SLAVIC HORIZON

Issue 2/2021
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Information magazine of Slovak Matica for the Slavic world and Slovaks abroad

MEMORY OF THE HOLY MARTYR ĽUDMILA

RE-ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE SLOVAK MATICA

INTERVIEW WITH JIŘÍ MALÍŘ, CHAIRMAN OF MORAVIAN MATICA

FROM THE ACTIVITIES OF LUSATIAN-SERBIAN MATICA

ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE CZECH MATICA FOR 2020

CYRIL-METHODIUS BROTHERHOOD: THE FORGOTTEN SLAVIC ASSOCIATION

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Pavol Madura, scientific Secretary of Matica slovenskej, editor-in-chief of the magazine Slavic Horizon, Slovakia

Dear readers,

we bring you the second issue of our cultural, social and professional magazine Slavic Horizon, which closes the first year of its existence in the media space. The new information newsletter for the Slavic world and Slovak abroad with modern look and adequate graphic design and illustrations is intended primarily for the Maticas, professional, scientific and wider cultural public, especially in Slavic countries with a Maticas tradition.

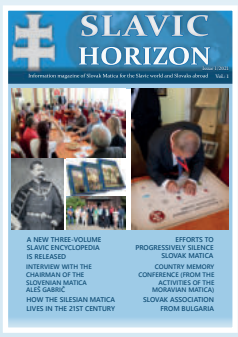
Many more partner entities as well as individuals were involved in the content creation of the second issue, which we are very pleased about. We had to move several posts to the next issue, despite the fact that we have currently expanded it by four pages. Several of you have said that the magazine is reassuring. We are pleased with the number of incoming positive responses and feedback. The magazine's language mutations received extraordinary attention. We can therefore evaluate that we managed to achieve the purpose of the magazine, which is mutual information and greater interconnectedness despite the geographical distance.

I will briefly mention that the request for the creation of a magazine arose at the meeting of the IV. Congress of Maticas and Institutions of Slavic Nations, which took place on 5th and 6th June 2019 in Martin, Slovakia. The Slavic Horizon offers a space for mutual dialogue, cooperation and information of Slavic Maticas and cultural and scientific institutions of the Slavic nations. Priorities also include the protection of cultural heritage, culture, science and education. In this context, it is necessary to ensure a continuous scientific and professional dialogue, to pay attention to mutual knowledge between our institutions, their historical development and leading figures, important personalities and events in the history of our Slavic nations. In the field of science, it is necessary to ensure active cooperation in the field of Slavic studies and other humanities (historiography, literary science, culturology, ethnography, bibliography, linguistics, Slavic comparative linguistics and comparative studies), development of cultural and scientific exchange, organization of scientific and professional and awareness-raising events. The magazine is published as an occasional magazine in electronic form in three language versions - Slovak, Russian and English, in order to reach the widest possible circle of interested parties on all continents. The electronic version of the magazine is available at: https://matica.sk/slovansky-obzor/.

We are slowly entering the new year 2022, so it is time to set new commitments and goals. I am convinced that the increasing activity of all of us will contribute to the increase in content diversity, higher periodicity and possibly other language mutations. We will be happy if you get involved in the creation and promotion of the magazine.

We are looking forward to creative cooperation.

Pilot issue of the magazine Slavic Horizon in Slovak, Russian and English language versions published in 2021



FROM THE ACTIVITIES OF LUSATIAN-SERBIAN MATICA

Anja Pohončowa, Chairwoman of the Lusatian-Serbian Matica, Germany

From the General Meeting of the Lusatian-Serbian Matica. Photo: Ludwig Saksa

As last year, the activities of the Matica lužickosrbská in 2021 are marked by significant limitations resulting from the pandemic spread of coronavirus. Despite this, in september 2020 we were able to hold an additional general meeting of our association and establish a new presidency, including the chairwoman. About 40 members present elected the linguist of the Lusatian-Serbian Institute dr. Anju Pohončowou. She thus became the first woman to head the oldest Lusatian-Serbian association. She succeeds Yuri Łušćanský, who has been Chairman since 2016. He and two other members have no longer run for the new presidency. The new presidency now has - in addition to the chairwoman - six other members, including the Chairman of the Lower Serbian department, Maśica Serbska. The activity of the Matica is mainly reflected in the activities of sections and commissions. Unfortunately, various planned events had to be canceled, such as the lectures of the Matica Academy, which the historical section has been holding regularly since 2009. The Lower Serbian Language Commission has not met last year and this year either. The meetings of the Upper Serbian Language Commission were online. The pandemic also complicates the work of the monument committee, which nevertheless fulfills its tasks and carries out the relevant projects. To our regret, the Lower Serbian union Maśica Serbska was forced to cancel its last year's general meeting and postpone this year's one, which is scheduled for June. Our Bureau meetings are now held online without exception; thus the continuity of work in the given conditions is guaranteed.

On Wednesday, April 21, 2021, in Huska, the Lusatian-Serbian teacher and naturalist Michał Rostok (1821 - 1893) was remembered on the occasion of the bicentennial of his birth. The memorial gatherings were organized by the Husecká parish and the Lusatian-Serbian Matica. Jan Malink and the chairwoman of the Matica, evaluated the German-Serbian devotions in the church, among others, and the chairwoman of the Matica, especially pointed out its importance for the creation of Upper Serbian scientific terminology. Then the audience went to the cemetery, where in 1997 Lusatian-Serbian Matica erected a memorial column and where the original tombstone was then laid, previously removed and subsequently restored.

On Friday, April 23, 2021, a new stela was consecrated in front of the school in Radwor in honor of the 125th anniversary of Marja Grolmusec's birth. She was a publicist and fought against the National Socialist regime; she died in August 1944 in the Ravensbrück concentration camp. At the memorial act, Yuri Łušćanski drew attention in a Lusatian-Serbian language and on behalf of Matica to a late Christian woman. For the year 2021, we expect to organize other events in honor of Marje Grolmusec.

Domowina - the Union of Lusatian Serbs, to which Matica belongs, called on its members in 2020 to critically read, comment and improve the union guidelines, which should be the basis for further activities of the Domowina federal presidency after the elections in the following year. The presidency of Lusatian-Serbian Matica also dealt with the directives and gave its opinion. The final version was approved by the participants of the General Meeting of Domowina on June 12, 2021 in Slep (among them also members and members of the Matica).

Since 2011, Lusatian-Serbian Matica has been awarding three junior prizes every second year for professional work in the field of language, literature, history, cultural research or art of the Lusatian Serbs: the Michał Hórnik Prize for high school students, the Bogumił Šwjely Prize for pupils and pupil of the Lower Lusatian grammar schools and the Arnošt Muki award for students and graduates, resp. university students in the first year after graduation.

Works for all three categories were submitted to the 2019 competition in such numbers as never before. In June 2021, the youth prizes were announced again, and we hope for a large participation this year as well.

The focus of current activities is the preparation of the Matica´s general meeting, which is to meet on October 2, 2021.

In 2022, we will commemorate the 175th anniversary of the founding of our association, and in this connection we are preparing a conference in cooperation with the Lusatian-Serbian Institute, which should take place at the end of November 2022.

Atmosphere from the performance of FS Chemlon dancers in the Humenné open-air museum on VII. of the Ruthenian Festival in 2021. Photo: Juraj Kammer

SLOVAK-RUTHENIAN RECIPROCITY

Vladimír Protivňák, Chairman of the Slovak Matica interest union of Slovak-Ruthenian Reciprocity of A. I. Dobriansky, Slovakia

The historical destinies of Slovaks and Ruthenians in eastern Slovakia were very identical, as both nations lived in close neighborhoods, fraternal relations and friendships. The natural and free existence and interests of the emerging Slovak and Ruthenian nation in the second half of the 19th century were defended in the Hungarian Parliament by Ľudovít Štúr and later by other member of parliament Adolf Ivanovič Dobriansky, who belonged to the founders of Slovak Matica (in 1863) and whose signature can be found at commemorative document in second place after the signature of the Slovak great, Bishop Štefan Moyses.

After the establishment of the Ruthenian Revival in Slovakia in 1990, a modern history of mutual cooperation with the Slovak Matica began in February 2007 with the officially concluded Cooperation Agreement with the Slovak Matica´s House in Michalovce and subsequently in January 2010 signed by the Memorandum of Mutual. cooperation between the local union of the Slovak Matica in Prešov and the Local Organization of the Ruthenian Revival in Prešov, which established the direction of further constructive cooperation in the areas of artistic, cultural-social and educational life of Slovaks and Ruthenians in order to strengthen common spiritual and moral values in Slovakia. Many joint events and activities have deepened the mutual steps in the cooperation of both organizations and confirmed the legitimacy of its continuation at present.

The logical outcome of further joint progress was the establishment of the Slovak Matica interst union of Slovak-Ruthenian reciprocity of A. I. Dobriansky at the beginning of 2019, whose first Chairman was Miroslav Kerekanič. The evaluation of the initial years of the union's activities took place at the general assembly of Slovak Matica interst union of Slovak-Ruthenian reciprocity of A. I. Dobriansky on August 12, 2021 in the Concert Hall of the Vihorlat Museum in Humenné. The union co-organized folklore events, professional conferences and seminars for the jubilee of Adolf I. Dobriansky. Five new members were accepted at the general assembly, a delegate and an alternate were elected to the general assembly of Slovak Matica and a proposal for candidates to the Slovak Matica bodies. At the same time, the general assembly elected a new committee: Chairman Vladimír Protivňák, vice-Chairman Miroslav Kerekanič, Secretary Martin Hajník and supervisor Viliam Komora.

The following spoke: M. Kerekanič, V. Komora, Š. Topľanský, V. Protivňák and M. Hajník, who talked about the possibility of supporting the implementation of Slovak-Ruthenian camps, organizing events with inclined communities, involving especially young people from universities in the field. Pavol Madura, scientific Secretary of Slovak Matica, promised help from Slovak Matica headquarters. Contributions can be submitted within the published Slovak Matica periodicals such as Slavic Horizon and Slovakia - National Spectrum. The program of the general assembly was enriched by the participation and speech of the Chairman of Slovak Matica Marián Gešper, who in his speech drew attention to the enlargement of the union, the admission of new members, and the diverse activities of the union in science, culture and folklore.

The present members of the union expressed their support for Marián Gešper, the candidate for Chairman of Slovak Matica, to whom the committee also expresses its gratitude for the constitution and support of the newly established union of the Slovak-Ruthenian reciprocity. The outline of the union activity plan for 2021 - 2025 presented a vision of the union's functioning: publishing a proceedings from conferences and professional seminars on A.I. Dobriansky, expanding the membership base by accepting new members, publishing articles in Slovak Matica periodicals, folklore activities at home and abroad, establishing cooperation with young Ruthenians in Slovak Matica, cooperation with the Ruthenian Revival, getting teachers in schools for cooperation, creating their own window on the Slovak Matica website and organizing a multi-day meeting of members of the department.

The first activities followed immediately after the end of the general assembly, which was the seminar called „The Legacy of A. I. Dobriansky for the Present and the Remembrance of Mitr. prot. Mgr. Petr Humeník with an accompanying cultural program. The interest union of Slovak-Ruthenian reciprocity opens up for the Ruthenian minority under the wings of the Slovak Matica, further possibilities of cooperation in securing research in the historical and scientific field, organizing creative workshops focused on educating the young generation of cultural officials, developing foreign cooperation activities with Slovak compatriot organizations and Ruthenians in raising the national consciousness of Slavic nations in Central Europe.

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF CZECH MATICA IN 2020

Pavel Muchka, Secretary of the Czech Matica Committee, Head of the Book Culture Department, Library of the National Museum, Czech Republic

The activities of Czech Matica in 2020 were significantly affected by an unfavorable epidemiological situation. A number of planned events and projects did not take place, and for the first time, the traditional and popular lecture series, devoted to selected chapters from Czech history and especially literary history, did not take place.

This year's anniversary of Božena Němcová (1820 - 1862) Czech Matica at least commemorated in the form of an online discussion program in cooperation with the Institute of Czech Literature of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, which will be permanently available on YouTube and the National Museum Society website. The life and work of the greatest Czech writer were discussed here by important experts on her work: Dalibor Dobiáš, Magdaléna Pokorná and Robert Adam. Another Matica´s contribution to this year's jubilee of B. Němcová are the thematically focused *Matiční listy* (Maticas papers), which has been a supplement to the double issue of the *National Museum magazine Pragae - Historia litterarum* for many years.

There has been an exposition at the chateau in Maleč near Chotěboř since 2018, showing the life and work of František Palacký and František Ladislav Rieger. There is also a section dedicated to the beginnings of Czech Matica, in which Matica česká also participated by lending the oldest item. The chateau is owned by a direct descendant of F. L. Rieger, Václav Macháček-Rieger. Photo: Pavel Muchka

In March and September, several excursions took place, which focused on the past and present of the Czech sports association Sokol. The tour of the interior of the historic Sokol Pražský building met with great interest from the members, as well as a walk through the Olšany cemeteries, focused on the last resting places of the Sokol founders and important officials.

Not only for the members of Czech Matica, a sightseeing trip to Maleč and its surroundings was intended, which eventually took place on two dates. First, a visit to the castle of John Joseph IV. Dobrzenský of Dobřenice in Chotěboř took place, whose grandfather was raised by Cyril Purkyně, first republic Chairman of Czech Matica. The main point of the program was a tour of the castle in Maleč owned by Václav Macháček-Rieger, which houses an exhibition depicting the life and work of František Palacký and his son-in-law František Ladislav Rieger, which Maleč bought in 1862. In the showcase, the visitor also has the opportunity to get acquainted with the oldest history of Czech Matica, for which both national outstanding people worked all their lives. The last place visited was in Modletín at the grave of Terezia Riegrová (1795 - 1869), the mother of F. L. Rieger, who tirelessly supported him throughout her life.

