate the relationship between the thyroid gland and cretinism. Based on his recommendation to the government, they started to add jode into salt. Thus the thyroid gland enlargement disappeared almost completely and even today it is still exceptional.

In the 90ies, Julius Wagner married Anna Koch and continued in his psychiatric praxis. In 1892 he was appointed the director of the Institute for the insane and the following year he took the post of the director of psychiatric clinic in Vienna. The year 1893 was significant for him also because he received extraordinary professorships in the field of psychiatry and nervous illness.

The beginning of 20th Century is for the famous psychiatrist connected with his work at the psychiatric clinic of the general hospital. When in 1911 the Institute is reconstructed and expanded, in Vienna suburbs, in Steinhof, a strong psychiatric-neurological background is formed and Wagner von Jauregg heads for the new place of work.

In his psychiatric praxis, Wagner von Jauregg orients first of all to treatment of mental illness with pyrotherapy. Already in 1887 he started to put his mind into research of influence of fever disease on psychoses and later started to use tuberculin discovered in 1890 by Robert Koch. Because the methods were not successful, he moved his attention to treatment via artificial vaccination of maraly plasmodia or typhus recurrens with inducing malaria fever. This method brought success in curing progressive paralyses which in those days tormented one fourth of the patients of the psychiatric clinic. Discovering malotherapy caused first mass dismissal of patients from psychiatric clinic. For this discovery from 1917 – 1918 and it use in therapy, Julius Wagner von Jauregg was in 1927 was awarded Nobel Price for medicine.

The next area of interest of the Austrian psychiatrist was forensic medicine and legal aspects connected to insanity. He took part in drafting legislation protecting the rights of mentally ill which are still in use in Austria. For his contribution to forensic medicine he was awarded the tittle of doctor of law.

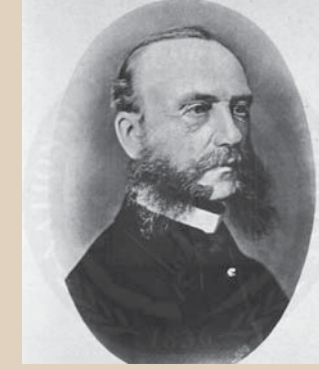
Professor Vladimír Vondráček describes in his memoirs his impression from meeting the Austrian psychiatrist in 1925, when Wagner von Jauregg was head of the Psychiatric clinic in Lazarettgasse 14 in Vienna as follows: “Wagner von Jauregg was of rather medium height, “Sitzriese”, which means a person who sitting down looks like a giant, he had a big head and dark grey hair. Our conversation

was short, so I could not study his looks much, although in those days I had already been enchanted for four years by the teachings of Ernst Kretschmer and in my free time I liked reading anthropology textbooks.“

It was known that Wagner von Jauregg's hobby was athletics, especially wrestling. He would wrestle in a Viennese music hall in a mask under the name Schwarze Maske (Black mask). He was a contemporary of Konstantin von Economo (1876 – 1931), after whom the encephalitis lethargica Economo is named. He is mostly characterised as a man reserved and closed and very diligent.

He retired when he was seventy, during his last fourteen years of life he managed to write 50 publications. Some of them are worth mentioning here, e.g. *Myxödem und Kretenismus*, (in: *Handbuch der Psychiatrie*), 1912, *Lehrbuch der Organotherapie*, s G. Bayerem, 1914, *Verhütung und Behandlung der progressiven Paralyse durch Impfmalaria* (in: *Handbuch der experimentellen Therapie*), 1931.

Julius Wagner von Jauregg died in 1940. It is beyond dispute that he deserved the Nobel Prize, as with his discovery of treating progressive paralyse a new era in psychiatry was started. Professor Vondráček says to this: “...from a therapeutically helpless field a field with beautiful treatment results has become, from human life perspective slowly, and from earth history perspective very quickly, it is definitely a field therapeutically active...”



WILHELM GRIESINGER

Dr. W. Griesinger aus Berlin

WAS ER UNS HEUTE ZU SAGEN HAT

Bis vor kurzem standen wir vor dem Rätsel, wie es möglich ist, dass die menschliche Sprache, die aus dem Menschen den Menschen macht, eine relativ so kleine Repräsentation im Gehirn hat. Es ging um zwei Zentren, das Erste, das die motorische Aktivität während der Sprache sichert (Broca-Zentrum – Fuß der 3. Stirnhirnwindung in der sprachdominanten Hirnhälfte) und das Zweite, das Sensorische, das das Sprachverständnis ermöglicht (Wernicke-Zentrum im hinteren Teil der ersten Schläfenwindung der dominanten Hemisphäre). Dank der Forschung von N. F. Dronkers und seiner Mitarbeiter, die im Labor mit Hilfe von modernen Methoden das Gehirn von einem an Aphasie leidenden Patienten von Broca untersucht haben, wissen wir zur Zeit schon mehr. Es hat sich herausgestellt, dass die Sprachstrukturen große Gebiete des Stirnhirnlappens betreffen und ungewöhnlich zahlreiche Verbindungen mit den weiteren Hirnabschnitten haben.

