SLAVIC HORIZON

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Information bulletin of Slovak Matica for the Slavic world and Slovaks abroad

BUST OF ADOLF SVÄTOPLUK OSWALD IN SRIEMSKÁ RAČ

CENTURY OF THE BIRTH OF TIBOR KÖNIG

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC SESSION "CHURCH AND HISTORICAL MEMORY"

INTERVIEW WITH MIRO GAVRAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE CROATIAN MATICA

CEREMONIAL OPENING OF THE SLOVAK HOUSE IN RIJEKA

A NEW ALMANAC OF SLOVAKS HAS BEEN RELEASED IN POLAND

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On the cover: A joint picture from a meeting with representatives of the Archives of Vojvodina Slovaks at the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic. From left: P. Jašek - Institute of the Memory of the Nation, M. Antolík - Chief State Councilor of the Slovak Republic, K. Obšust - Social Anthropologist and Archaeologist, L. Drábiková - Member of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, N. Kuzmanović - Director of the Vojvodina Archive, I. Galbavá - Counselor of Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic, M. Gešper - Chairman of the Slovak Matica, P. Schvantner - Secretary of the Slovak Matica
The editors need to cut contributions.

Peter Schvantner, Secretary of Slovak Matica, Member of the Editorial Board of Slavic Horizon, Slovakia

Dear readers,

*„The nations that rejected the Kingdom of God, righteousness, true human action, forgot about God and were only interested in" others „'that is, only in worldly things, fell after each other, and this statement will continue to be true in the future. Let's get up, Slavs!" T*hese are the words of Ľudovít Štúr, which are still valid today. The emphasis here is on cooperation between the Slovak ¬nations, which is vital for us. Therefore, the key is to continue publishing the Slavic Horizon - the information bulletin of Slovak Matica for the Slavic world and Slovaks abroad. It is very important to continue the active cooperation of Slovak Matica with other Slavic institutions, but also with scientists and esteemed personalities in the Slavic world. It is the term „Slavic world" that is very characteristic of us Slavs, as we are, in fact, in many respects different from other nations of the world. And I dare say that with our culture and scientific results we are at the forefront of the civilized world.

Experts in Matica´s history know very well that it was Slovak Matica that became the first institution after the establishment of Czechoslovakia in 1918 to become interested in the lives of Slovaks living abroad. Over time, this activity and the change in political and social conditions grew into cooperation with various Slavic institutions. As I have studied political science and at the university I was also close to international relations, I consider this cooperation to be very important and enriching. It is therefore truly exceptional that the Slavic Horizon saw the light of day on the basis of the 4th Congress of Maticas and Institutions of Slavic Nations, which took place on 5 and 6 June 2019 in Martin, Slovakia. It is always historically essential that the results of such negotiations be translated into real action. It is precisely such consistency that is sometimes lacking in our Slavic world, which, fortunately, does not apply to the Slavic horizon. Mutual information, establishing dialogues, deepening scientific and other cooperation is a key factor for raising standards in all areas of our Slavic world and life. Personally, I will actively address this topic, as I consider it important not only for the Matica´s movement, but also for the already mentioned Slavic world. However, it must not be forgotten that this joint newsletter of ours is aimed at informing the broad Matica´s and Slavic society. Therefore, it is great that it is issued primarily in electronic form, which is extremely important at the moment. Its „dissemination" is therefore at a high level and in a significant form contributes to its popularization. It is also important that this issue has been prepared in other language versions. Since the tradition in cooperation with Slavic institutions and individuals is firmly rooted in the Matica´s movement, the publication of the Slavic Horizon is extremely important. This can inspire many to take action or start engaging in foreign affairs, which would be a great success. First and foremost, however, it is necessary to continue publishing Slavic Horizon, and I am glad to be able to take part in it as a member of the editorial board.