From the planned presentations of interesting book titles in september, in cooperation with the Machart publishing house, a presentation of Martin Nekola's book on the life destinies of novelist Rudolf Kopecký (1893 - 1981) took place, which fully reflected the dramatic moments of modern Czechoslovak history. On the initiative of Šárka Rámišová, a member of the Czech Matica committee, the cycle *From the Life of the National Museum's Collections* was launched in september, the purpose of which is to gradually present the collection wealth of the National Museum through responsible curators. Š. Rámišová first became acquainted with the subjects from the collection of physical education and sport of the Department of the History of Physical Education and Sport, which also has a rich exhibition and publishing activity. Jolana Tothová from the Department of Modern Czech History presented the extraordinary collection of the Museum of the Workers' Movement, which the National Museum took over into its collections in 2014-2016. Burianová, the cycle was then completed by Lukáš Funk from the Numismatic Department, which manages an extensive and high-quality collection of currencies, medals and orders. The last two performances of the National Museum's experts were also captured by a camera and are thus available online on YouTube and the National Museum Society's website.

Of the information panels planned every year, two Count Harrach and the Tomb of the Counts of Harrach in Horní Branná (the author of the text is Jan Luštinec, the pictorial accompaniment comes from the collections of the Krkonoš Museum in Jilemnice) and Jan Karel Rojek in Budyně nad Ohří (author of the text is Markéta Mrázková).

However, due to the epidemiological situation and the government-announced regulations, no ceremony was held in connection with the unveiling of the panels.

For the year 2021, Czech Matica plans to hold traditional spring and autumn lecture series, a number of excursions, book presentations, ceremoniously present a new Matica´s publication on Říp as a national symbol in the 19th century by Nina Milotová and prepare several information panels. In cooperation with several institutions, it is preparing a wide range of events, projects and exhibitions that commemorate the bicentennial of the birth of the Czech journalist and politician Karel Havlíček Borovský (1821 - 1856).

But everything will depend on a possible return to normal cultural life in the Czech Republic.

SLOVAK MATICA REVEALED BUST OF TWO IMPORTANT SLOVAK PERSONALITIES

Matej Mindár, special assistant of political science, Slovakia

One of the important tasks of the oldest national institution of Slovaks, Slovak Matica, is to commemorate important milestones in modern Slovak history. The period of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries was in the spirit of the national and cultural emancipation of Slovaks in the position of a modern state-forming political nation. In 2021, we commemorated the centenary of the birth of two important Slovak personalities - Alexander Dubček and Štefan Boleslav Roman.

Ceremonial unveiling of the bust to Štefan Boleslav Roman in the Alley of Actors in Park St. Cyril and Methodius in front of the Slovak Matica building in Martin on October 4, 2021. Pictured: (from left) Branislav Roman, Chairman of Slovak Matica Marián Gešper, Chairman of the Office for Slovaks Living Abroad Milan Ján Pilip and Vladimír Bútora. Photo: Ján Seman.

Alexander Dubček, as a respected politician and statesman during the democratization process of Slovak and Czech society, also contributed to the federalization of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. As the only surviving achievement of the Prague Spring after the Warsaw Pact invasion on August 21, 1968, twenty years later it enabled democratically elected representatives to complete the national-emancipation process of the Slovak nation by creating an independent and democratic Slovak Republic on January 1, 1993. Therefore, on the occasion of the year of Alexander Dubček, Slovak Matica decided on August 4, 2021 to unveil his bust in the Alley of Actors in front of its residential building in Martin. During his speech, the Chairman of the Slovak Matica, Marián Gešper, reminded that the oldest nationwide institution of Slovaks thus included Alexander Dubček among the most important figures and officials of the Slovak nation. *"I want to emphasize that this is a great honor for his cultural activities. Although Dubček is perceived as a politician and statesman, he forgets his cultural and social overtones. "*He also emphasized Dubček's contribution to restoring the federal and self-governing character of Slovak Matica in the 1960s, which only lasted until normalization. *"The Slovak Matica was persecuted in the 1950s. And it was Dubček who, with his visit in august 1963, seemed to symbolically breathe out our oldest national cultural institution. "* He also visited the Slovak Matica in 1963 on the occasion of the centenary of its establishment. He was also a special guest in 1992, just before his tragic death. The unveiling of his bronze bust by sculptor Tomáš Polonský is perceived by the members of Slovak Matica as the embodiment of his merits and legacy for Slovaks.

Štefan Boleslav Roman, as a Slovak emigrant in Canada, one of the richest people of the world at the time, but especially the founder and first Chairman of the World Congress of Slovaks, like Alexander Dubček, greatly contributed to the establishment of democratic Slovak statehood, respected and recognized by all countries. On the basis of this, the management of Slovak Matica on October 4, 2021, at the same place, revealed the historically first bust on the territory of Slovakia, symbolically placed on the globe. In his speech, Marián Gešper pointed out that this year we are commemorating two important anniversaries associated with foreign Slovaks - the centenary of the birth of Štefan Boleslav Roman and the 51st anniversary of the founding of the World Congress of Slovaks. *"Roman was a well-known businessman, nicknamed the Uranus King, but it must be emphasized that he was also a convinced christian and a proud Slovak. He sacrificed a lot for the World Congress of Slovaks, thus strengthening the Slovak emigration and the Slovak democratic life abroad. He had open doors to state officials of the United States, Canada and the Vatican, and he worked in international organizations with a high reputation. We cannot even imagine the current Slovak Republic without the World Congress of Slovaks and its first Chairman, Štefan Boleslav Roman."* The bust of Štefan Roman in St. Cyril and Methodius in the courtyard of the Matica slovenská was consecrated by a Greek Catholic priest and university teacher, Associate Professor Michal Hospodár, who represented Archbishop Cyril Vasil, the eparchial bishop of the Košice eparchy, at the event. On this occasion, he also praised his merits in favor of the persecuted Greek Catholic Church in the former Czechoslovakia. Branislav Roman, a great-nephew, thanked on behalf of the Roman family, who lives in Canada and Slovakia. The Chairman of the Office for Slovaks Living Abroad, Milan Ján Pilip, made it clear that Slovakia had and still has a very large diaspora in the world. *"And it was the compatriots who deserved our statehood to such an extent that we would not have it without them today. Štefan Boleslav Roman contributed to our independence by founding the World Congress of Slovaks. I am very grateful to Slovak Matica for having a bust in her Alley of Actors. I am convinced that knowledge of history, which includes the knowledge of our important personalities, is very much needed. "*

The Office for Slovaks Living Abroad, together with the former Secretary General of the World Congress of Slovaks Dušan Tóth, financially contributed to Matica slovenská for the realization of a bronze bust.

Dušan Tóth from Canada's personal address was also delivered in person by a former Congress official and Roman Vladimír Bútor's personal friend.

TIME OF CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND PROSPECTS

Yekaterina Sergeevna Chudjakova - Mikhail Vladimirovich Grabevnik, Perm State University, Russia

The years 2020 and 2021 were difficult for Perm State University (PSU) and for the whole world, but the situation with the pandemic allowed us to leave the comfort zone, to see opportunities, even though at first we saw only difficulties. Since its founding on October 14, 1916, PSU has, in addition to education and science, also organized and supported the cultural diversity of the region and, in the 21st century, intercultural interactions and support for the adaptation of foreigners in the Russian Federation.

Perm State University campus. Source: Perm State University

Cooperation agreements

At present, the PSU implements cooperation with foreign universities on the basis of 102 concluded agreements on scientific and academic cooperation. Under the PSU agreements, it cooperates with 87 universities / colleges from 25 foreign countries (Abkhazia, Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, China, France, Israel, India, Iran, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Korea, Macedonia, Mexico, Germany, Norway, Poland, Tajikistan, Taiwan, Turkey, USA, Uzbekistan, United Kingdom).

In 2020, the PSU signed 23 agreements on scientific and academic cooperation with universities from 12 countries (Armenia, Great Britain, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, China, Mexico, Norway, USA, Taiwan, Turkey, France). New cooperation agreements were also signed in 2021: during this year, the PSU had already signed 16 scientific and academic cooperation agreements with 13 universities in Belgium, Belarus, Israel, Kazakhstan, China, Romania, Uzbekistan and Japan.

In the calendar year 2020, Perm State University admitted 865 foreign students (both in basic educational programs and in academic mobility and academic exchange programs), for comparison: in 2017 - 387, 2018 - 353, 2019 - 747.

Basic educational programs

In 2020, 567 foreigners studied at PSU on basic educational programs, of which 5%, who did not have the opportunity to come to the Russian Federation, studied using remote technologies. Of course, the mixed learning format was psychologically difficult for students and professors, but the results of student certification showed that the quality of education did not suffer in general: the average academic performance of students in the academic year 2020-2021 was 60.8% (for comparison: 2019-2020-61 , 2%). Experience with working in the new conditions has shown that the use of a wide range of information resources, which have become even more accessible during the pandemic, and, surprisingly, individual work with students over the Internet has helped to compensate for the lack of live communication.

In 2021, 467 foreign students from 36 countries around the world are studying at PSU. In 2021, for the first time, it is planned to recruit students for a new bachelor's program in Pedagogical Education with two educational profiles: Russian as a foreign language and Chinese, which will train teachers of Russian as a foreign language with knowledge of Chinese; as well as the Russian as a Foreign Language and Basic Education program, which focuses on training professionals working with children, which is in demand from both a global and a local perspective, within the Perm region, which is originally transnational.

Internships and s cientific activities

In 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, traditional full-time summer schools (hosted by the university since 2012) did not take place, but in 2021, Perm State University received a record number of Oxford University student internships: 103 applications per 10 places. The highest competition - 45 candidates for two places is under the programs Museums and Archeology and Cultural Diversity: The Russian Experience. Physics and microbiology are also in high demand. The competition of summer schools in these fields ranged from 5 to 10 applicants for one place. In the event of a favorable coronavirus situation, PSU will offer this year's Oxford students an internship in microbiology and immunology, acquaint them with the Urals biodiversity and ecosystem, organize nanoparticle and fluid dynamics research, archeological internships and comparative cultural studies seminars, and make exhibits available from antique collections - coins, ceramics, rare books. "Summer schools help international students realize the potential of Russian science, see prospects for international projects, identify their own field of scientific interests and build a career when they return home," explains Vadim Gataulin, Head of International Relations at Perm State University.

In general, digitalization during a pandemic has opened up new opportunities for students and professors: we are seeing a significant increase in the participation of our international students in remote science conferences. New scientific events are also planned to take place using remote technologies, such as the International Science Forum and Global Challenges XXI (Science and global challenges of the XXI. Century), which will take place on October 18-23, 2021, and the conference Language variation: conditions, mechanisms, results, co-organized by the Institute of the University of Hamburg (Germany) and the Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics at PSU on 30-31 October 2021.

Former Chairman of Slovak Matica in Serbia Ján Brtka said goodbye to his closest colleagues. Branislav Kulík, the newly elected Chairman of Slovak Matica in Serbia, is third from the left. Source: author's archive.

SLOVAK MATICA IN SERBIA HAS ELECTED A NEW CHAIRMAN

Katarína Pucovská, responsible editor of the information portal kulpin.net, Serbia

On May 15, 2021 in Báčsky Petrovec (Serbia), 62 delegates from 23 local unions of the Slovak Matica in Serbia (three local unions apologized) elected Branislav Kulík, the Evangelical pastor of the Pančevo-Vojlovica church, as the Chairman. The election of the Chairman of Slovak Matica in Serbia, vice-chairmen, members and deputies of the Supervisory Board members at this 26th annual and election meeting followed the greeting speeches of the outgoing Slovak Matica Chairman Ján Brtka and representatives of the local government, national council and embassy of the Slovak Republic in Belgrade. Ján Brtka also gave a brief report on what he did during the four-year mandate, what activities he started and what problems he struggled with, and after a farewell speech, he was indebted to his closest co-worker with gifts in kind.

He promised help to the newly elected Chairman Branislav Kulík from the position of provincial deputy (member of the Serbian Progressive Party since July 2020 and member of the Committee for Identifying Provincial Regulations in Official Languages) mainly in activities related to the return of the former Matica´s lands and former Matica´s building in the middle of Báčsky Petrovec – former ordinary court.

The new Chairman of Slovak Matica in Serbia, Branislav Kulík, was born on March 5, 1987 in Novi Sad into a working-class family of Vladimír Kulík and Mária, b. Franciscan. He graduated from Ľudovít Štúr Elementary School in Kysáč and Svetozár Miletić Secondary School of Economics in Novi Sad. In 2006 he joined the Evangelical Theological Faculty in Bratislava, which he successfully completed in 2011 with a state exam and the defense of a diploma thesis on Christology in the Transko Cancional (supervisor Mgr. Ľubomír Batka, PhD.). He graduated on June 9, 2011 and was awarded a master's degree (Mgr.). On August 21, 2011, he was ordained an evangelical priest by Bishop Mgr. Samuel Vrbovský in Kysáč. He worked in Bílý Blat as a chaplain and later as a pastor-administrator for almost three years. In addition to religious activity, he tried to elevate and consolidate national life. He entered the service in Vojlovice on May 1, 2013. He also took part in national life in Vojlovice, especially through the Slovak Matica in Serbia and the Slovak Cultural and Enlightenment Association Detvan. Since graduating, he has also lectured continuously at primary and secondary schools, first in his native Kysáč and Novi Sad, later in Bílý Blat and Vojlovice. On September 20, 2014, he was married by Bishop Samuel Vrbovský to Alena, a b. Gajanova. They have three children: a son Rastislav and daughters Elizabeth and Catherine. On January 18, 2017, he successfully defended a rigorous thesis on the topic of the influence of the Tranov Cancional on Slovaks in Vojvodina at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Constantine the Philosopher in Nitra (Slovakia) and was awarded the title of Doctor of Philosophy (PhDr). He currently works in Vojlovice and is still a pastor administrator in Biela Blato. In 2014, he was appointed Chairman of the Committee for the Official Use of the Language and Scriptures of the National Council of the Slovak National Minority. In May 2017, he was elected vice-Chairman of the Slovak Matica in Serbia for the Banat and was Deputy Chairman of the Slovak Matica in Serbia. Since 2018 he has also been the vice-Chairman of the Executive Board of the National Council of the Slovak National Minority and since 2019 also the Chairman of the Board of the Institute for the Culture of Slovaks in Vojvodina. PhDr. and ThMgr. In 2020, Branislav Kulík was elected Chairman of the priestly conference of the Slovak Evangelical Church in Serbia.