Wilhelm Griesinger (1817-1868) widmete dem Studium von der Aphasie einen wesentlichen Teil seines Lebens. Die Möglichkeit der Entdeckung der pathologisch – anatomischen Ursache der Unfähigkeit, die Wörter bei sonst erhaltener Psyche im ganz gut definierten Hirnabschnitt zu verstehen, führte Griesinger zur Überzeugung, dass auch andere psychische Störungen ihre Ursachen in der organischen Hirnschädigung haben und dass die Lokalisierung dieser Läsion mit dem Typ der gegebenen geistigen Störung zusammenhängt.



Diese Überzeugung äußerte Griesinger mit seinem berühmten, oft zitierten Satz: „Geisteskrankheiten sind Gehirnkrankheiten“. Erst seit der Zeit war es möglich, die Psychiater in zwei Gruppen – Somatiker und Psychiker – aufzuteilen, was sich durch die ganze Geschichte der Psychiatrie zieht. Die Somatiker vertraten den rein medizinischen, auf dem Körperbefund basierenden Gesichtspunkt, die Psychiker stützten sich auf der Psychologie. In ihren dogmatischen Formen standen diese Richtungen auf unversöhnlichen Positionen. Die Somatiker bildeten Mythologien über die imaginären, in unterschiedlichen Hirnabschnitten genau lokalisierten physikalischen wie chemischen Störungen (Gehirnmythologie). Die Psychiker lehnten ihre Theorien meistens an die philosophischen und moralisierenden Konstrukte an.

Die äußerst ausgeprägten Anschauungen der Psychiker und Somatiker projizierten sich lange in die Streitigkeiten zwischen den „Medikamentosen“ (biologisch orientierte Psychiater, die die Störungen mit Medikamenten behandeln) und „Seelischen“ (psychologisch orientierte Psychiater, die die Psychotherapie anwenden). Funktionelle Bildgebung mittels magnetischer Resonanz, Positronen-Emissionstomographie und weitere moderne Bildgebungsmethoden, die während verschiedener Aktivitäten bei gesunden sowie kranken Menschen angewandt wurden, pflichten Griesinger bei: die Veränderungen in der Tätigkeit – und meistens auch in der morphologischen Struktur – des Gehirns kann man bei allen psychischen Krankheiten finden und in bestimmten Hirnregionen lokalisieren, egal ob diese früher als „psychogene“ (Neurosen) oder „funktionelle“ (manisch-depressive Krankheit und Schizophrenie) Störungen bezeichnet wurden. Die Aphasieanalyse wurde für Griesinger zum Paradigma, nach dem er dann an alle anderen psychischen Vorgänge heranging.

Dadurch wurde die Wichtigkeit des psychologischen Herangehens nicht gesenkt. Es zeigt sich nämlich, dass es zu ähnlichen „organischen“ Veränderungen auch bei dem Lernen kommt (es können z. B. neue Neurone wachsen) und dass man die systematische Psychotherapie als Streben nach dem „Umlernen“ des Patienten betrachten kann, bei dem das nicht adaptive Benehmen durch ein zweckmäßiges Handeln ersetzt werden soll.

Wilhelm Griesinger, Professor der Psychiatrie an der Berliner Universität, war aber kein Dogmatiker. Das hat schon der Philosoph und Psychiater Karl Jaspers erkannt, der ihn bei der Gliederung der Psychiater in die „Erzähler“ und „Analytiker“ ähnlich wie Esquirol und Kraepelin unter die Erzähler eingeteilt hat. Der Erzähler suche in den Äußerungen des Kranken ein lebendiges, verständliches Bild, das mit der einfachen Sprache ohne Fachterminologie mitgeteilt werden kann. Es



handelt sich um ein Vorgehen, das der phänomenologischen Methode (Husserl) nahe ist, die bei den Bemühungen, zum tieferen Charakter des untersuchten Phänomens durchzudringen, jede beliebige Präkonzeption ablehnt. In diesem Herangehen kann man einen gewissen künstlerischen Zug spüren, der typisch für die Arbeit eines Schriftstellers ist. Erst die Verallgemeinerung der so sorgfältig gewonnenen Erkenntnisse bei den individuellen Kranken ermöglichte Kahlbaum die Entwicklung der Konzeption der Hebephrenie, Kraepelin der Konzeption des hysterischen Charakters und Bleuler der Konzeption der Schizophrenie.