It should also be emphasized that Slovak Matica declared the year 2022 as the Year of the Legacy of Štúr´s. In 2022, exactly two hundred years will have passed since the birth of several important members of Štúr generation. Many of them were the bearers of the idea of cooperation between the Slavic nations in various forms, which should not be forgotten in their memory.

As is a good habit for the Slavonic Horizon, you will also find many interesting things in this issue. It is essential that new authors appear in each issue and that ¬ideas from the Slavic world spread in such a way. As part of an overview from the Slavic world, you can read interesting facts from sisters and brothers from Serbia, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Russia, but also from the United Kingdom, for example. I am particularly pleased that closer cooperation has been established with Nebojša Kuzmanović, the director of the Vojvodina Archive.

We live in difficult times for national and pro-Slavic ideas. However, as history teaches us, every episode of human society will end one day, and we must continue to work for our nations and Slavism. Only honest and often minor work can bring the results we want. We need to persevere and patiently continue on the path we are walking together. And so I will help myself with another in Štúr quote: "*Therefore, let not a single day pass without you, Slavs and sons of these tribes, ¬unless you do one good deed for your tribe, defend its law, educate it and never become servants of its stranger rulers.*"

BUST OF ADOLF SVÄTOPLUK OSWALD IN SRIEMSKÁ RAČ

Katarína Pucovská, information portal kulpin.net, Serbia

Posing in front of the bust shortly after its unvealing. Photo: kulpin.net

The ceremonial program with the unveiling of a memorial bust of Adolf Svätopluk Oswald, a Slovak who died in the Serbian-Turkish war in the battle of Sriemska Rača on July 4, 1876, took place at noon on September 23, 2021 in this village in the border with the Serbian republic. Oswald was a member of volunteer units in the Serbian Drina division fighting the Ottoman Empire. Funding for the elaboration and building of the memorial bust was provided by the Committee for the building of the monument to Adolf Svätopluk Oswald - Novy Sad, headed by the director of the Vojvodina Archives, Nebojša Kuzmanović, and the town of Sriemska Mitrovica. In 2021, we commemorated the 145th anniversary of the death of Adolf Svätopluk Oswald, and according to the participants, this monument should also be a metaphor and symbol of Serbian-Slovak friendship, which has deep roots and which obliges contemporaries to cultivate and deepen these relations. The monument was unveiled jointly by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Serbia Nemanja Starović and the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to Serbia HE Fedor Rosocha. The ceremony on the occasion of the unveiling of the monument takes place at noon in the courtyard of the Primary School in Sriem Rača. The ceremonial speeches were given by the representatives of Serbia, Slovakia and the representatives of the town of Sriemska Mitrovica, led by the mayor of Sriemska Mitrovica Svetlana Milovanović. Bishop of the Slovak Evangelical Church in Serbia Jaroslav Javorník, President of the Slovak Matica in Serbia Branislav Kulík, Honorary President of the Slovak Matica in Serbia Rastislav Surový, President of the Serbian Association in Slovakia Stane Ribič, anthropologist and archaeologist Kristijan Obšust and others also took part in the bust unveiling ceremony.

The program of the celebrations featured the Chamber Choir of the Bells and the choir Ozvena from Seleneča, which first sang the anthems of Serbia and Slovakia under the direction of Juraj Súdi and accompanied by the Selenča orchestra. A more extensive report on Adolf Svätopluk Oswald was read by Nebojša Kuzmanović and the singer Miša Blizanac performed the song Serbian flag, written by Svetozar Miletić. The occasional poem and Oswald's text were heard by those present in a lecture by Anna Asodiová from Kysáč, Selensky choirs sang the song Kto za pravdu horí and fujara player Michal Struhár from Báčský Petrovec brought tones of fujara, a Slovak musical instrument, and a Bačov song to this town in Sriem. The bust was designed by the sculptor Dorđe Lazić Ćapša from Sremsko-Karlovlov.