THE MEMORY OF THE HOLY MARTYR ĽUDMILA LIVES IN THE HEARTS OF CZECHS, SLOVAKS AND RUSSIANS

In Moscow, they celebrated the 1100th anniversary of the martyrdom of the Czech saint and princess Ľudmila

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Ľudmila is a relatively popular name in Russia. It is perceived as something precious, unique to all of us and very close to us. It is quite natural, given that the worship of the deeds of a saint from distant Bohemia was widespread in ancient Russia. According to experts, the life of St. martyr Ľudmila and her grandson St. the martyr of Prince Wenceslas became known in Russia soon enough. The very fact of the spread of early Czech hagiography clearly testifies to the presence of close cultural Czech-Russian contacts as early as the 11th century. The image of St. Wenceslas had a certain influence on the cult of some of the most famous Russian saints - princes Boris and Gleb, who were also killed at the behest of their brother.

Vicar of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, Metropolitan Dionysus prays in front of the icon of St. Ľudmila, Czech princess. Source: www.pccsm.ru

To touch the past dating back to the depths of centuries, to feel the time close to the events of the apostolic sermon of St. Cyril and Methodius among the Slavs is possible in Moscow. Just visit the Church of St. Nicholas located in the city center, which has been an embassy of the Orthodox Church of the Czech lands and Slovakia for many years. Here are the icons of St. Ľudmila and Václav, parts of their relics exhibited for worship for believers. The church is served by clergy representing Orthodox Christians from the Czech Republic and Slovakia: Rector Archimandrite Seraphim (Semyatovsky) and Iberomonach Alexander (Galushka), a native of Humenné (Slovakia). Among their numerous duties, it is worth mentioning the work to maintain cordial relations between the faithful of the two Orthodox churches and the activities of the spiritual nurse of Czechs and Slovaks living in Russia, as well as citizens from their neighboring regions - Ruthenians and Orthodox Poles.

The center of remembrance in Moscow was the Cathedral of St. Nicholas. On September 29, 2021, Metropolitan Dionysus, the first vicar of His Holiness the Patriarch of Moscow and Kirilla of All Russia, led the solemn service. Among the numerous clergy, he was served by representatives of other Orthodox churches: Vicar of the Patriarch of Serbia, Bishop Anton Moravic, High Priest Daniil Andreyuk of the Orthodox Church in America, Grand Duke Kachaber Gogotishvili (Georgian Orthodox Church) and, of course, Archbishop Yaph) from the Orthodox Church in the Czech lands and in Slovakia. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Czech Republic to the Russian Federation Vítězslav Pivonka, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic Ľubomír Rehák, Third Secretary of the Embassy of the Czech Republic Michaela Karasová, First Councilor of the Russian Parliament governmental organizations.

At the end of the service, His Beatitude greeted the metropolitan of the Czech lands and Slovakia Rastislav. As part of the cultural program prepared by the Czech Republic, guests were able to attend a presentation on St. Ľudmila, listen to excerpts from Antonín Dvořák's oratory St. Ľudmila, to get an idea of the life of the Russian Czech community from the village of Kirillovka on the outskirts of Novorossiysk, whose ensemble played Czech folk songs. The celebrations are over, but the memory of the life of St. Ľudmila continues to live in our hearts.

Thanks to her prayer speech, the Slavic fraternal nations - Czechs, Slovaks and Russians - continue to develop within their national cultures, despite all the difficulties. It is only possible to save ourselves in this rapidly globalizing world by relying on traditional Christian values, including those revealed to us in concrete examples of the works of God's saints.

One of such ideals, on which the national development of the Slavs was always based, was the principles of all-Slavic reciprocity. Is it possible not to lose the gift of good relations and fraternal friendship at this time? For a world reeling in evil, where conflicts and confrontations always come first, it is a rhetorical question. However, St. Ľudmila and St. Wenceslas are ready to help us here as well. St. Ľudmila, raising her grandson in righteousness, laid an unshakable foundation for his further spiritual growth and St. Wenceslas, in turn, overcame the terrible sin of the division of the nation through prayer moderation and martyrdom. It is not for nothing that the St. Wenceslas cult has become an institution ensuring the unity of the Czech lands for centuries. After all, respect for him actually formed a unique doctrine of Czech statehood. Even today, more than a thousand years later, this experi ence f Czech saints remains relevant. Let's try to follow it!

Management of Matica slovenská on the stage during the General Meeting of Slovak Matica in Liptovský Mikuláš on October 9, 2021. Photo: Veronika Grznárová

RE-ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF SLOVAK MATICA

Peter Schvantner, Secretary of Slovak Matica, Slovakia

In 2021, a four-year term of the bodies of the Slovak Matica expired, headed by the historically youngest Chairman, Marián Gešper. After 1990, the 11th General Assembly of the Slovak Maica took place on October 9, 2021 in Liptovský Mikuláš. Despite the current epidemic situation, up to 307 delegates came to the assembly, which was 78% of the total number of eligible delegates.

Marián Gešper, Chairman of the Slovak Matica, and Štefan Martinkovič, Chairman of the Supervisory Committee, ran for the position of Slovak Matica´s Chairman. Marián Gešper was re-elected Chairman of the Slovak Matica with a total of 213 votes. After his election, he described the last period in Matica's life as very serious. *"Above all, since 2017, we have restored the authority of the institution in the company and focused on cultural, professional and publishing activities, cooperation with expatriate organizations and the development of parent local unions, as well as folklore and artistic groups. Unfortunately, the pandemic also caught up with Slovak Matica with the subsequent financial crisis. We want to take action that we could not carry out during the restrictions to the next period. We can't even underestimate the continuity of the Matica, so we will continue to rejuvenate the matrix structures, which we have done so far."*

The newly re-elected Chairman of the oldest cultural and scientific institution of the Slovaks has a new four-year term ahead of him. He also commented on the plans for the next term. *"The struggle for maintenance and further development, as well as maintaining the dignity and respect of Slovak Matica, continues in society. We will continue to professionally convince the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic about the importance of increasing the state subsidy for the Slovak Matoca by a financial item for direct financing of events and activities of local unions of Slovak Matica. At present, the state subsidy for the Slovak Matica is primarily operational and it is not possible to finance the regional culture of the Slovak Matica directly from it. Once again, we will reiterate to the state officials that the development of the activities of local unions requires the presence of a professional regional workplace of the Slovak Matica, ie the House of the Slovak Matica, without which local unions and the Matica´s culture decline. And that they are often the only source of Slovak culture for Slovaks in ethnically mixed territories. These are two basic points on which we insist and without which we cannot even talk about the quality development of Matica and national culture in the regions. Slovak Matica is also a scientific, publishing-information and national-educational institution, which are also its traditional, historical and legal tasks. Funding this activity is just as demanding. Nevertheless, we must not betray the lifelong efforts and sacrifices of our predecessors since 1863, who founded, built and cared for these pillars of Slovak Matica.*

We cannot voluntarily relinquish the legacy of our ancestors, who were often imprisoned and tortured by an unjust regime for their Matica and national convictions. After all, without Matica´s science, we cannot shed light on the significance of Slovak Matica, its local, scientific and artistic disciplines or Matica´s personalities in the turning points of the history of the Slovak nation. Without active relations with our compatriots and Slovak sister Maticas abroad, we will find it difficult to support the national pride of Slovak minorities and diasporas in a foreign environment. And all this would be a futile endeavor without the quality literary and journalistic activity that has been present in Slovak Matica since its inception."

In addition to the Chairman, members of Slovak Matica from all over Slovakia also elected the Chairman of the Supervisory committee, twenty-eight members of the committee and five members of the Supervisory committee of the Slovak Matica. Martin Fejko, the current Director of the Member Headquarters of the Slovak Matica, has become the new Chairman of the Slovak Matica Supervisory committee. He won 236 votes against his candidate Ján Buleca, vice-Chairman of the Supervisory committee.

"Over the next four years, we will be preparing for cultural, scientific, educational and publishing activities even more tenaciously. The Matica´s activity must not get stuck. Today, the Slovak nation at home and abroad needs the Slovak Matica as salt, and the Slovak Matica needs its nation all the more. Let's be cohesive, let's not lose our spirits and together we will protect the heritage of our ancestors, who gave our precious and dear Slovak Matica to us, as well, " called the Chairman of the Slovak Matica.

HISTORY AND PRESENT SILESIAN MATICA, A BRANCH ASSOCIATION IN BYSTŘICE NAD OLŠÍ IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Anna Konderlová, member of the Central Committee of Silesian Matica,
from the branch association in Bystřice nad Olší, Czech Republic

Anna Konderlová, member of the Central Committee of Silesian Matica. Source: author's archive

The Silesian Matica has existed for more than one hundred and forty years. Since its inception, it has gone through a complex history, when it had to fight for its existence, when it was dissolved and renewed several times. The first milestone in the Těšín region was April 23, 1922, when the Silesian People's Enlightenment Matica was founded in Bystřice. It is unbelievable that in the period of the so-called The First Republic, when citizens of Czech nationality lived in a minority in Bystřice, several hundred members were involved in its activities. It is unbelievable how much energy was expended in these difficult conditions of the 1920s and 1930s. It was not easy in an environment where most citizens felt more Silesians than Czechs or Poles. Unfortunately, emotions often prevailed. The main thing, however, was to build a Czech school as soon as possible. This did not succeed until 1927. In addition to school activities, Silesian Matica in the village engaged in cultural and many other activities, which included the establishment of a library, organizing theater and film performances, lectures, trips, courses, collections of clothing for poor children and many others activities to elevate the Czech population, including the operation of the local EDISON cinema. The effort of the local unions of the Silesian Matica was to improve the social conditions of Czech citizens who were unemployed or lived in poor social conditions.

In 1937, Opava Matica had 7,425 members in 85 local unions run by 8 district groups and the headquarters in Opava. In October 1937, after the occupation of Těšín by Poland, the Silesian Matica of People's Enlightenment for Těšín was abolished and its property confiscated. After the establishment of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, the Opava Matica, together with other Czech organizations, was incorporated into the Protectorate's National Matica and finally dissolved in 1943.

After World War II, the activities of the Silesian Matica were resumed, but further development was prevented in February 1948, after which it had to end its activities. It was restored for the third time in 1968, when the Opava Matica merged with the Silesian Matica of the People's Enlightenment in the Těšín region and formed the Silesian Matica. The plans of the Silesian Matica were very ambitious at the time, but the year 1972 brought an end to its activities based on a political decision by the communist authorities. The year 1989 brought Czechoslovak freedom and enabled Silesian Matica to resume its activities. However, its establishment took place in the village of Bystřice nad Olší only in 2013. Every year we make a significant contribution to the development of educational activities in the village, I would like to mention some of the events that interested the public, such as:

- Participation in the Silesian Days and the Days of the village of Bystřice, where the Silesian Matica had their sales stand.
- In 2016, it was the 700th anniversary of the birth of Charles IV. Silesian Matica organized a lecture and knowledge test for primary school pupils. She also published the book The Czech Way - History and Present Silesian Matica in Bystřice nad / Olší.
- In 2017, 425 years since the birth of Jan Amos Comenius (professional lecture) and 425 years since the birth of Jiří Třanovský, a Czech evangelical priest (professional lecture).
- In September 2019, a lecture dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the Second World War for pupils in Czech and Polish primary schools, connected with the screening of a short documentary.
- In September 2020, a lecture organized in cooperation with the Police of the Czech Republic with the support of the Moravian-Silesian Region and the municipality of Bystřice entitled Home Security, Security of Property.

On the occasion of the national holiday of the Czechoslovak Republic (Czechoslovakia) on October 28, we regularly organize a commemorative event. In 2018, when we commemorated the centenary of the founding of the Czechoslovak Republic, it was connected with the planting of a memorable linden tree - the tree of freedom. A metal box was placed in the roots of the linden tree, into which the message of the President of the Czech Republic Miloš Zeman to future generations, photographs, periodicals, coins, etc. were inserted.

It has become a tradition that Silesian Matica with the Czechoslovak community of the legionary unit Frýdek-Místek and the Club of Czech Tourists in Třinec participates in the organization of the so-called Legionnaire's Marsh at the General Josef Šnejdárek Obelisk Memorial on Polední Mountain in Bystřice.

The month of September is an integral part of the Silesian Days in Dolní Lomná. In 2019, it was already the 50th year. Unfortunately, the Silesian Days did not take place last year due to the state of emergency.

In publishing activities, we focus on publishing the so-called Almanac. Its first issue was published in 2020 and contained significant historical anniversaries in the village. We would like to continue this publishing activity. We are preparing for the release of Almanac II. for this year focused

Remembrance of the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic at the memorial linden tree in Bystřice nad Olší on October 28, 2020. Source: author's archive

on the 100th anniversary of the writer Marta Rulfová. In June 2021, we will hold a discussion on her book Tears for the Těšín Region.

Year 2020 was, not only for us, a year of significant restrictions caused by the Covid-19 virus and the emergency measures taken. In these difficult conditions, we individually commemorated the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic at the memorable linden tree in veils.

Silesian Matica has its own anthem, which was first heard on June 7, 1885 at the General Meeting of Silesian Matica in Opava. The Czech politician and awakener of Silesia JUDr. Antonín Gruda was originator of the idea. He asked for the anthem of the poet and writer Jan Neruda. He was already ill, but he was correcting the anthem. The text was composed by the writer Adolf Heyduk. Several compositions were written for this text, but a melody by the composer Eduard Bartoníček took root in the hearts of the people.