Der Analytiker dagegen (nicht mit der Psychoanalyse verwechseln!) widmet sich in Jaspers Auffassung nicht so sehr der Beobachtung, dem „Zusehen“ und Zuhören, sondern vor allem dem Nachdenken über jede Kleinigkeit, die er bei der klinischen Arbeit mit den Patienten gefunden hat. Er „tötet“ die lebendigen seelischen Vorgänge, um ihre isolierten Teile als Bausteine bei der Systembildung zu benutzen.

Die Erzähler schildern ausführlich das Schicksal der einzelnen Kranken mit einfacher Sprache, die jeder leicht versteht. Sie arbeiten mit globalen Bildern. Griesinger wird für den Erfolgreichsten von allen gehalten. Routiniert und leicht überwindet er seine eigenen Probleme und konzentriert sich auf die interessante Beschreibung in bunten Farben. Er schildert anschaulich die reichen syndromologischen Bilder, die er nur ganz kurz mit Hilfe der psychopathologischen Terminologie kommentiert. Er verwendet oft Wörter nur zur Belebung der Beschreibung, ohne ihre Benutzung näher zu erklären.

Es waren wahrscheinlich diese erzählerische Begabung und die Konzentration auf das Benehmen sowie die Erlebnisse der individuellen Kranken, die Griesinger darin gehindert haben, die gegenseitig ähnlichen Krankengruppen zu bilden. „Es gibt nicht die „Irren“ als eine eigene Spezies.“ Auch wenn seine Auffassung der Nervenkrankheiten fest auf der pathologischen Anatomie des Gehirns basiert, vernachlässigte er nicht die Wichtigkeit der psychogenen Momente. „Jedes Geschlecht, jede Sozialgruppe, jedes Individuum, alle tragen durch das Leben ihre Geisteswunden, die sie auf dem von der Natur und der gesellschaftlichen Situation vorbereiteten Schlachtfeld erlitten haben. Und jeder hat auch einen Punkt, wo er am verletzbarsten ist, eine Sphäre, in der es am leichtesten zu schweren Erschütterungen kommt; bei dem Einem ist das das Geld, bei dem Anderen die Schätzung seines Aussehens, bei dem Dritten dann seine Gefühle, sein Glauben, Wissen oder seine Familie. Am öftesten stehen auf dem ersten Platz die Sexualität und die Erotik, dann die Angst ums Leben und um die Gesundheit, finanzielle Sorgen und die Angst um die materielle Existenz, um die Familie, um die Position im Beruf und



in der Gesellschaft und endlich die Religion und die Politik.“ Nicht einmal heute müssen wir an dieser Reihenfolge etwas ändern.

Griesinger war außerordentlich begabt. Nach seinem Studium in Tübingen und Zürich arbeitete er 2 Jahre lang in der Irrenheilanstalt Winnenthal in Westfalen und bereits im Alter von 26 Jahren gründete er die Zeitschrift „Archiv für physiologische Heilkunde“ und noch vor seinem dreißigsten Lebensjahr verfasste er das Lehrbuch Pathologie und Therapie der psychischen Krankheiten. Er blieb jedoch nicht bei der Psychiatrie und nahm die Direktorenstelle in der Universitätsklinik Kiel an. Dort heiratete er Josefine von Rom und kurz danach musste er aus politischen Gründen Deutschland verlassen. Er wurde zum Leibarzt des ägyptischen Vizekönigs Abbas Pascha, womit die Funktion des Direktors der ägyptischen medizinischen Schule verbunden war. In Ägypten sammelte er einen Großteil seines Materials für seine späteren Abhandlungen über die Infektionskrankheiten, die einen großen Einfluss auf die deutsche Medizin ihrer Zeit hatten.

Im Jahre 1852 kehrte er nach Deutschland zurück und arbeitete wieder in Tübingen und in Württemberg. Nach 8 Jahren verließ er Deutschland erneut und übernahm die Leitung der Klinik für Innere Medizin in Zürich. Gleichzeitig entwickelte er in dieser Zeit als Mitglied der Medizinalkommission einen Plan der psychiatrischen Pflege im Kanton Zürich, deren Programm zur Gründung der berühmten psychiatrischen Klinik Burghölzli führte. Später wurde zum Leiter dieser Klinik Eugen Bleuler, der die Konzeption „Dementia Praecox“ von Kraepelin überarbeitete und ihr den Namen Schizophrenie gab.

Seine letzten Lebensjahre verbrachte er als Direktor der psychiatrischen Klinik in Berlin – Charité. Hier gründete er auch die Zeitschrift Archiv für Psychiatrie und Nervenheilkunde. Er war 51 Jahre alt, als er an einer Perityphlitis, einem komplizierten Abszess des Blinddarms erkrankte. Nach der Operation des Abszesses infizierte sich die Wunde mit *Corynebacterium Diphtheriae*. Er starb so an der Halsbräune, jener Infektionskrankheit, über die er in seiner Dissertation geschrieben hatte. Fast an der Neige des Lebens besuchte er am 19. 4. 1868, wahrscheinlich auf Einladung von Dr. František Köstl, das sog. Neue Haus in der Prager Irrenanstalt, die damals den Ruf der bestgeführten Anstalt Europas genoss.