Adolf Svätopluk Oswald

(May 12, 1839 Banská Bystrica - July 4, 1876, in the battle of Sriemska Rača) was a writer, journalist, editor. Pseudonym: A. St. Bystricky, Detvan, A.S. Pohronsky, Turansky, Tursky, Urpinov, Urpinsky. He received his primary and secondary education in Banská Bystrica, in 1863 - 1866 he studied philosophy at the University of Prague. In 1862 he was a clerk at the capital court in Banská Bystrica, later an editor in Prague, Slovakia and Budapest. A volunteer in the Serbian-Turkish war, he fell in battle. A member of the generation around the almanac Napred. With his poetic work, he joined the stream of epigonic post-creative work. Author of verse legends, biographical profiles, political commentaries, reflections and news articles in Slovak, Czech and German magazines. Translator from German, Polish and Hungarian. (source: sk.wikipedia.org)

FROM THE ACTIVITIES OF SILESIAN MATICA, BRANCH ASSOCIATION IN BYSTŘICE NAD OLŠÍ

Anna Konderlová, Chairwoman of Silesian Matica, branch association in Bystřice nad Olší, Czech Republic

In 2021, Silesian Matica, branch association in Bystřice nad Olší, despite the unfavorable situation associated with Covid-19 and the resulting restrictions, tried to keep the activities of the association. Some events took place, which attracted not only members but also the public. Let's recall some.

Remembrance of the anniversary of the end of the Second World War in May was fundamentally marked by the current pandemic situation, similar to that a year ago. The members of the Slovak Matica, in compliance with all anti-epidemiological measures, laid bouquets at the monument to the fallen citizens of Bystřice in World War II, together with the management of the municipal office in Bystřice. Every year, they honored the memory of the fallen resistance fighters, MUDr. Jaroslav Míček and Jan Heczek, who were assassinated by the Gestapo at the end of the war, on March 25, 1945.

Anna Konderlová during a speech in the Church of the Exaltation of St. Crosses in Bystřice nad Olší. Photo: Teodor Hybler

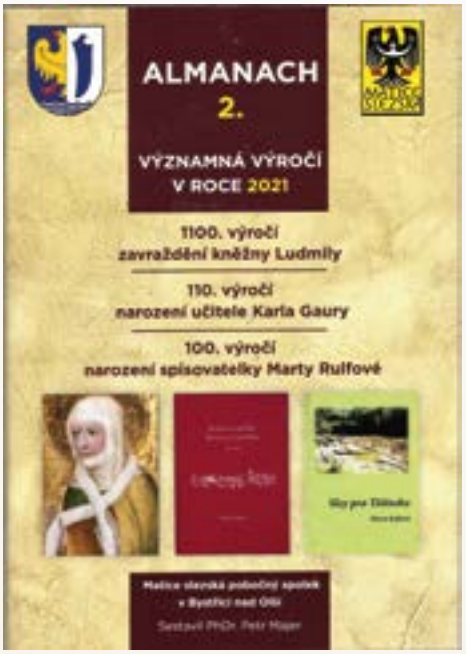
Members of the Silesian Matica in Bystřice nad Olší, in July they took part in the 9th legionary march on Mount Poledá in Bystřice. The chairwoman of the Silesian Matica Anna Konderlová and Jiří Parma, a member of the regional committee of the Silesian Matica from Český Těšín, gave a speech here, where they acquainted those present with the activities of the Silesian Matica.

On Sunday, August 29, 2021, after the second service, the Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross in Bystřice nad Olší was filled with believers not only from Bystřice, but also from Třinec, Nýdek, Košařisk, etc. The local chairwoman of Silesian Matica Anna Konderlová reminded of the importance it means for Christianity and the Czech nation.