Cover of the Almanac of the Silesian Nut.
Source: author's archive

SLOVAK MATICA IN SERBIA

Ján Brtka, former Chairman of Slovak Matica in Serbia, Serbia

Slovak Matica in Yugoslavia – today Slovak Matica in Serbia - was founded after several years of preparations at the General Assembly, which took place from 14 to 15 August 1932 in the courtyard of the grammar school Ján Kollár in Báčský Petrovec on the occasion of the Slovak National Festival. Dr. Janko Bulík, lawyer from Kovačice, was elected the first Chairman of the Slovak Matica in Serbia. Báčsky Petrovec became the seat of Matica. The aim of the founding of the Slovak Matica in Yugoslavia was "... to unite all lovers of the Slovak nation and life in Yugoslavia, so that they can work together to raise Slovak education and thus on the material well-being of the Slovak nation in Yugoslavia."

The Matica has been suspended twice since its inception. For the first time from 1941 to 1945, during the occupation, and for the second time in 1948, when the Special Assembly of the Slovak Matica in Yugoslavia on July 4 unanimously approved the incorporation of the Slovak Matica in Yugoslavia into the Union of Cultural and Enlightenment Associations of Vojvodina and thus Matica ceased to exist as a special institution.

Shot from the gala concert of the Slovak National Festivities in 2019. Source: author's archive

After a 42-year break, a renewal assembly of the Slovak Matica in Yugoslavia / Serbia took place in Báčský Petrovec on August 5, 1990, and Michal Spevák, a lawyer from Báčský Petrovec, became the first Chairman of the renewed Slovak Matica in Yugoslavia. Since then, it has been working continuously and in 2020 it celebrated 30 years since its revival. After its revival in 1992, it also renewed the Slovak National Festival (SNF), which is the oldest, most important and most massive cultural and national manifestation of Slovaks in Vojvodina.

Since its founding (1932), Matica has been busy with school issues, defending Slovaks, minority schools and the Báčsky Petrovec grammar school from imminent assimilation between the two wars. One year after its founding, Matica formed the School Section, which in 1936 was transformed into a special Matica School Department, which enforced the establishment of mother tongue teaching at our folk schools, confirmed by the then National Minister of Enlightenment. Through the aforementioned Matica department, it took over all school issues in an organized manner (employment of Slovak teachers, appointment of graduate teachers, elaboration of curriculum proposals, verification of our textbooks by state authorities, preparation and printing of textbooks by local authors, convening professional meetings for teachers, organizing student traveling libraries...).

In 1948, Matica slovenská founded the National Slovak Museum in Yugoslavia, which after the demise of Matica was an independent cultural institution and today operates as the Museum of the Vojvodina Slovaks in Báčsky Petrovec.

Slovak Matica in Serbia is currently the most massive association of Slovaks in Serbia, which in accordance with social conditions directs national life primarily in the field of culture, education, art and everywhere where Slovaks living in these areas can manifest themselves as a national entity by causing their own Slovak personnel.

Matica has been headquartered in Báčský Petrovec since 2000, in the beautifully renovated building of the Ľudovít Mišík Matica House, which was purchased from voluntary contributions from Slovaks and others, with the help of donor Ľudovít Mišík from Ružomberok and renovated with financial support from the Slovak government and home country. The Slovak Matica in Serbia membership base currently consists of 27 local unions operating in four regions (Báčka, Banát, Sriem and Belgrade with another part of Serbia).

The activities of Slovak Matica in Serbia have been very rich since the restoration to this day. Every year in August, Matica organizes the Slovak National Festival in Báčský Petrovec, where thousands of Slovaks from all Slovak settlements of Vojvodina meet with the participation of a large number of members of other nations and national minorities, as well as rare guests from home and abroad. In 2009, the Slovak National Festival is declared a holiday by all Slovaks living in Serbia by a decision of the National Council of the Slovak National Minority. The content of the festivities consists of cultural and artistic programs, exhibitions in galleries, various meetings and gatherings of associations and associations and many sports competitions. The aim of the Slovak National Festival is to make accessible and present to the domestic as well as foreign public what Slovaks have achieved in Serbia in the field of culture, education, theater, folklore, information and sports during the past year. During the Slovak National Festival, an International Meeting of Lowland Teachers is also organized every year, which is attended not

which is attended not only by educators from Serbia but also from abroad and discusses current issues of national education in the Lower Land. As the very motto of the Slovak National Festivities says: "Let's meet so that we don't forget ourselves and we don't get lost." The festivities contribute to the efforts of Slovaks living in Serbia to preserve cultural identity of Slovak language in schools in Vojvodina, to raise and cultivate national awareness and pride, but they also contribute to strengthening the belonging and cooperation of the Slovak community in Serbia with Slovak communities abroad.

Since 1997, Matica has been organizing an annual Matica´s football tournament for the traveling cup of the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Serbia, with the participation of a large number of young members of Matica. Since 2000 in Báčská Palanka, during the Slovak National Festival, Matica has traditionally organized a meeting of Slovak students.

In addition to cultural events, Matica also has a rich publishing activity and during its thirty years of operation it has published more than seventy different publications in the Slovak language. In addition, the Matica´s artists constantly contribute to our cultural heritage not only through publishing activities, but also through numerous festivals, parties, cultural and entertainment, sports and educational events. Behind all the Matica´s activities are people, who selflflessly sacrifice their time for the benefit of the whole community.

CYRIL-METHODIUS BROTHERHOOD: A FORGOTTEN SLAVIC ASSOCIATION

Viktória Viktorovna Nadolska, lawyer, Sevastopol

Taras Shevchenko (third from left) with members of the Cyril and Methodius Brotherhood. Source: internet

The Cyril and Methodius Brotherhood was founded in January 1846 in Kiev and existed until about March 1847. It was named after the Slavic 9th-century missionaries Cyril and Methodius. Although only a little over a year old, he played an important role in the development of Ukrainian political thought and broke the political "silence" that prevailed in Ukraine after the defeat of Zaporizhzhya Sichi by Empress Catherine II. According to historian R. G. Simonenko, the historical significance of the Cyril and Methodius Brotherhood lies in the fact that this was the first attempt by the Ukrainian intelligentsia to fight for the rights of the Ukrainian people. The fraternity was an independent political organization that had its own ideology and strived for the unification and independence of the Slavic states.

The purpose of the organization was to create a Slavic federation, which was to include Ukraine, Russia, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Serbia and Bulgaria. The highest legislative power was to belong to the bicameral assembly, and the president was to have executive power. The organization sought to abolish serfdom, status privileges, and fought for the opportunity to declare freedom of conscience. The Society wanted to achieve everything through a peaceful reform path, referring to Christian principles and the desire of the people to gain the freedom of the nation. The document Drafts of the Constitution of the Republic, prepared by the student G. Andruzkij - a model of the federal Slavic Republic, which was to combine the experience of North American states and the traditions of the Russian Em-

pire, attracts attention. Later, in exile in Petrozavodsk, G. Andruzsky concluded that *"in order to create Ukraine, it is necessary to destroy Russia, which has been strengthening for centuries."*

The main ideas and principles were reflected in the books God's Law (Book of Life of the Ukrainian People), written by N. Kostomarov and the Charter of the Slavonic Association of St. Cyril and Methodius, as well as the explanation to the Charter prepared by V.M. Belozersky: *"We accept that the spiritual and political union of the Slavs is their real goal, which they should strive for ... own independence and as such we recognize: the Southern Russians, the North Russians with the Belarusians, the Poles, the Czechs with the Slovaks, the Lusatian Serbs, the Illyrian Serbs with the Carinthians and the Bulgarians "(paragraphs 1-2 of the Charter). "Before the faith was accepted, the Slavic tribe had neither kings nor lords, and they were all equal and had no idols, and the Slavs worshiped one god - the Almighty, even though they did not know him" (statute). "Because Ukraine's voice is not quiet. And Ukraine will rise from the grave and call again all its brothers, the Slavs, and they will hear her call, and the Slavs will rise, and there will be no tsar, no tsar, no princess, no prince, no count, no duke, no promotion, no excellence , neither the lord, nor the boyar, nor the slave, nor the slave - in the Moscow region, or in Poland, or in Ukraine, or in the Czech Republic, or among the Horutans, or among the Serbs, or among the Bulgarians "(Book of the Life of the Ukrainian People).*

> *"The handcuffs are torn*
> *slavery and disrespect;*
> *He disappears, the brotherly*
> *quarrel disappears*
> *Our bloody enemy*
> *And the sky will shine on us*
> *The sun of freedom*
> *we will stand before*
> *God together*
> *we free nations; ... "*
>
> T. G. Shevchenko: To Slavonics, 1846

The ideological inspiration of the Cyril and Methodius Brotherhood was then a young historian Nikolai Kostomarov (1818 - 1883). He was born in Eastern Russia, the Voronezh Province (modern Voronezh region of the Russian Federation), where the areas of residence of the Russian and Ukrainian nations intersect. His father was a nobleman and a Russian, his mother a Ukrainian and a slave. In the first years of his life, the boy was considered a slave to his own father. When he was ten, his father was killed by his own slaves. Such a life at the crossroads of two opposing classes and two different nations could not develop in a curious child a desire to understand the world around him. The fraternity was conceived by Kostomarov and his like-minded people as an educational organization that does not aim for direct revolutionary activity. Kostomarov was so sure that they were not doing anything illegal, that he also spoke about the existence of the company in talks with Kiev's civilian governor Funduclim.

The fraternity included young intellectuals from Kiev and Kharkiv universities: N. I. Kostomarov, P. A. Kulish, A. Navrocki, V. Belozersky, N. I. Gulak (a relative of T. G. Shevchenko, who joined the company in April 1846, had a significant influence on the ideological formation of members of society and their practical activity). In the autumn of 1846, the number of members of the secret society was twelve. Relations with them could be maintained by more than a hundred people who lived in various regions of the Russian Empire, as well as in the Czech Republic. The actual activities of the members of the company were limited to meetings in the apartments of N. Gulak or M. Kostomarov, where scientific disputes took place, they discussed program documents, but also private interviews with young people, intellectuals and small bureaucrats. However, the members of the fraternity were also active in social and political activities: they spread the ideas of the fraternity by distributing program documents, proclamations (Ukrainian Brothers, Big Russian Brothers and Poles), works by Taras Shevchenko; they devoted themselves to scientific work and lectured in educational institutions in Kiev, where they expressed their views; they took care of the development of public education, raised funds for the opening of public schools, writing and publishing new books (especially Panteleimon Kuliš prepared the first textbook of the history of Ukraine *The Story of the Ukrainian People*, published in 1846).

There were two directions in the fraternity: liberal-bourgeois (evolutionary) and people's democratic (revolutionary). The first direction included N. Kostomarov, V. Belozersky, O. Markovic, O. Tulub, D. Pylchikov, P. Kulis, M. Savich. Revolutionary democratic views were shared by T. G. Shevchenko, N. Gulak, O. Navrockij, I. Posjada, G. Andruz. T. Shevchenko, who had already formed a revolutionary-democratic worldview in the first half of the 1840s, took an excellent position on this issue. In many of his works, and especially in Zapoviti: *"I am dead and alive, I am not popular among my compatriots"*, he called on people to fight for freedom, the ultimate goal of which should be a democratic republic (unlike N. Kostomarov, who considered it necessary maintain a monarchist form of government). In his ideals, the great poet relied on the democratic foundations of the Zaporozhian Sich organization and the struggle of the Ukrainian people for freedom. However, Kobzar (the nickname Shevchenko after his literary work) did not only look to the past. At one time, he saw the political structure of the United States as an example of the democracy of the state-political system, combining a rigorous struggle for democracy and independence with the first American president.

The ideas of the association's representatives differed fundamentally from the ideas of Russian Slavophiles, to some similarities. Together with views close to typical Slavophilic ideas: the idealization of the "Slavic tribe", its past; reliance on Christianity, but unlike Slavjanophils without

the rise of Orthodoxy over Catholicism and Protestantism and the return of its primitive, humanly just content - this is something Slav Slavophiles did not have. For the "classical" Slavophilism, the fraternity had completely unheard of ideas, then democratic and objective revolutionary ideas - ideas of social equality and political freedom, sharp condemnation of autocracy and domination, exploitation, enslavement of Slavs, words of anger against tsarism; approving references to decabrists, the idea of a federal republic. These considerations suggest that Cyril and Methodius ideas were not only fundamentally different from those of Russian Slavophiles, but also had different meanings and implications for the state.