Griesinger sah die neurophysiologischen Gründe der Geistestätigkeit in der „psychischen Reflexaktion“. Er behauptete, dass genauso, wie die physikalischen Reize zur Reflexaktion auf der Rückenmarkebene führen, so führen auch die Geistesvorstellungen zur Bildung einer psychischen Reflexaktion im Gehirn. Zu der Erkrankung des Gehirns kommt es dann, wenn die Mechanismen, die den Verlauf der psychischen Reflexe beherrschen, versagen. Sind die Reflexe verlangsamt,



entwickelt sich die Melancholie, sind sie deutlich beschleunigt, die Manie.

Er beschäftigte sich ebenfalls mit der psychiatrischen Behandlung, was in seiner Zeit die Behandlung der psychotisch Kranken bedeutete. Er setzte die modernen Methoden durch und mit seiner Publikation über die „Asyle“ in Deutschland und deren Entwicklung beeinflusste er die Entwicklung der psychiatrischen Anstalten. Er gründete die erste Anstalt für die Oligophrenie der Kinder und wird für einen der Gründer der Sozialpsychiatrie gehalten.

Wenn wir die Spannweite der schöpferischen Aktivität von Wilhelm Griesinger betrachten, die sich auf der einen Seite von den Aphasien und deren pathologisch-anatomischen Lokalisierung im Gehirn bis auf der anderen Seite zur reichen Epik der Schilderung des Schicksals der einzelnen Kranken, die er nie unter einen Kopf der sinnvollen Diagnose zuordnen konnte, dann ist es nicht erstaunlich, dass sein Name auch mit dem Begriff der Einheitspsychose sowie mit dem Ausspruch: „Ich kenne nur eine Geisteskrankheit und die heisst Irresein“ verbunden wird. Wenn wir ein gewisses Chaos in der Diagnostik in Betracht ziehen, das in der Zeit von Griesinger ähnlich dem war, was im Jahre 1978 J. H. Masserman als „atavistischen Kompost der ätiologischen Spekulationen, zweideutigen Begriffe sowie nebeligen Unterschiede, die für den klinischen Stand, Prognose und Therapie wenig relevant sind“ charakterisierte, dann müssen wir seinen Verzicht auf eine nosologische Klassifizierung der klar definierten Einheiten nicht als eine Schwäche sondern als ein mutiges Geständnis der Tatsache betrachten.



book



MILENA JESENSKÁ

Milena Jesenská

FRANZ KAFKA'S GIRLFRIEND

The life of Milena Jesenská could be divided into a few chapters. The first is connected to Prague, which in the times before the first war slightly reminded of a provincial town. But for centuries, German, Czech and Jewish influences have met here. From the flat of an excellent dentist and later the professor Jan Jesenský in Ovocná street, it was not far to Příkopy and Venceslav square which were the centre of social and cultural life of the town with half a million inhabitants. And it was also here where most of the conflict that divided Prague society more and more sharply took place.

The German Prague, some 25 000 people, first had power and wealth in their hands, it was formed by bankers, owners of coal mines, directors of Škoda's plants, professors and civil servants, high officers. But the more and more confident Czech majority got agitated, too and founded its own societies and political parties, but also factories and banks, schools and sport clubs.

The tension changed into open hostility the consequences of which are also partly captured in our Guestbook. Czech and German universities only kept official relationship, each of them had their own departments with their own professors, separated clinics and laboratories, even stars observatories. In one of them the astronomical devices of Tycho de Brahe appeared, in the other those of Jan Ke-

Guest



pler. No Czech would enter a German church and no German would go to a Czech house of prayer, both nationalities even had their own botanical gardens and mortuaries. Fights became a daily affair.

Only a small group of intellectuals, especially German Jews, stood aside. Max Brod, Egon Ervin Kisch, Franz Werfel, Rainer Maria Rilke or Franz Kafka wrote in German, but their thoughts differentiated them from most Germans and also Czechs.

"I never lived among the German people. German is my mother tongue, so it is natural to me, but Czech sounds much more from the heart to me." Summarised Franz Kafka his feelings.

And among those artists to whom Prague was their home, a young student of the girls' grammar school Minerva Milena Jesenská started to show up. She fell in love with a bank clerk Ernst Pollak, adviser and companion of most German writers in Prague and married him against the will of her father. After Czechoslovak republic had been formed, Pollak moved as most of his friends to Vienna and she followed him. She started to translate from German language, taught Czech for Viennese businessman whose property had been left on the other side of the border, wrote into a Prague newspaper. And she became Franz Kafka's first translator a probably the first reader who understood his greatness.