On September 28, the lecture hall in the Music Information Center in Bystřice nad Olší was filled to the last seat. Silesian Matica with the financial support of the village Bystřice presented Almanac II., with PhDr. Petr Majer, chronicler of the village. In the lecture, he mentioned three important anniversaries of this year - the 1100th anniversary of the assassination of Princess Ludmila, the 110th anniversary of the birth of teacher and Bystřice chronicler Karel Gaura and the 100th anniversary of the birth of the writer Marta Rulfová. The mayor of the village Mgr. Roman Wróbel in his short speech expressed his support for the activities of Silesian Matica in the village, thanking all those who came to the lecture for this national holiday. At the end of the lecture, the chairman of the Czechoslovak legionary community unit in Frýdek Místek, brother Petr Majer handed over Commemorative medal for the 100th anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovak legionary community to Mrs. Anna Konderlová, chairwoman of Silesian Matica in Bystřice nad Olší. After the lecture, the members of Silesian Matica went to lay flowers for the Memorial Linden, which they planted in 2018, when they commemorated the centenary of the founding of Czechoslovakia.

On October 28, 2021, the members of the Silesian Matica commemorated the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic by laying flowers at the Memorial Linden before the 103rd years.

This year we are preparing the release of the third Almanac of Silesian Matica, which will cover the anniversary of important personalities of the village Bystřice. It is mainly the 160th anniversary of the founder of the Silesian Matica of Folk Enlightenment Jiří Štefek, the 130th anniversary of the birth of Jan Heczek, member of MS, Sokol and scout in the village, 120th anniversary of the birth of teacher anniversary of the birth of Lieutenant General Josef Heček, an honorary citizen of our village. In the month of May (20 - 22 May 2022) our members will take part in the 53rd Silesian Days in Dolní Lomná, in the month of June (1 - 2 July 2022) the jubilee 30th festival Na Pomezí - it is a country festival , tramp, folk, bluegrass, etc. songs from three border states - the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland, and last but not least on July 30, the jubilee 10th legionary march in Bystřice on Mount Polední.



Slovak house of Slovak Matica in Rijeka

CEREMONIAL OPENING OF THE SLOVAK HOUSE OF SLOVAK MATICA IN RIJEKA

Miloslav Strehársky, Slovak Matica in Rijeka, Croatia

On Tuesday, December 28, 2021, at 5 pm, the ceremonial opening of the reconstructed premises of the new Slovak Matica headquarters in Rijeka in the Republic of Croatia - the Slovak House, the new Matica building in Rijeka purchased from the Office for Slovaks Living Abroad was ceremoniously handed over on July 27, 2021. The ceremony was held with the financial support of the Office for Slovaks Living Abroad of the Slovak Republic (OFSLA SR), the Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities of Croatia (OFHRRNM RH), Council for National Minorities of Croatia, Union of Slovaks in the Czech Republic (CFNM RH), Rijeka City Council and Primorje-Gorski Kotar County. The event respected the epidemiological instructions of the Civil Protection Staff of the Czech Republic. After the Slovak anthem was performed by the Slovak singing group and the Croatian anthem by the Zametski koren tambourine choir, the chairman of the Slovak Matica in Rijeka and the representative of the Slovak national minority in Primorje-Gorski Kotar County Miroslava Gržinićová welcomed distinguished guests: Consul of the Slovak Embassy in the Slovak Embassy and the Czech national minority in the Croatian Parliament Vladimir Bilek, the head of the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County Office Goran Petrc, the head of the Rijeka Municipal Office Verena Lelasová-Turaková, the chairman of the Slovak Union in the Czech Republic Mirka Vavra, the chairwoman: Czech, Ruthenian, Serbian and Montenegrin, a representative of the Kniežatá Frankopanovci on island Krk association, a representative of the Primorski Hrvat association, as well as a representative of the Zametski koren cultural and artistic association Veljka Či ković and the head of the Emil Mance Zametski koren tambourine choir.