On March 3, 1847, Alexei Petrov, a student at Kiev University, provided information on the existence of a secret society. The Tsarist Chancellor's Office began to arrest all those involved in an organization that went down in Ukrainian history as the Cyril and Methodius Brotherhood. The student rented an apartment next to Ukrainian scientist Nikolai Gulak. At a meeting of fraternity members, he listened to secret conversations and saw a number of guests visiting his neighbor. On March 18, 1847, the leader of III. separation of the Tsar's office Orlov permission from Tsar Alexander, the future Tsar Alexander II., to arrest N. Gulak. During the search, Nykol Gulak managed to hide in the toilet the main document of the brotherhood´s *God's Law (Book of the Life of the Ukrainian People)*. Bailiff Andrej Juncker, who was vigilant and ordered to inspect all places in N. Gulak's apartment, was rewarded with two hundred rubles in silver. The search and arrest of other members of the Cyril and Methodius Brotherhood soon began - T. Shevchenko, M. Kostomarov, I. Posjady, A. Markovich, A. Tulub, G. Andruzsky, as well as V. Belozersky and A. Navrocky. On March 28, Orlov prepared a report on the community for Tsar Nicholas I. Peter's student testified against them from the sources at the time, and the manuscript of God's law was proof of this, where references to the Bible proclaimed the ideas of the Slavic Federation and proved that *"royal power is contrary to the laws of God and human nature."*

They accused them of "Ukrainianphilism", the intention to restore the governorate and the presentation of a number of ideas in a *"revolutionary and communist spirit"*. Due to secrecy, the court did not take place. In May 1847, Nicholas I. passed judgments on anyone who had joined the association. Shevchenko received the most severe punishment: he was sent as a soldier to a separate Orenburg corps with a strict ban on writing and drawing. At the end of May, the withdrawal of the work was banned and ordered at the highest level: *Kobzar* by Shevchenko, *The Story of the Ukrainian People*, *Ukraine and Mikhail Chernyshenko* by Kulish, *Ukrainian Ballads* and *Branch* by Kostomarov. The other brothers from the Society went around with a short prison and exile. The investigation revealed that the brotherhood did not have a clear system in their own right. The meetings and discussions on socio-political issues, as well as the public activities of the association, are described by Yuri Zemsky as virtual. Investigator of III. the Tsar's office's department, at such meetings, failed to identify a definitively formed organization, which is why the verdict was this: *"Ukrainian-Slavic Association of St. Cyril and Methodius was nothing but the scientific delirium of three young people."*

МИКОЛА КОСТОМАРІВ

КНИГИ БИТІЯ

Українського Народу

ІЗ ПЕРЕДМОВОЮ

МИХАЙЛА ВОЗНЯКА

НАКЛАДОМ ВИДАВНИЦТВА „НОВІ ШЛЯХИ".

ЛЬВІВ—КИЇВ, 1921.

„НОВІТНЯ БІБЛІОТЕКА", Ч. 36.

T. G. Shevchenko: Slavs, 1846 The Book of Life of the Ukrainian People. Source: internet

Due to the testimony of a young student who managed to prove the danger of a secret organization, the national idea and the dream of independence and unification of the Slavic nations disappeared in their infancy. After the exile, members of the Cyril and Methodius Brotherhood continued their cultural work. Kostomarov became the greatest Russian-Ukrainian historian of the 19th century. He wrote his historical works in Russian. However, many of them devoted themselves to the history of Ukraine - it was Kostomarov who wrote the first serious studies on Ukrainian history of the 17th century.

The creation of the Cyril-Methodius Brotherhood was one of the chapters in the development of Russian-Ukrainian relations in the 19th century. The attempt to gain social and national freedom and at the same time unite the Slavic states into one federation has aroused a lot of criticism from modern historians to this day. This topic is not fully explored, and to this day we do not know the many answers to questions about the exact number of members of the fraternity and the period of existence of this organization. It cannot be disagreed that the philosophy of the Cyril -Methodius Brotherhood is reflected in our current political world. The Slavic nations are still striving to gain their national independence from the West.

Slavs are exposed to a foreign culture and mentality, they lose their true faith and purpose of the people.

The main task is to unite and be one unity against our enemies. We must strengthen our culture and protect ourselves from modifications and rewriting of modern history. It is important to keep in mind who we are, in what country we were born and not to be afraid to show our civic individuality. The main thing that united the members of the Cyril-Methodius Brotherhood was the love for the people, for the homeland in the form spoken of by N. Kostomarov: *„He who loves his nation – let him love it in a quixotic way, not with thoughts, but with heart and deeds, not with abstract ideas, but with the love of the nation in fact."*

INTERVIEW WITH JIŘÍ MALÍŘ,
CHAIRMAN OF MORIAVIAN MATICA, CZECH REPUBLIC

Interviewer: Zuzana Pavelcová, Director of the Compatriots´ Museum of Slovak Matica, Slovakia.

Moravian Matica as a traditional and strong institution of scientific research in the field of history of Moravia, the Czech lands and the countries of Central Europe.

Prof. PhDr. Jiří Malíř, CSc., was born in 1949 in Zlín. He spent his whole childhood and youth in the East Moravian town of Slavičín. After graduating in Valašské Klobouky, he studied history and Czech studies at the Faculty of Arts of Masaryk University in Brno from 1967 to 1972. He works at this faculty as a historian scientifically, pedagogically and organizationally, in the years 1998 - 2017 he headed the Institute of History. He educated a number of doctoral students and was a member of the union councils of doctoral studies at the universities of Prague, České Budějovice, Ostrava and Opava. In his research and publishing activities, he deals with the political and social history of the 19th and 20th centuries, especially the history of political parties during the Habsburg monarchy, Czech-German relations and the history of Moravia. He also deals with the emergence of modern parliamentarism, modern biographies, issues of Czech social reform, secularization and anti-clericalism, ethnic problems within the multi-ethnic Austrian Empire. From these research topics, he has prepared numerous studies, publications and co-organized a number of symposia and conferences at home and abroad. His monograph *From Associations to Political Parties* (1996) and the two-volume publication *Political Parties. Development of political parties and movements in the Czech lands and Czechoslovakia 1861 - 2004 (2005)*, which he published together with his colleague Pavel Mark are still of founding importance. Together with Milan Řepa, he recently prepared a synthesis of *Moravia on the Road to Civil Society* (2018) and with the team of authors of the *History of Brno IV. Modernization of the city 1790 - 1918* (2020). He has led several large research teams and projects, most notably the seven-year research project Research Center for the History of Central Europe: Sources, Countries, Culture (2005-2011), and currently leads the editorial team of seven-volume History of Brno projects, of which five volumes have been published. He also participates in foreign, mainly Austrian projects (Bürgertum in der Habsburgermonarchie; Die Habsburgermonarchie 1848 - 1918) and projects of the Czech-German Commission of Historians, of which he was a member in 1993 - 2016. He is or has been a member of other scientific committees, faculty scientific boards and journal editorial boards.

He was awarded the Austrian Anton Gindely Prize (2006) and several Czech awards for his professional work.

You are the Chairman of Moravian Matica which is based in Brno. How does Moravian Matica work today? How has it been legally established?

To answer this question, it should be noted that Moravian Matica underwent a complex development in the past, which was also reflected in its current position and legislative basis. It was originally established in April 1849 as an association called the National Unity of St. Cyril and Methodius. Its aim was to support scientific and literary activities, to establish libraries, reading rooms and artistic and scientific collections, to publish books and magazines, and thus to spread the *"education of the Moravian people"* and to strengthen their Czech national consciousness. After the onset of neo-absolutism, it was threatened with official dissolution. It was prevented it by changing its statutes at the turn of 1853 and 1854, limiting its activities practically to publishing the Koleda calendar and adopting the new name Moravian Matica. After the elaboration of new statutes in the 1960s, it operated as an association with a national patriotic focus, and in this spirit it also published the Moravian Matica magazine from 1869. As the national enlightenment functions were taken over by other associations, Moravian Matica gradually became more and more a professional association and operated in this way with varying intensity until the 1950s.

At that time, Moravian Matica survived liquidation, interventions against associations, but lost publishing rights for non-periodical publications and almost all association property and a large part of the membership base. Its activities narrowed practically only to publishing Moravian Matica magazine. Its maintenance was ensured at the cost that Moravian Matica submitted to the patronage of the Czech-Slovak Academy of Sciences and became an independent section of the Czechoslovak Historical Society, so in fact it had no other bodies than members of the journal. In this position, i.e. as Moravian Matica, an independent section of the Czechoslovak Historical Society, it also survived the period of normalization. After the abolition of the Czechoslovak Historical Society in 1990, it was a collective member of the renewed Historical Club at the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic until 1994. In 1994, by approving the new statutes and registering them under the Citizens' Associations Act, it became a civic association and regained full legal personality. Finally, after a minor amendment to the 2015 Articles of Association, which was enforced by the introduction of the new Civil Code of 2012, Moravian Matica operates as a registered association, whose activities and management are subject to all the provisions of this Code.

Your members focus mainly on research in specific areas of the history of Moravia, the Czech lands and Central Europe. It could be said that Moravian Matica is mainly a scientific institution. On what pillars does its current activity stand?

As I have already mentioned, Moravian Matica has gradually developed from a national educational organization into a professional association and remains so after many ups and downs. In addition to the above-mentioned facts, this direction was aided by national and social conditions in Moravia, as a result of which most of the local professional institutions in the second half of the 19th century had a linguistic German character. Moravian

Prof. Jiří Malíř, Chairman of Moravian Matica, at the presentation of the publication ***History of Brno IV: Modernization of the City 1790 _1918*** for the website of the Faculty of Arts of Masaryk University in December 2020.

Matica wanted to compete with them and become a kind of learned society for the Czech-speaking inhabitants of Moravia.

In this effort, it relied on a growing intelligence recruited mainly from the ranks of professors of the newly emerging Czech grammar schools and real schools in Moravia and later from the ranks of Czech technology in Brno, founded in 1899, such as Vincenc Brandl, František Bartoš, František Kameníček, Václav Royt, František J. Rypáček, Bohumil Navrátil and others, made it an important professional organization focused on the humanities, especially on historical disciplines. This profile can also be observed in the Moravian Matica magazine, which gradually evolved from an originally national periodical into a scientific journal and today belongs not only to the longest published social science periodicals, but also to the most important historical journals in the Czech lands. The fact that after the founding of Masaryk University in Brno in 1919, the professors of the new university and its journal participated to a large extent in the activities of the new university. The close personnel connection, especially with the historical workplaces of the Faculty of Arts, continues to this day. It is clearly illustrated by the new publication *Personalities of Moravian History 2*, which Moravian Matica published in 2019 on the occasion of the 170th anniversary of the founding of the Union of St. Cyril and Methodius and the 150th anniversary of the founding of the *Moravian Matica magazine*. It contains studies on 33 important personalities of science connected in the past with Moravian Matica and her journal, many of whom also worked at Masaryk University. The professional character of Moravian Matica is also given by the currently valid statutes, according to which *"Moravian Matica unites university-educated workers from the field of history and related fields, which unites the interest in social science research in Moravia"*. However, students of these fields can also become members. At present, Moravian Matica really represents an organization that supports research on various areas of the history of Moravia, the Czech lands and Central Europe, primarily through its organizational and publishing activities, holding scientific conferences and professional lectures on historical topics. This activity often takes place in cooperation with experts and historical institutes in Moravia, especially from Masaryk University, the Moravian Provincial Archive, the Brno City Archive, the Moravian Museum, the Moravian Provincial Library and Palacký University in Olomouc, the University of Ostrava or the Silesian University in Opava and a number of district archives, but also historians abroad. The aim is to help develop and coordinate the research and publishing base in Moravia, to integrate new research findings into international scientific discourse and, last but not least, to support the scientific and publishing activities of young scientists. Moravian Matica, for example, is co-organizing the eighth annual international doctoral scientific conference this year: *Contemplating 20th Century Europe*, this time on the Continent of (In) Freedom, and regularly publishes their results in anthologies.

How is Moravian Matica financed?

Like most associations, Moravian Matica has very limited funding opportunities. This means that we are financially dependent on both membership fees and the sale of our publications, which, however, does not cover the costs of publishing them, or on subsidies from public sources, which are, however, tied to the solution of specific projects. Every year, we have to submit several, mostly publishing projects, in order to obtain sufficient funding for the next year. From them, we then cover both the publishing of the Moravian Matica magazine and other publications, or the costs of holding conferences and symposia, as well as the entire activities of the Moravian Matica. We most often address the Ministry of Culture, the Czech Literary Fund Foundation, the Council of Scientific Societies at the Czech Academy od Science, the Statutory City of Brno and the South Moravian Region with our projects and grant applications. In terms of management, we are thus largely dependent on how much money we manage to raise each year. Needless to say, this uncertain funding system greatly complicates the implementation of long-term plans and projects. In addition, it must be taken into account that for these reasons we manage a minimum of personnel costs, so that currently Moravian Matica and Moravian Matica magazine can afford to finance only one permanent workforce, only part-time, and only a few others by agreement on the execution of the work. To a large extent, the activities of Moravian Matica and the Moravian Matica magazine editorial staff are based mainly on the dedication of members who perform a number of necessary activities free of charge or for a minimal fee.

All the Maticas face major challenges in engaging and sustaining in the 21st century. What are the visions of the Moravian Matica for the near future? What are the institutions planning and what plans do you, as its Chairman, personally have? What is Matica struggling with, and vice versa, what are you proud of?

It is certain that even organizations with a long tradition, such as Moravian Matica, must respond to the significant changes and challenges that the 21st century brings. Nowadays, which is highly presentistic and sees the future only in technological conveniences and innovations, I see it as an extremely important and difficult task in general for the social sciences and their institutions to establish awareness in society of the importance of knowing their own past, which is current and future healthy development necessary. Moravian Matica wants to help with its modest

possibilities and strengths, especially by deeply exploring the country's past and its belonging to the turbulent Central European history, based on innovative research methods and interdisciplinary approaches. One of the ways that leads to this is the effort to address the young generation and the general public so that they do not forget, appreciate and continue to build on and develop the proven traditions and values of the past. Moravian Matica therefore intends to continue similar projects as the recent interdisciplinary conference Memory of the Earth: Shaping the Institutional Foundations of Historical Science in Moravia, which Matica organized together with other professional institutions in Brno in November 2019 and which was reported in the previous issue of Slavic Horizon.

The conference and the proceedings of the same name, which emerged in 2020, reflected not only the development and importance of memory institutions in Moravia in the past, but also their role in the present and future.

If I should talk about what bothers me and the entire management of Moravian Matica most, then in addition to the permanent problems with obtaining sufficient funds for our activities, it is mainly difficult to find a way to effectively address the young generation and motivate them to work in Moravian Matica.

On the other hand, I am pleased that, despite the difficult conditions, we are succeeding in improving the scientific level of the Moravian Matica Magazine and in further developing the publication of valuable book publications. It is not without interest that the vast majority of publications published by Moravian Matica during its existence, which it now publishes in three traditional series (Sources of Moravian History, Library of the Moravian Matica and Disputationes Moravicae) and outside these series, have been published in the last twenty years. After all, the entire book production of Matica moravské can be found on its website and in its e-shop.