Their love started in 1920 in Meran where Kafka was treating his lungs disease. Jesenská's marriage had already been in ruins at that time and the writer seemed to her to be the purest being in the world. It was more a spiritual kind of love into which both the partners put all the strength and complexity of their personalities.

"The most beautiful from Your letters (and that means a lot, as they are as a whole, in almost every line, the most beautiful thing I have ever received in my life) are the ones where you agree with me with my "fear" and at the same time you try to explain to me that "I don't need to feel it..." Kafka writes in his *Letters to Milena*.. and it is just this book that makes her famous – thanks to the universal interest in Kafka which burst out long after his death. The shy and lonely author of *The Chateau* or *The Process* leaves his shell in his letters to his beloved and reveals his most secret thoughts and doubts. The letters allow us to observe his inner world and serve as a key to his work.

Their love is mostly of literary quality, the few personal meetings always only last a couple of days only. They are too different from each other. Kafka longed for love and at the same time was afraid of it, while Milena Jesenská was an embodiment of female gentleness and passion and decisiveness. It was her who was more



active in the mutual relationship, requiring and offering all including physical love which the fatally ill writer was afraid of and felt shame about. And it was him who finished the relationship: “Do not write to me and prevent us from meeting one another, this only wish please fulfil, it is the only thing that helps me somehow go on living, everything else will only further destroy me.”

After they had broken up, both of them felt despair. Milena Jesenská loved Franz Kafka until his early death in 1924. She wrote the most moving obituary. “Only few people knew him, because he was a loner, a knowing person frightened by life...He was shy, timid, gentle, and kind, but he wrote gruesome and painful books. He saw the world as full of invisible demons, who tear apart and destroy defenceless people. He was too clear-sighted and too wise to be able to live; he was too weak to fight...All his books depict the horrors of mysterious misunderstandings and of undeserved human guilt. He was a man and a writer with such a fearful conscience that he heard things where others were deaf and felt safe.”

Milena Jesenská was not only Kafka's friend. In Vienna, she started to translate and write into newspapers, especially the National papers. Her columns were published in a book called *The way to Simplicity* and *A man makes a suit*. When she came back to Prague she started to manage a female column in Lidové noviny and worked in Peroutka's *Presence*, she entered the communist party and as a protest against the Moscow processes left after five years, had problems with morphine and had a not very happy private life. Only when Hitler came to power her interests started to change. She became an excellent political journalist. With the rising threat for Czechoslovakia she started to be a patriot, something she had not felt before. She helped in a widening extend to German and Jewish refugees from the Third Empire and her flat at Vinohrady became a transfer station for many of them on their way to other countries. She does not think of herself and her courage grows according to how the situation gets worse. After the Munich betrayal, many Jewish journalists left the editors staff of *Presence* and Czech intellectuals withdraw into careful silence. Jesenská does not hide her views and four days before the occupation in the times of growing hopelessness she publishes the article “How to meet the Czechs“, appealing to resistance towards what was coming.

Illegal work is a logical continuation of the rebellious spirit – and for the former girlfriend of Franz Kafka words are not enough any more. She takes part in organising escape not only to Jews and German anti-nazis, but also Czech officers and pilots. There are sometimes up to ten people squeezed in her flat. She writes into four illegal magazines and tries to face the fading faith in newspapers that still were not forbidden by the nazis.

„In the whirl of political twists and at the birth of new political values, the Czech journalist stands there as the only mediator between the events and the people, as the only spokesman and creator of alive verbal expressions ... Everyone of us said openly: love persistence, endurance, honour your open heartfulness...” she wrote in her article shortly before she was arrested.

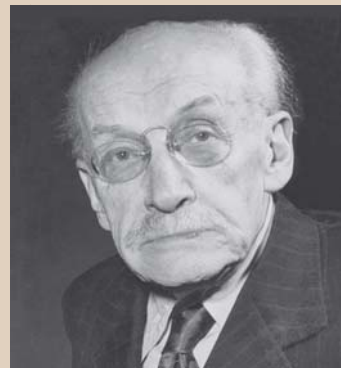
In June 1939, the occupants banned all Jesenská's writing activities and in august, *Presence* was abolished by the Gestapo. With the outbreak of World War II, Ferdinand Peroutka was arrested and four days later also Milena Jesenská. She felt the need to support the courage of the people around her to her last days. When the message was spread that the nazis had forced polish Jews to wear a yellow star of David, she also pieced up one, although she was Czech.

She never spoke nor disclosed the names of her colleagues and after a year of imprisonment in Dresden, her case was stopped for lack of evidence. It was not big of a deal for Gestapo to transfer her to a concentration camp in Ravensbrück. She dies here in May 1944, brave and resistant to her last day.





book



ZDENĚK NEJEDLÝ

Zdeněk Nejedlý

THE ADMIRER OF BEDŘICH SMETANA

The signature of the Czech historian, musical scientist, aestetist, philosopher and artistic critic and professor of musical science at Charles University first showed in the Guestbook in the twenties of 20th Century. Professor Nejedlý visited the places that became the last retreat for Bedřich Smetana and his interest in the Institute grew into sincere affection after the second world war, when he became a communistic ministry of education.