She also greeted the neighbors and all those present, as well as those members of the Slovak Matica in Rijeka who are ill, and then continued with the following words: *"Slovak Matica has been operating in Rijeka since 1994. Now we commemorate the 27th anniversary of its founding. During those years, we experienced a lot of things together, but mainly with our activities we were able to present Matica both at home and abroad. We would not have been able to do this without the support of the Union of Slovaks in the Czech Republic, OFHRRNM RH, Mr. Vladimír Bilek, CFNM RH, the city of Rijeka, Primorje-Gorski Kotar County and OFSLA SR, but mainly without our active members who are involved in groups operating in Matica, folklore, singing, children's, literary, artistic, ceramic, photographic, theatrical and traditional gastro group. They represent us at all shows organized by us and other organizations. Many thanks to everyone for that. The result of our 27-year work is also this Slovak house, which we received from the Office for Slovaks Living Abroad in the Slovak Republic. We are grateful that Slovaks, in addition to other minorities, can also boast of their home. It is true that part of the house underwent a major reconstruction with the financial support of the Union of Slovaks in the Czech Republic, CFNM RH, OFHRRNM RH, OFSLA SR, the city of Rijeka and Primorje-Gorski Kotar County. We still have a lot of work to do, a new staircase, exterior design of the entrance gates, garden space, summer kitchen and more, but we hope that in 2-3 years we will succeed with subsidies. We hope that after the final renovation, this Slovak house will fulfill its overall function and Slovaks and members of the Slovak Matica will be happy to meet not only from Rijeka, but also from other parts of Croatia and Slovakia. Our Matica is small but*

has a big heart open to everyone. Our plans are big, we hope that we will be able to implement them and increase the number of our members and especially to register new dancers, singers, children, etc. Therefore, we plan to organize an open day once a month since January, to which we always invite a minority or a domestic association to participate in the program. Our traditional gastro group always prepares a Slovak specialty. We are the first to plan to invite our neighbors from Česká Beseda, Primorský Hrvat and the association of pensioners from Kastav. We will be happy if everyone we invite confirms their participation. In addition, we plan to organize a Ball of National Minorities at the end of the year, at which each registered minority would present a short cultural program. It all depends on the financial support we get for our cultural activities. We also plan an art colony and an evening of poetry with extended participation. Traditionally, these are also the 22nd days of Slovak culture, which should take place in June. We also plan to participate in events in Slovakia, Serbia and other parts of Croatia, as well as in Porto-Etno 2022 in Rijeka and in the events of our friends. It all depends on the situation with our hostile pandemic covid-19. „She ended her speech with the words: *„What to say in the end, just so much thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who stood by me and supported my ideas, who held us, whether financially or physically to fulfill our dream. I wish everyone present a happy and healthy new year."* After a speech by distinguished guests and representatives of national minorities, a cultural and artistic program followed. First, the singing group Slovenka MS in Rijeka, led by Melita Bahniková, sang two Slovak songs: *Slovenčina moja* and *What happened tonight*. Margita Rekićová-Grolmuso, vice-chairman of the Slovak Matica in Rijeka, recited her new poem Nový život (New life), which she wrote on the occasion of the opening of the Slovak House. The tambourine choir Zametski koren, led by Emil Mance, played three Slovak songs: *Anička, dušička nekašli; Slovakia, krásna zem and Tam pod Tatrami*. Anna Landek recited the *Christmas poem*. Marienka Šikićová played the guitar and sang the Christmas song *Silent Night, Holy Night*. Milan Trbović played the European Union anthem *Ode to Joy* on the guitar.

Singing group Slovenka MS from Rijeka

At the end of the cultural and artistic program, the folklore group Slovenka MS from Rijeka, under the leadership of Margita Rekićová-Grolmusová and Laura Mandekićová, presented themselves with the traditional joke dance of Šimyšima. At the end, those present rewarded the performers in the cultural and artistic program with a storm of applause.

After the end of the program, Mrs. Gržinić thanked all present for coming and attending this celebration and invited them to a small reception prepared by the Matica´s members, where they had fun together.