You contributed to the last, pilot issue of *Slavic Horizon*, today you enrich *Slavic Horizon* with an interview. How do you evaluate Slovak Matica efforts in the area of Slavic belonging? Do you follow the activities of Slovak Matica and other Maticas or does Moravian Matica live integrally?

I will answer the last question first. In Moravian Matica, we focus mainly on professional and publishing activities, but we are also interested in how sister Maticas develop and where they are headed. We established contacts and cooperation with some of them mainly at a conference we organized in 1999 in Brno on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of Moravian Matica and which was attended by representatives of Czech Matica, Silesian Matica, Slovak Matica, Lusatian-Serbian Matica and Serbian Matica. Since then, we have maintained active contacts, especially with Serbian Matica. There were several mutual visits of representatives of both Maticas, mutual lectures and also the publication of three joint anthologies *From Moravia to Moravia. From the history of Czech-Serbian relations (2005, 2011, 2017)* and to their official presentation in Novi Sad and Brno as well as in Belgrade and Prague. The agreement on cooperation between Moravian Matica and Serbian Matica, which we ceremoniously signed with the representatives of Serbian Matica on March 21, 2014 in Brno, also contributes to these joint actions. We also actively participated in the 3rd Congress of Slavic Maticas, which took place in early February 2014 in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Contacts with Silesian Matica were also strengthened, for whose members we organized a visit to Brno and an excursion around the local monuments. In this context, it is therefore necessary to welcome and highly appreciate the initiative of Slovak Matica, which started publishing the periodical Slavic Horizon.

I believe that this step will help to create better conditions for getting to know each other's sister Maticas and for developing their mutual communication and cooperation.

From the signing of a cooperation agreement between Serbian Matica and Moravian Matica concluded on March 21, 2014 in Brno. From left prof. Dragan Stanić, Chairman of Serbian Matica, doc. Václav Štěpánek, member of the Moravian Matica committee, prof. Jiří Malíř, Chairman of the Moravian Matica, PhDr. Bronislav Chocholáč, CEO of Moravian Matica, and prof. Josef Krob, then Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University in Brno. Photo: Eva Homolová

CHRISTIAN AND NATIONAL CONNECTION IN THE MIRROR OF THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF ŠTEFAN BOLESLAV ROMAN

Zuzana Pavelcová, Director of the Compatriots´ Museum of Slovak Matica, Slovakia

"Our united cooperation and sacrifice for the interests of the nation will always be a positive and creative expression of our obligations to the nation we came from."

Š. B. Roman, Bulletin World Congress of Slovaks, 1971, no. 4-5, p. 3

To this day, the personality of Štefan Boleslav Roman, born in Veľký Ruskov (now Nový Ruskov), a small village in eastern Slovakia, has not achieved the recognition (and knowledge) in Slovak society that such an important authority in the gradual process of forming Slovak statehood would deserve. Modern historiography faces considerable challenges, which clearly include a deeper immersion in the history of Slovak exile as one of the fundamental pillars of the struggle against the communist regime and support for the establishment of an independent Slovak Republic.

Štefan Boleslav Roman was born on April 17, 1921 in a poor peasant family to his parents Juraj and Helena, born Kosturova. After graduating from primary school, he continued his studies at a secondary agricultural school, which he interrupted at the age of sixteen (in 1937) and emigrated to Canada with his brother Juraj. He first worked on a farm in Port Perry, served in the Canadian Army for a time, and later worked as a laborer at General Motors in Oshawe. Many view his life paths mainly through the prism of a strong patriotism and the Greek Catholic faith, which predestined him to achieve success with unwavering will and strong inner conviction. He was helped to maintain and shape his faith by Slovak national organizations and a group of Greek Catholics in Oshawa; However, he brought his national feeling deeply in his heart from his native Slovakia. He perceived the environment of the new country as an opportunity that entitles man to act freely for the benefit of the nation. Roman's membership in the tried-and-tested Slovak associations overseas, through which he (already twenty-four years old) addressed a letter to the International Council of Foreign Ministers from the position of Chairman of the Canadian Slovak League Committee, signaled that Roman would go down in Slovak history through extraordinary merit.

As he entered business, for a time, his nationwide activities subsided. After purchasing land on which uranium deposits were found, he founded Denison Mines Ltd., where he served as CEO. The company owned the world's largest uranium mines with huge capital and financial capital. He later expanded his business to include trade in oil, gas, cement and cattle, and built a stable industrial and financial consortium. He was the type of person who could correctly estimate investment opportunities, excelled in courage, entrepreneurship, discretion, and the sixth sense that could guide him correctly. In 1978, he was named one of Canada's ten most successful entrepreneurs. Roman was proud of his Slovak origins (as a Slovak he also identified in an interview with Khrushchev) and the overseas and European media never spoke of him other than as a Canadian industrialist of Slovak origin. He presented his own economic theories together with E. Löbel in the book Responsible Society. He rejected Marx's worldview, but also Smith's capitalist theories - he said they were not human enough to turn man into an economic automaton. He understood economics as a process of transforming natural forces into productive forces, and he perceived natural wealth as the wealth of mankind that God gave him. He worked to translate the theory into the practice of a free Slovakia and prepared a study on how to overcome Marxist thinking and practice and transform the Slovak economy into a western european model.

Trade opened the way for him and strengthened his influence. His connections at the time extended to financial, industrial, political and ecclesiastical circles and created a platform for the success of supporting the Slovak cause through the congruent exile that Roman wanted to unite with the establishment and activities of the World Congress of Slovaks. He developed personal relations with President Nixon, the Prime Minister of Canada, L. B. Pearson, and the Prime Minister and members of the Government of Ontario. He strengthened relations with the Vatican, especially during the magnificent Cyril and Methodius celebrations on July 6-7, 1963 in Toronto. Compatriots´ periodicals (Canadian Slovak, Unity ...) informed about the celebrations with a series of articles. He was awarded the Council of the Commander of the Knights of St. Gregor the Great and appointed as one of the few laymen as an observer on II. Vatican Council, where he established contacts with high ecclesiastical dignitaries. He gradually received a Slovak question at foreign forums in order to demand freedom and equality for the Slovak nation from other European nations.

Roman confirmed his key role in this issue with his ideas in the idea of creating the World Congress of Slovaks and taking over its presidency.

After consultations with representatives of Slovak expatriate and exile organizations on February 10, 1970, he sent out invitations to the founding assembly of the World Congress of Slovaks, which took place on June 19-20, 1970 in Washington. In a short period of time, the Congress united 164 organizations, which represented more than a million members. At the first meeting, a proposal for the structure of the World Congress of Slovaks, temporary statutes, working mechanism and a declaration were adopted, in which the participants subscribed to the traditional values of Slovak history with an international dimension, positively supported the integration processes in Europe, with a request that the Slovak nation could to participate. The World Congress of Slovaks had a well-thought-out internal structure in both breadth and depth - it had four executive vice-presidents, five vice-presidents with special tasks, six continental vice-presidents with commissions that had their own secretaries. The World Congress of Slovaks Bulletin, which was published with a two to three month periodicity, in the years 1971-1996, became the official World Congress of Slovaks press body, with the aim of getting the World Congress of Slovaks results to international forums, intervening for the Slovak cause and informing. One of the most significant successes of the World Congress of Slovaks was

the 29-page memorandum on violations of human rights of Slovaks addressed to the President of the United States.

Roman surrounded himself with important exiled representatives of Slovak literature, culture and science, financially supported scientific conferences, awarded scholarships and prizes to young Slovak talents, financed translations of books from Slovak history into world languages and equipped libraries for which he bought a number of books. Slovak history was also began to be studied by doctoral students who reflected the history of Slovaks differently. He initiated the establishment of the Department of Slovak Studies at the University of Ottawa, which is still the only professional research institute in the history of immigration to Canada. He organized the Stephen B. Roman Award scholarship event, where he awarded scholarships to candidates for work in political science and history in Slovakia. World Congress of Slovaks has supported a number of cultural events: literary competitions by young Slovak authors, the North American premiere of Krutňava in Lansing, Michigen, the Blue Rose concert at the Bloom Appel Theater in Toronto and the World Congress of Slovaks National Awards.

Štefan Boleslav Roman during the speech. Source: Slovak National Library - Literary Archive

The result of the congress's activities was also the organization of World meetings of Slovak youth, where young people belonging to Slovakia came together. Due to the unfavorable political situation, it was not possible to organize festivals in Slovakia. The first four Slovak youth festivals took place in Europe and overseas: Waldkraiburg, Germany (August 4-8, 1980), Mount Pocono, USA (June 25 - July 1, 1983; June 27 - July 4, 1986) and Semmering. , Austria (9-16 July 1989). The first meeting of Slovak youth was planned symbolically for the Slovak Matica Day. A rich program was prepared for compatriots, which was mainly based on the active participation of young people.

third world festival, in 1986, which was held under the slogan Slovak Iam and Slovak I will be, the participants of the festival (approximately 2,600 young people) expressed the wish to hold the next year's festival in Slovakia. The presidency has commissioned the General Secretariat to start handling this request and to contact the Slovak government with a request to hold the next year's festival in Slovakia. World Congress of Slovaks General Secretary Dušan Tóth addressed a letter to Prime Minister Peter Colotka (and a copy of the request to Minister of Culture Miroslav Válek) as to whether another festival could be organized in Tatranská Lomnica. Vladimír Mináč, Chairman of Slovak Matica, replied to the request. The World Congress of Slovaks called a "militant political organization with an ideological-separatist political core" The fourth festival therefore had to take place outside the homeland again, in Semmering (Austria) from where the youth symbolically greeted the homeland by waving Slovakia over the Danube.

After the fall of the communist regime (1989), one of the World Congress of Slovaks 's first dreams was to renew relations with Slovak Matica. During the first visits of World Congress of Slovaks officials to Slovakia (February 1990), World Congress of Slovaks General Secretary Dušan Tóth invited the Government of the Slovak Republic to the World Congress of Slovaks General Assembly and also visited Matica employees in Martin. Prime Minister Milan Čič requested that the delegation to Toronto also include Viliam Gruska (Chairman of the Slovak Matica) and Jozef Markuš (future Chairman of the Slovak Matica). After returning from Toronto, however, the agreed goals, which included in particular the promise of close cooperation between the Slovak Matica and the World Congress of Slovaks regarding the organization of festivals, were implemented differently than the compatriots imagined. Matica renamed the festival and gradually stopped organizing it. In 2013, it has so far organized the other Matica´s World Festival of Slovak Youth in Košice, which only symbolically resembled festivals organized by World Congress of Slovaks.

In view of the activities of the World Congress of Slovaks from the perspective of the then political organization of Czechoslovakia and the process of the ongoing normalization, Roman's activities were closely monitored by the then Politburo. At that time, the Czechoslovak Republic had Czechoslovak embassies in Washington (USA) and Ottawa (Canada) and a consulate in Montreal (Canada), which assessed the activities of the Congress as reactive with an anti-Czechoslovak and anti-communist focus. Little was known about World Congress of Slovaks 's activities in Slovakia and its successes received almost no media space in the company.

Roman's life and work must be seen through the prism of his deep faith. He manifested his inner Christian convictions and relationship with his homeland by funding the monumental Transfiguration Cathedral in Unionville, Canada, which was built as a tenfold magnification of the native Ruskov church. In 1984, the cathedral was consecrated by Pope John Paul II. Recognized abroad, almost unknown at home, Štefan Boleslav Roman died suddenly on March 23, 1988 in Canada, a year before the expected fall of the communist regime. His life and work have been awarded many honors, after 1989 also at home, in memoriam. The presidency of the Slovak National Council awarded him the National Prize of the Slovak Republic in 1990, and in 1995 the then President Michal Kováč awarded him the state award of the Council of the White Double Cross I. class. Three Canadian universities awarded him honorary doctorates. He is one of the foremost personalities in the personal biographies of Canada.

In the year of the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Štefan Boleslav Roman, Slovak Matica in front of the Matica´s building in Martin unveiled his historically first bust in Slovakia.

The bronze bust was made by academic sculptor Tomáš Polonský. The only commemorative plaque in the church in Nový Ruskov and Štefan Boleslav Roman Square in Trebišov also permanently commemorates Roman's personality in Slovakia.

IV. CONGRESS OF MATICAS AND INSTITUTIONS OF SLAVIC NATIONS RECORDED IN A REPRESENTATIVE MULTILINGUAL PUBLICATION

Pavol Parenička, Slovak Literary Institute of Slovak Matica, Slovakia

Memorial book from the IV. Congress of Maticas and Institutions of Slavic Nations, held on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the revival of the Slovak Matica and the signing of the Memorandum of the Slovak Nation (edited by Marián Gešper, Zuzana Pavelcová). Martin: Matica slovenská, 2020. 358 p. ISBN 978-80-8128-251-5.