During his studies, Nejedlý was influenced by T. G. Masaryk and university professors Gebauer and Hostinský. Nejedlý wrote his first book about Masaryk and in this book he describes the first president of the independent Czechoslovakia as a strong personality in Czech history. Extraordinary diligence combined with wide scientific education made the young Zdeněk Nejedlý of fragile appearance is appointed with an important post in Czech science and society. As twenty-five years old he becomes, still during the Austro-Hungarian Empire, member of Royal Czech Scientific Society, in 1905 he is named PhD, four years later an extraordinary professor and after the formation of Czechoslovak state in 1918 a professor of musical science at Charles university.

His interest in music was in his young age strengthened by his friendship with the excellent Czech composer Zdeňek Fibich. In 1901, he wrote a pugnacious programme to his defence called *Zdeněk Fibich*, where he defended modern music.

Guest



Several volumes of *History of prehussite and hussite choirs* from 1904–1913 is a classical study based on original sources and the unique piece of work is still appreciated for its originality.

Love and admiration to Smetana followed Nejedlý all his life. He wrote a monumental work *Bedřich Smetana* about his favourite composer in 1924–33 with deep understanding of the development and creative laws of this Czech musical genius. He comes back to the same theme many times, e.g. in his studies *Zpěvohry Smetanovy* and *Česká moderní zpěvohra po Smetanovi*. His studies about Smetana are written with care for every detail and deep understanding. It is the love of a scientist to a certain type of national music, which was a life-long affection. Out of Nejedlý's initiative the Smetana Society was formed, who in 1924 laid the tablet of B. Smetana to the wall of the 1. floor of the psychiatric clinic close to the place where the composer passed away.

Professor Nejedlý's role as a historian is more problematic. After Czechoslovakia was formed in 1918 he tended to the left streams in Czech politics and closely co-operated with the communists. He entered the Communist Party in 1939. He promoted the Soviet Union uncritically, a country he got to know during the war when he had been a professor of Czechoslovak history at Moscow university and since 1941 also a depute of All Slavic Committee. In those years the unfortunate change of the scientist into a promoter starts. As one of the party ideologists he became the author of the theory presenting communists as heirs of all progressive traditions of the Czech nations.

Professor Nejedlý's opinions, melted after the communist putsch into the shape of school textbooks became the only official explanation of the past. The Hussitism movement deprived of its religious content change into a revolutionary movement of the poor similar to the workers movements, radical preachers suddenly spread almost communistic opinions. Bedřich Smetana was as a national composer superior to Antonín Dvořák or Leoš Janáček, Alois Jirásek became one of the most significant Czech writers. History science became the servant of ideology, critical thinking was replaced by copying given opinions.

Zdeněk Nejedlý was member of Czechoslovak government in 1945 – 1946 and 1948 – 1953 and as a minister he founded the Czechoslovak Science Academy and became its president. He has merits in rebuilding the Bethlehem chapel in Prague. He supported building the Monument of Czech letters, he founded Jirasek's museum and became the promoter of his works.

Zdeněk Nejedlý was born 10. February 1878 in Litomyšl and died 9. march 1962 in Prague. He remained a contradictory and complicated figure all his life and even after many years it is still not easy to judge him.



book



The famous patient of the clinic

III.



B. SMETANA

THE DEAF CREATOR OF NATIONAL MUSIC

How many ill people have been through the walls of the clinic in 160 years? Tens of thousands. Patients changed, generation after generation, same as medical doctors and nurses. With the doctors, we at least know their names after all those years, mostly. But the patients who have walked here are nameless. Only one of them has a marble memoir decorated with copper with a simple text on the corridor: “The great soul of Bedřich Smetana was breathed out for the last time here on May 12, 1884“.

The story of this patient is known, almost every adult person of the Czech countries knows it. Every year, in the day of the composer’s death, the international musical festival Prague spring starts in this city above the Vltava river. The flourishes from Libuše announce at special occasions the arrival of the head of the state, the opera *Sold Braid*, connected with the National Theatre, became the embodiment of Czech music.

In spite of that, the story of Bedřich Smetana shown in school textbooks is mostly incomplete. It does not capture the suffering, terror and solitude of his last years and does not show the place, where the great musician died. From the same reasons, the name became inseparably part of the history of the clinic. It is not only the significant medical doctors who belong to it, but also the patients. Because it is because of them why the Institute was formed. The story of the great musician symbolises the fate of ten thousands nameless patients.