Already in the first period of existence in the years 1863 to 1875 and after the revival of 1919, especially after the establishment of the independent Slovak Republic in 1993, Slovak Matica placed emphasis on Slavic reciprocity, contacts and cooperation in various fields, including the scientific field. This is clearly documented by the fact that on the initiative of Slovak Matica and its Chairman Marián Gešper, on June 5 and 6, 2019, the IV. Congress of Maticas and Institutions of Slavic Nations, which was attended by their top representatives and scientists. In honor of this scientific and social event, Slovak Matica published a representative memorial book in a multilingual version (in Slovak, Russian and Serbian), containing speeches, contributions and final communiqués of congress participants, contact list of delegates and lexicographic appendix about the most important historical figures of their Slavic nations on the development of all-Slavic reciprocity (for Slovaks, it includes portraits of Ján Kollár, Pavel Jozef Šafárik, Štefan Moyses, Ján Francisci, Martin Kukučín, Michal Eliáš and other Slovak personalities). Contributions of individual speakers representing the Cyril and Methodist Center of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the Society of Montenegrin-Slovak Friendship, the Democratic Union of Czechs and Slovaks in Romania, the Institute of Slavic Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Lusatian-Serbian Matica, the Silesian Matica , Serbian Matica, Perm University, the Association of Slovak Writers and the Russian All-Slavic Union, on the one hand, covered the history and present activities of the specific institutions they represented, and on the other hand informed about research projects related to Slavic studies. In this context, they also commented on global issues that negatively affect Slavism and its culture, such as globalization, social migration, postmodernism and liberalism. They suggested that Slavic culture and science was based on conservatism, traditionalism and spirituality, and especially in the Slavic and wider European cultural environment, due to the revitalization of religious and cultural life, they proposed to conduct their scientific activities within the Cyril-Methodist cult. It helps to establish all-Slavic and national identity and awareness, which is the essence of history and the perspective of the continuation of the Slavic civilization mission. Several speakers emphasized that the Cyril and Methodical tradition should be developed on the principles of the spiritual, cultural and educational heritage of St. Cyril and Methodius as patrons of Europe, proclaimed St. John Paul II 1980, with the updating of their legacy appearing to be a priority. Cyril-Methodist traditions need to be systematically promoted through the prism of traditional scientific and popular science output, as well as the modern possibilities of the internet and new media. The Cyril and Methodius idea is the alpha and omega of the cultural existence of Slavic nations and several Matica´s movements, which closely corresponds to the state doctrines of Slavic countries, so the cultural institutions operating in them should pay attention to this issue. Several delegates pointed to the demand for mutual knowledge of the history of the Slavic nations and the historical past of their national cultural institutions, especially in terms of cultural phenomena of the Matica´s movement. They drew attention to the need for an absent scientific dialogue between Slavic cultural institutions. They emphasized the need for cooperation in the field of Slavic studies and other humanities, especially historiography, literary and comparative science, culturology, ethnography, folklore, bibliography, linguistics, Slavic comparative linguistics and museology. From this aspect, the performance of Sergei M. Sloistov from the Institute of Slavic Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, which pointed out the expansion of Slavic studies and other related scientific disciplines in Russia, as well as the possibilities of their presentation with international overlaps, was most interesting. At the same time, S. M. Sloistov refused to copy western models in science and in the pedagogy of the Slavic nations, which, according to him, must find its own way, also respected by western slavic studies and other sciences. At the same time, the need for scientific dialogue and information between cultural institutions and the Maticas of Slavic nations was discussed, which must take place in a certain media format. For this purpose, it was proposed to create the supposed Information Committee of Slavic Maticas and the Chairman of the Slovak Matica Marián Gešper also proposed to publish an information newsletter in electronic form, which has already been achieved by the Slavic Horizon. In the media field, the congress participants also suggested that the Maticas must be presented in cultural programs in state and public media, especially on television and radio. In the field of cultural heritage protection in connection with the Maticas and institutions of the Slavic nations, it was recognized that it is necessary to reconnoiter the opportunities to participate in UNESCO programs and projects, including the digitization of Matica´s museum collections and their mutual information, scientific, presentation and virtual use. Matica´s collections and archives, whether literary, musical, manuscript, museum or historical, often belonging

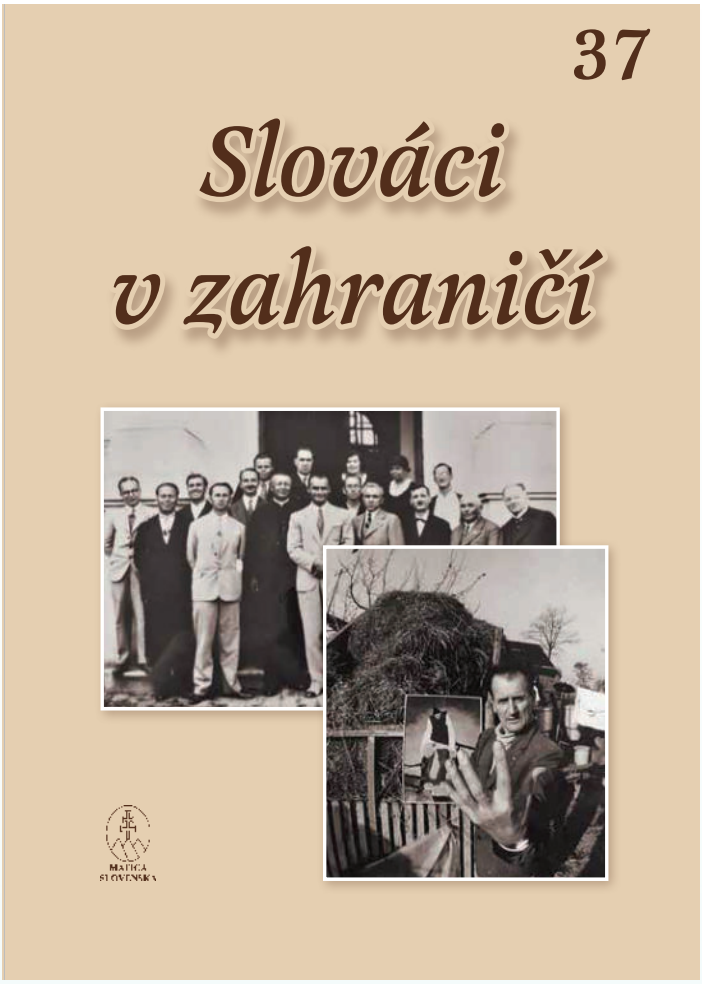
to cultural uniqueness and spiritual gems of national, supranational and global significance, need to be digitized as quickly and completely as possible in terms of cultural heritage protection. Only such collections can be brought closer to the widest possible public through classic print (books, editions, magazines) and new media (internet portals, newspapers, presentations and exhibitions). The Congress agreed that attention should be paid to the field of education and pedagogy, with a focus on youth education, while it is necessary to review the already implemented western education systems, respectively rather, to creatively establish and develop their own pedagogical and school traditions, historically determined by the sketched line of the civilization and educational mission of the Slavic nations in the spirit of the Cyril and Methodical tradition. On June 6, 2019, the participants of the Congress adopted a final communiqué, which is published at the end of the publication. In it, they pledged that in the current globalization and liberalization trends, Slavic cultural institutions remain in positions of conservative values, especially national and Christian ones. In contrast to the postmodern Maticas and cultural institutions of the Slavic nations, they will spiritually persist, promote and spread the Cyril and Methodius heritage and cult, helping to establish national identity and historical awareness, which is the essence and perspective of the Slavic civilization mission. The foundations for cooperation must also be laid in the scientific field of Slavic studies and other humanities, in the joint exchange of experts and in the joint organization of scientific conferences. In conclusion, it can be stated that the memorial book, in addition to its important content, also excels in terms of the formal aspect of book culture, especially in terms of illustrations and graphic design, thus gaining in exceptionality and representativeness.

Cover of the new book publication by Slovak Matica from IV. Congress of Maticas and Institutions of Slavic Nations.
Source: Slovak Matica

ABOUT SLOVAKS ABROAD

Július Lomenčík, Director of the Slovak Literary Institute of Slovak Matica, Slovakia

Slovaks Abroad 37 (edited by Zuzana Pavelcová). Martin: Matica slovenská, 2020. 324 p. ISSN 0081 0061.



Cover of the scientific yearbook of Slovak Matica - Slovaks abroad no. 37. Source: Slovak Matica

The Institute for Foreign Slovaks of Slovak Matica, which was established in the revival process in 1968, focused in the field of scientific research on clarifying the most important aspects of cultural and political life of foreign Slovaks, as well as their material and spiritual culture, to publish a collection of *Slovaks Abroad* at the beginning once and twice a year in order to bring studies and other materials about the life and history of compatriots. The stated intentions are then the standardization period (1970s and 1980s). After its further resumption of activities in 1990, Slovak Matica continued the progressive tendencies in relation to foreign Slovaks, among other activities, also by continuing to publish the scientific collection Slovaks Abroad.

For the "introverted" year 2020, the Compatriots´ Museum of Slovak Matica presents the yearbook *Slovaks Abroad,* which is, according to compiler Zuzana Pavelcová: *"... is more extensive than last year (...), it brings contributions by authors from Slovakia and Serbia" (p. 6)."*

Studies (p. 7 - 155) deal with the Slovak language enclave in the Lower Land, where it was gradually formed by several colonization waves. In an extensive study, Ján Jančovic focused on *"Slovak life around the capital of Hungary in the 18th and 19th centuries"*, with some of the *"... published facts and documents being first findings"* (p. 9). He emphasized the important role of the pastors and teachers of the time (eg Ján Láni, Pavel Michalko, etc.) for the preservation of the Slovak language. Another expert on the history, ethnology and culture of Slovaks in the Lower Land Ján Babiak in two studies - *Slovenská Bajša is more than 300 years old and Bajša at the time of M. Terézie* - writes about the arrival of Slovaks in Báč-bodrožská region and points to e.g. to improvisations in the study of the history of the Slovaks in Bajš, therefore *"... the history of this settlement must be completed"* (p. 100). He applied a new methodology in the application of mathematics. By emphasizing that the right to one's own schools is important for the survival of the community, Ján Chrťan offers readers *"the history of Slovak education in Bardán and Ečka"*. In the final study, Zuzana Drugová presented the historical development of the spring march of children called Walking with the ladies of Stará Pazova in Serbia, while maintaining this Slovak custom *"... as a modification of the original girls' walks on may sunday, which occurred in several regions on Slovakia ... "*(p. 154).

In the chapter Materials (pp. 156 - 249) Miroslav Kmeť states that the terms *"Lower Slovaks, Lower Land, Lower Slovakia"* are currently known, but each term had its own genesis, so it monitors *"... the development and gradual establishment of these concepts in Slovak discourse in the 19th century "* (p. 156). He drew attention to the "emptying" of these concepts in the 20th century and *"... they were not revived until the end of this century after fundamental geopolitical changes"* (p. 175). Claude Baláž pointed out the terminological inconsistency of the *"Slovak diaspora in the world"*. After explaining the *"genesis of the Slovak diaspora"* and the *"basic division of the Slovak diaspora"*, he clarified the *"basic categories and concepts of Slovak migration"* with reference to key legislation from the *"Czechoslovak Emigration Act of 15 February 1922"* to *"Constitutional Act no. 460/1992 "*, the choice of solving the problem in other countries and terminology in the European Union and in the Slovak Republic (eg compatriot, native, old settler, immigrant, etc.). Patrik Šenkár emphasized in the synchronous and diachronic development of Slovak literature in Romania in the article Balance as the basis for the future creative work of Slovaks in Romania against the background of the bibliography of fiction works in Variations. In two articles, Peter Cabadaj made a brief recapitulation of making exile literature available in Slovakia over the past thirty years, and then, on the 140th anniversary of his birth, approached the admirably active M.R. Štefánik with his *"impressive"* photographic work, which *"...can be seen as creators of spontaneous dialogue with history, whose diverse faces, expressions, tensions and contexts he captured in everyday and festive moments. "* (p. 263).

In the block Jubilees and Memories (pp. 266 - 291) after the contribution of Patrik Šenkár Variations on the Theme of Dagmar Mária Anocová on the occasion of her life anniversary, P. Cabadaj's contributions commemorating the anniversaries of Slovak personalities in exile: 60th anniversary of

dead of *iconic personality of modern Slovak literature, culture and art" J. C. Hronský, 110th anniversary of the birth of the papal prelate, priest, pedagogue, literary historian, writer, publicist, translator Mons. prof. PhDr. Jozef Vanovič, whose "...* interesting life story and inspirational work is known only to a handful of experts" (p. 277), *110th anniversary of the birth of writer Ľubě Bešeňovský, a worthy successor for children and young people, and 35th anniversary of the death of a priest, prelate , diplomat, publicist and translator Mons. ThDr. Jozefa Kapala.*

In the section Report (p. 292 - 311) after the obituary of P. Cabadaj for one creator of sacred art, painter, graphic artist, novelist, essayist, pedagogue Stanislav Dusík (1946 - 2019), Katarína Mosnáková-Bagľašová briefly described the quarterly activity of the Methodical Center for Slovaks living abroad of the Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica and Zuzana Pavelcová summarized the activities of the Compatriots´ Museum of Slovak Matica in the pandemic year 2020. In conclusion, we can appreciate the precise work of the compiler, who arranged the contributions with the logical sequence of their content. Formally, it is requested to appreciate the introduction of abstracts and keywords in studies in Slovak and English and clear profiles of authors with portrait photographs and contacts.

Proceedings of the Compatriots´ Museum of Slovak Matica Slovaks Abroad 37 can be warmly recommended in the spirit of Ján Siráckýʻs idea, which he expressed in the revival year 1968: "Not because we would also like to transfer responsibility for this activity to Slovak Matica, but because we believe that only when these issues become a matter for the whole Matica, they also become a matter for our whole public, our whole nation. "

A NEW MONOGRAPH ABOUT SLAVS

Viliam Komora, Secretary of Slovak Matica, Slovakia

TULAJEV, Pavel. *Slavs: Schools of Russian historians (past and present) on the origin and formation of Slavs.* Bratislava: Nitrava, 2020. 415 p. ISBN: 978-80-89869-18-3.

The book, originally in Russian, was published in 2019 by Veče in Moscow. The Slovak edition of the book *Slovania* (Slavs) was published last year by Nitrava under the direction of the well-known Slovak Slavist Mgr. Miloš Zverina. The Slovak translation was done by PhDr. Viktor Timura, CSc., edited by Mgr. Nikoleta Jurčinová. Publisher: Nitrava, Ltd., the book was published in the "Bibliotéka Slavica", Slavica, Nitra.