Early spring, on March 2, 1824 the Czech composer was born in a brewery in Litomyšl. His genius is acknowledged by the Czechs somehow not very enthusiastically (as it happens at home usually) and only additionally. In the same year, another musical genius, at that time already deaf, Ludwig van Beethoven writes his immortal IX. symphony. Two destinies at first seem different...

“Frček“, as young Bedřich was called, grows up together with his six sisters in quite a wealthy family, where they sing, read and give concerts a lot. Nobody suspects at first, that the child inherits gifts which are magically genetically multiplied, most possibly after his father, who was an active and music-loving brewer. The young Smetana had an absolute ear for music, gift and phenomenal musical memory, which in the end of his life, in the ten years of deafness allows him to compose, which is almost hard to conceive. He also takes his father stubbornness, will and decisiveness. When he was a little boy of six (and he is not very big when he is an adult either) he gives a first piano concert and thrills his audience. His

school teachers are less enthusiastic – their pupil is absent-minded, he is not obedient neither does well at school. In May 1840, already as a student then, he leaves the front Prague grammar school (it had the reputations as a nationally progressive Institute and its director was a front Czech linguist Josef Jungmann) with the intention to put his mind only into music. After the conflict with his father he toilsomely completes his studies at least at Pilsen grammar school. Already in those days the miracle of music leads him to places, where people play and dance. He composes waltzes and polish waltzes to girls he spontaneously falls in love with, improvises at every occasion. Ferenc Liszt becomes his idol in piano technique and Mozart in composing.

As twenty year old he appears in Prague again. In poverty, lonely and without perspective he persistently practises on a borrowed piano. It is not clear what is going to happen next. Thanks to a coincidence and support of his mother to his future wife Kateřina Kolářová (who does not know at that time) he becomes the student of professor Josef Proksch, who has been blind all his life. He studies musical theory and composition. There is one thing that is visible to the visionless professor : the young man’s incredible talent. He also is the only teacher from which Smetana obtains theoretical foundations of the complicated art of composition. Later on, he brings it to perfection. In the meantime, he vehemently studies harmonious canons and makes money as a music teacher for children in the family of Earl Thun who he says good bye to with relief in 1847. With professor Proksch he finished his studies with the beautiful, spontaneously written G moll sonata.

In the beginning of the year 1848 he founds his own Institute for teaching piano play (*Ústav k vyučování na Piano Forte*), which keeps him alive for eight years. The origins of the Institute are somewhat funny, though. He has no money and so with a letter and attached part of his own compositions he asks Ferenc Liszt for financial support. List did not send the money requested but allowed Smetana’s opus nr. 1 to come out in a printed form. And thus the lifelong friendship of the two composers was born (later on, they meet personally and play music till early morning). It was probably the father who in the end lent him money for the Institute. The success is crowned with Smetana marrying his love from his early years, the educated, excellent pianist Kateřina Kolářová. They organise many musical meetings with friends where Smetana presents with joy contemporary music (Chopin, Schumann, Liszt). Not many people understand and take the new styles, because Smetana is too much ahead of the common taste. He makes some extra money working as a musical companion of the former emperor Ferdinand at the castle and he plays Vienna waltzes to him while the old Habsburg is falling asleep.



There is a chain of tragedies affecting Smetana's first marriage: out of four daughters there is only one left, Žofie, the rest of them died. All he composes is taken by the public with reservations or rejection. That is why he, aged thirty two, accepts the offer coming from Sweden and gives concerts, conducts and teaches in Göteborg. He is taken with enthusiasm and makes quite good money, but does not feel real pleasure from creating his own music in the snobby surroundings. Fröjda Beneck becomes his student, a rich, educated northern beauty. If the relationship of the teacher and his student grew into a deeper feeling, this we do not know. But it is a fact that during Smetana's deep health crisis this woman helps him by collecting money for his possible treatment with world famous doctors.

Also his wife Kateřina comes to Sweden to see her husband, but she is very ill and dies on the way back to Bohemia in Dresden. She is buried with her children at Olšany Cemeteries.

Smetana is broken. He wanders, physically and mentally. At one visit of his friends (1859) the thirty-five year old widower meets a beautiful, sixteen years younger Bettina Ferdinand who in his many love letters he addresses Babi. He falls in love head over heels and persistently courts to his love – the power of love to a woman and to creating is equal in all Smetana's life. And he paid for it many times.

The wedding takes place in July 1860, but the marriage is a life mistake. Smetana loves Bettina-Babi. But we are not sure with Bettina. Soon after the wedding she loses interest in the work and creative life of her husband, becomes reserved in personal contact, authoritative and finally demonstratively damnatory. After the second daughter is born she definitely rejects her husband as a man and lover. Smetana suffers, of course. In spite of that he works. Existential conditions force him to form his second musical Institute, so out of need he becomes again a piano play and theory teacher.