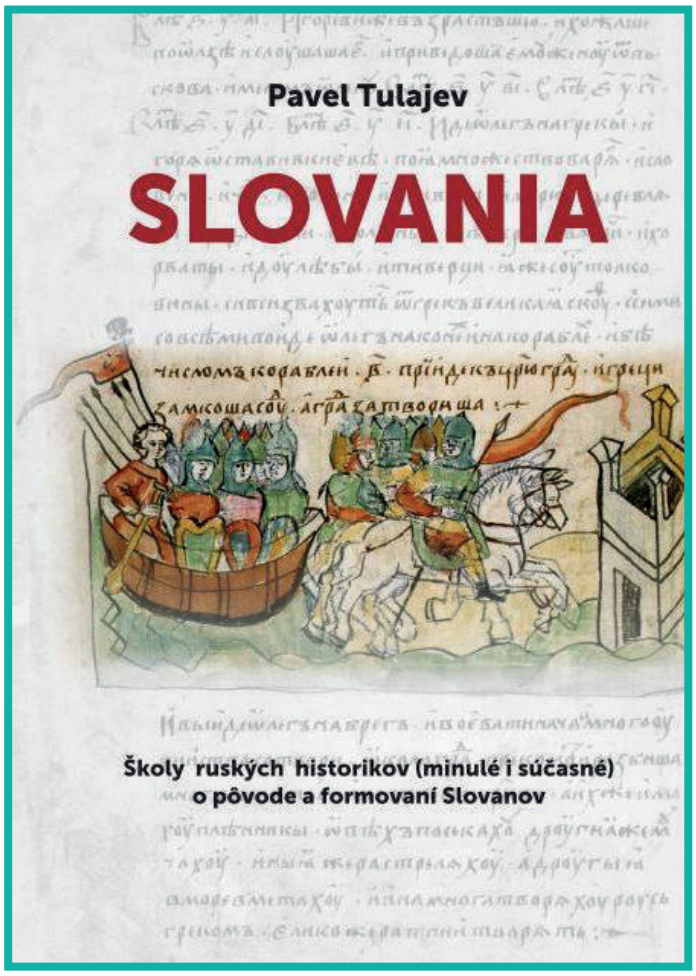
"You do not know the life by not living it and you will not become wiser, but without knowing the essence of your life and the world of Java, how can you survive it with dignity and fulfill your duty before your family and the heavenly family?" (Volchv Velimudr) is the introduction to the preface, where the publisher Miloš Zverina states that the book by the professor of history, writer and culturologist P. V. Tulajev *"Rus, Slavjane and their settlements in the woods"* presents the results of his many years of research of sources from the Slavic-Russian world. A window into Russian historiography - about the origin and formation of the Slavs is a text by the translator Viktor Timura, where he explains the benefits of the book especially in Slovak and for the Slovak reader, as well as the overall issues of Slavic historiography, which is unfortunately affected by "Western" sources to our detriment.

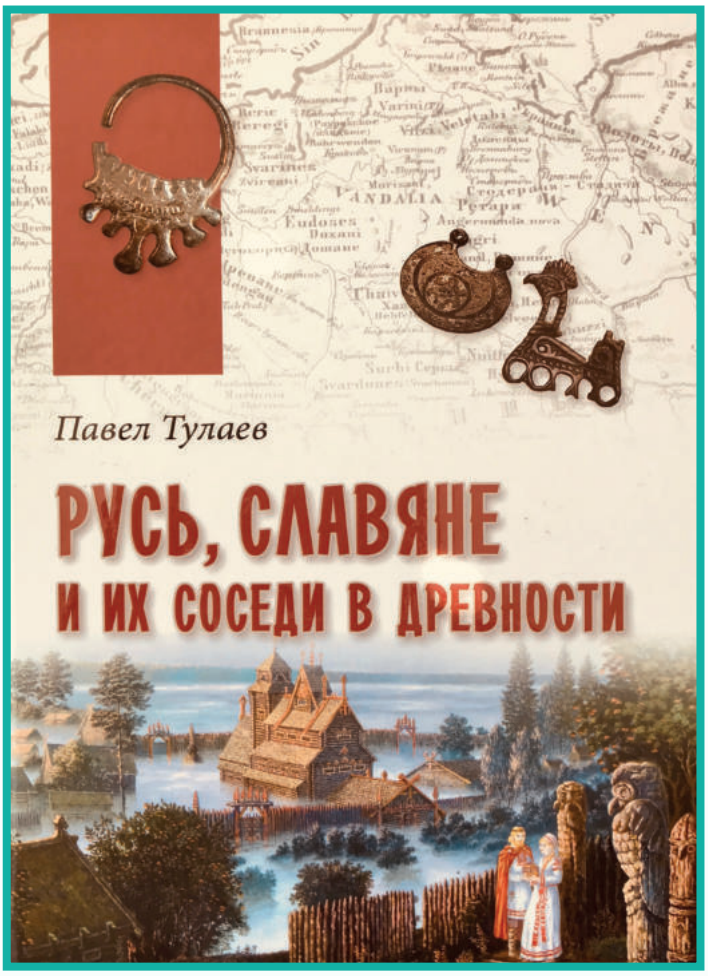
In his foreword, Professor P. Tulajev describes the historical context of the Slavs, the language, the settlement of the territory, their social and political organization, ethnicity, the community of nations, as well as the church context.

The book is divided into eleven chapters and is rich in pictures, illustrations, maps, symbols and genealogy.

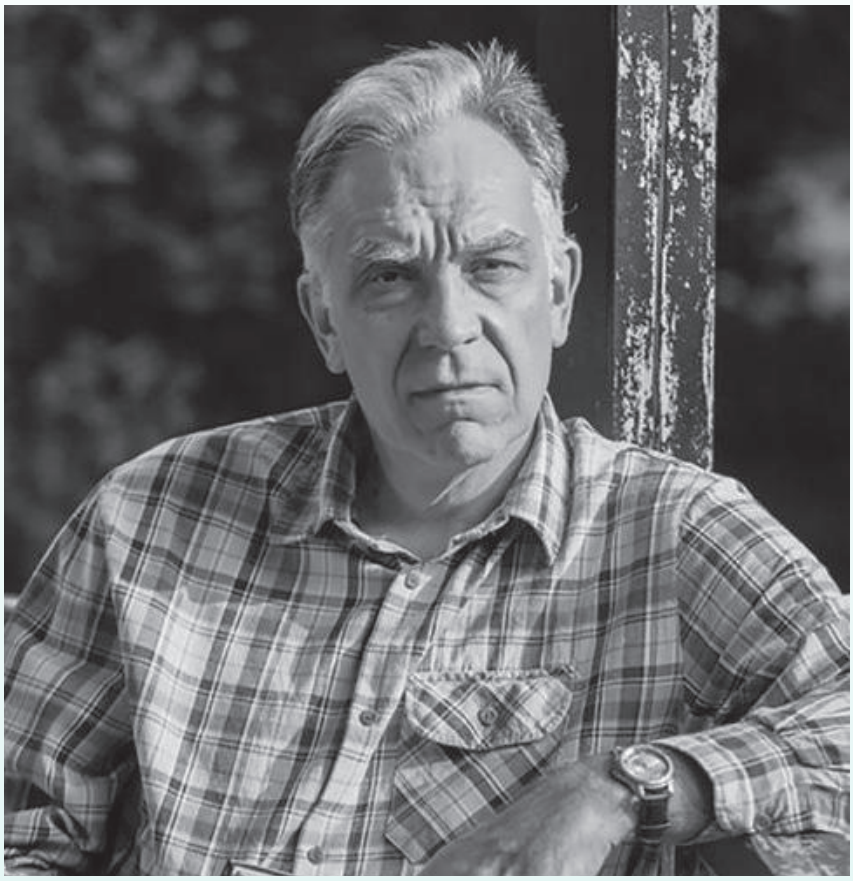
In the first, entitled Depth of Memory, the author describes the chronological model, the pre-Flood civilizations (as he calls them), the flood, the great-family of Indo-Europeans, Pelasg and Etruscans, the Thracian origins of the Venetians, the Celts and Gauls, the Baltics, other Slavic nations and the Danube cradle. In the chapter Eurasia in the Age of Large Ethnic Displacement, it deals with the description of barbarians, let's mention the Scythians, Sarmatians, Serbs, the Slavs, Slovaks and Slovaks, Vandals or Goths. The origin of Russia and its name is in the third chapter, which presents the etymology of Russians and related concepts, legends and hypotheses about the Russians of antiquity, that the Etruscans were Russians, or approaches the first written mentions of the Russians. The Barbari encircle and conquer the Roman Empire is a part that also describes Vania, Raetia and Raeti, Norikum, Pannonia, the Balkans or the individual unions of these nations, their rise and conquest of territories such as Carthage or Rome, but also the leaders of Huns Attila, fighting, kingdoms or "Sakalibu", ie the Slavs in the Arab world, as well as the escalation of the Bulgarians. The fifth chapter is called Variazsk Russia and Baltic Slavia, provides a description of the research of the Normans, Rügen, Prince Rurik, Gardarika, Variazski names, appearance, occupation of Russians, morals and customs or consequences of Germanization. The Family of Gods and Goddess is the title of the sixth chapter, which also brings terminology, God or Gods, sacred traditions, change of historical periods and cycles, native Pantheon and Tree of the World, pagan rites and shrines, folklore paintings and Vedic heritage. In the chapter Baptism, the Russians approaches the double faith - paganism and Christianity. In the ninth chapter, Labyrinths of Languages and Mysteries of the Old Script, the pre-Flood inscriptions, the Vinča script, the language and toponymy of the Venedians, the Slavic dialects in Italy, the type of script actually created by St. Cyril and Methodius, Venetian script, examples of reading the Etruscan script, modeling old inscriptions or a meeting of Slavonic and Venetology. We must say that this will not always correspond to "official" historiography, but it is, of course, always supported by relevant source evidence. After all, every scientific publication should bring something new, respectively to discuss something new in more detail, including from a polemical point of view.

In the chapter Russian Science on the Origin of Slavs and Russians, the author provides a description of the first historians, Slavophiles of the Enlightenment, the beginning of Slavic studies, the Romantic period, the flourishing of Slavic studies and racial theory. The last eleventh chapter in the Slovak translation of the monograph is entitled Science in the Soviet and Post-Soviet Periods. It introduces ideology and science, Russian emigration or the achievements of the Soviet period, as well as post-Soviet concepts and hypotheses of several authors in their books. It deals in more detail with ethnic origin, the new opening of controversial sour-





Cover of the Slovak edition of the monograph Slovania (Slavs).
Source: Nitrava



Pavol Tulajev

ces, the reconstruction of prehistory or the results of research that form the conclusion of the book. Mr. Tulaev clarifies that his research lasted more than twenty years. It describes the formation of Slavic-Russian culture and statehood, which extends to the 6th to 4th millennium B.C., as well as the origin in the basin of the great rivers of Europe between the Black, Mediterranean and Baltic Seas, but also the cradles of Slavic-Russian civilization. It also describes the ancient religious tradition of Russians and Slavs, the deep roots of the Proto-Slavs dating back to the Paleolithic period, and the fact that the above-mentioned more than one hundred most important works in the field of Slavic ethnogenesis used in the book do not exhaust all personalities or publications. The notes are in the range of 32 pages, which testifies to the richness of the scientific note-taking apparatus used by the author in its creation, with which we can get to know each other further.

The book Slavs is likely to provoke controversy, enrich the views and reflections on our origins and development of the Slavs in the context of other civilizations.

WE REMEMBER

Mikhail Fedorovich Raevsky
210th birth anniversary

July 30, 1811, Arzamas, Russia - May 14, 1884, Vienna, Austria

Russian diplomat, Orthodox priest, social figure, Pan-Slavic, promoter of Russian culture in the environment of the Slavic nations of the Habsburg monarchy.
Source: ru.wikipedia.org

Peter II. Petrović-Njegoš
170th death anniversary

November 13, 1813, Njeguši, Montenegro - November 31, 1851, Cetinje, Montenegro

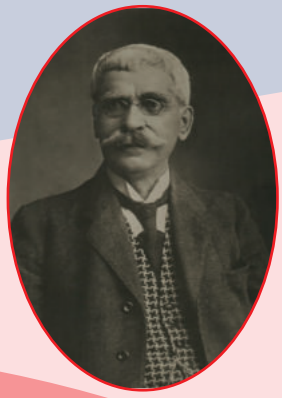
The national poet of Montenegro, founded the first school in the territory of Montenegro, restored and strengthened the national cohesion of the Montenegrins, printed in his printer the first textbooks, writer, Orthodox metropolitan, ruler of Montenegro.
Source: wikimedia.org

Ivan Branislav Zoch
100th anniversary of death

June 24, 1843, Jasenová, Slovakia - December 27, 1921, Modra, Slovakia

Croatian and Slovak pedagogue and lexicographer. In Slovakia, he was a professor at the patronage evangelical grammar school in Revúca. He worked in Croatia for thirty years; in 1876 he came to Osijek as an enlightenment worker, where in 1884 he began working with Josip Mencin on the first Croatian encyclopedia. He was a member of Slovak Matica and Croatian Matica.
Source: Slovak Cultural Center Našice, Croatia

Ivan Minčov Vazov
100th anniversary of death



June 27, 1850, Sopot, Bulgaria - September 22, 1921, Sofia, Bulgaria

National awakener, the most important Bulgarian writer of European significance, founder of modern literature, holder of the highest title of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Minister of Education, Bulgarian poet, novelist, playwright, publicity.
Source: wikimedia.org

Mara Đorđević Malagurski
50th anniversary of death

December 20, 1894, Subotica, Serbia - August 9, 1971, Belgrade, Serbia

Literary, publicist, participant in the Grand National Assembly in Novi Sad, where she advocated that Vojvodina be annexed to the Kingdom of Serbia after separation from Austria-Hungary. One of the founders and the first president of the Bunjev Enlightenment Matica, the holder of the most important award for literature written in the Bunjev dialect. She was awarded state honors for her work.
Source: wikidata.org