The situation in Bohemia at that time is inconsistent. The space for the blossom of Czech cultural life keeps expanding. At the same time, typical Czech squabbling and smallness increases. Smetana's dream of becoming the band master in Provisional Theatre dissolves, machination and personal resentment win over professionally and real patriotic interest.

But Smetana does not fade: he becomes choirmaster of the Hlahol choir, chairman of the musical branch of Umělecká beseda (1863). Czech concert life flourishes, Smetana takes care of the musical column in the most prestigious Czech journal Národní listy, where he writes columns, discourses and witty and professional musical reviews. He wins hate for some of them. In spite of that he keeps



teaching, composing and trying to give a clear national character to Czech opera.

His first opera is *Brandenburgers in Bohemia*, a story from late 13th Century written on a Karel Sabina's libretto. It is completely different from the repertory Smetana studied and conducted the work himself and January 5, 1866 conducted it with exceptional success in the Provisional Theatre. The audience shouted "Bravo!" and at the desk with violas, a still unknown young man named Antonín Dvořák clasped his hands...

The next, the very first comic opera in Czech opera literature, is the *Bartered Bride*. Its premiere on the 30. May was not far as successful as *Brandenburgers*. The unusual shape of the opera with spoken lines made the audience feel awkward, so Smetana made many additional changes from one reprise to another. The final shape, lively, supportive libretto (again Karel Sabina) genius partiture, instrumentation, joyful and also melodically touchy music, this all forms a strictly Czech national opera. It has been studied many times in Czech and foreign stages and compares the artistic level of the musical and singing interprets performance.

Smetana, as a mature artist, becomes band master of Czech opera and it seems that finally, with the influence of new, positive political changes, he has reached his goal at last. In a new creative verve he composes the opera *Dalibor and Libuše* (to the festive opening of National theatre). Its fanfares have been used till these days for special state occasions. He completes the opera *Two widows* about fulfilled love and happiness which he himself has not experienced (with the exception of being a father, twice).

His attachment to women, desire and compulsive physical need the composer might have solved with affairs. Their consequence was a disease whose atypical signs the doctors in his days did not understand – rashes, inflammations, hoarse voice, spasms as a sign of evidence of a venereal disease (lues) confirmed the diagnoses. But the starting flute hallucinations confused them.

Smetana loses hearing quickly. First, he stops hearing on his right and then left ear. And the prognosis is tragic – the brain centres are paralysed.

He finds himself in the realm of silence not knowing what will come.

The first consequence is logical – he loses his post as a band-master. And further difficulties did not take long to come. Envy towards the composer with good financial background, hate of his enemies and untenable social situation of the family affected made him retreat in the country with his daughter Žofie, in the house of a game keeper in Jabkenice near Mladá Boleslav. He had only be a burden for his wife Betty, and no longer existed for her. The peace of Jabkenice's game park, nearby ponds and scenery allowed him to create. He would hear his music on



the inside, in himself. And the most beautiful and ripest pieces of work are created here, the symphonic poem *My Country*, opera *Kiss, Secret and Devil's Wall* (on the libretto of Eliška Krásnohorská), *Czech Dances*, string quartet *From my Life* and others.

But his disease continues. The rattle and hum in his head was replaced by a long, blunt silence, loss of strength and concentration. His memory fails and space, movement and later also intellectual orientation get worse. The deaf, skinny and uninvited composer finally experiences his opera *Libuše* being introduced on 11. June, 1881 for the festive opening of the National Theatre. The Czechs, first rather stuck, showed him appraisals. The one hundredth reprise of the opera *Bartered Bride* became a national feast and a year later, the symphonic poems *My Country* turned into an amazing occasion. Smetana composes miraculously in the last ten years of his life – similar to Ludwig van Beethoven – on the basis of his inner hearing only.

He spends the last three weeks of his life in the Prague Institute for the insane in Ke Karlovu street. He was brought here by cart from Jabkenice. On Monday, May 12, 1884 he gets out of bed but does not reach to the door. His music sounds by the Vltava weir in Prague, the weir with the beautiful view and cafe for tourists above whom the deaf Magician made of stone is sitting...

CONCLUSION

In the Guestbook of the former Prague Institute for the insane, bound in black, decorated with wine-grapes on the sides and a golden vine, the day of the first entry is written clearly: September 5, 1834. After the page of honour dedicated to the Monarch himself, a hundreds of esteemed names follow, from all parts of the world. Over a hundred and sixty years of human effort, some two centimetres of pages in height and then sheets still untouched still waiting for their entry. Sometimes, it is possible to capture things on an incredibly small area...





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The Guestbook

The Story of the Psychiatric Clinic in Prague with Portraits of Famous Figures

Concept, Introduction and Expertise: Jiří Raboch

Authors: Lenka Bobíková, Petr Skarlant, Bohuslav Šnajder, Oldřich Vinař

Expertise: Jiří Kořalka, Ludmila Hlaváčková, Karel Černý

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