SIMON AND JUDA DANCED THE LAST CARNIVAL DANCE

Marta Demjénová, President of the local Slovak minority self-government in the village of Mlynky, Hungary

Do you know Simon and Judas? They are the couple from Mlynkov who never lose their good mood and every year at the end of the carnival they choose to cheer up the whole village with their dance. They are more than a hundred years old, but that doesn't bother them. When they start playing musicians in the car, they immediately join them and dance all over the village. They dance all day, and if that was not enough for them, they would move to other pilgrimage villages. They have to use every moment, because the end of the carnival is approaching and they still have to cheer up a lot of people behind it. This was also the case in 2022 in Mlynky this year, and believers who sat in the church on the last Sunday of Carnival could hear the voice of cheerful musicians from the street before the end of the Mass. When they left the church, their music, good mood and fragrant carnival cones awaited. To the great joy of Simon and Jude, many young families came to welcome them in front of the church, and the nurseries, led by their teacher, also sang a Slovak folk song to them. And when the chariot was moved, Simon and Judah began to dance, and they danced all day. They passed through the whole village, the streets of Mlynkov were filled with cheerful music and singing. The grinders took to the streets and offered the musicians freshly baked cones, good wine and joined in the fun. Thus, Simon and Judas fulfilled their role this year as well.

They brought us a good mood, the joy of singing, dancing, the approaching spring and in the afternoon they set out on a longer journey to cheer up the Pilíans in Senváclav with their dance ...

BUNJEV LANGUAGE – FOURTH IN OFFICIAL USE IN SUBOTICA

Matica bunjevská – Editorial Board, Serbia

After more than a century, the historical guilt against Bunjev people was corrected, when members of the Subotica assembly unanimously adopted a change in the status of the town of Subotica, making Bunjev language the fourth language officially used in our town. 61 deputies, including opposition deputies of the Civic Subotica Movement, agreed, while deputies of the Democratic Union of Croats of Vojvodina left the meeting on the item.

Bunjev language has become an equal language officially used in Subotica, along with Serbian, Hungarian and Croatian. This corrected the historical guilt against the Bunjev people, which in 1918 was most numerous after the Serbs at the Grand National Assembly of Serbs, Bunjevs and other Slavs on November 25, 1918.

In connection with the change of statute, the mayor of Subotica, Stevan Bakić, emphasized that the whole process took place in accordance with the rules and regulations. Bakić also stated that this is a day that will go down in the history of Subotica and its citizens. However, he regretted that even on such a day someone was trying to get out of the box, which is a great pity.

„There were two comments at the meeting, in my opinion it was not a coincidence, especially with regard to the Bunjev dialect, because they called this language until 2018, when standardization was carried out, after which it became a language. It is not right to compare Bunjevc with anyone else in Subotica, it is not correct. Bunjevs have lived here for almost three and a half centuries together with their traditions and customs, they have always been devoted to the city and Serbia, it is a nation that likes Subotica and Serbia. The fact that this language will become the official language of the city does not endanger anyone's rights, so we should be proud of this day, because on this day we are writing something that all citizens are proud of, and that is the linguistic and cultural diversity that our characterizes the city. Along with Slavic studies that will scientifically study the Bunjevs, the inclusion of the Bunjev language into official use will increase interest in the field of culture of the town of Subotica. By this act, the city also presents itself in its full democratic capacity. The process of adopting changes to the statute is a serious matter and all those who took part in it contributed to keeping it in the best order," said the mayor Stevan Bakić.

A four-language national board indicating the town of Subotica

Bakić recalled that in February 2006 the Republic of Serbia ratified the European Charter on Regional or Minority Languages, an international document aimed at ensuring the protection of the language rights of traditional cultural communities in Europe. By changing the status, the city of Subotica has proved that Serbia respects its obligations.

MP Mirko Bajić, on behalf of the Union of Báč Bunjevc family, said that the debate was dignified and that the overall procedure was conducted ¬in accordance with the law. *„After more than a hundred years, Bunjev or are officially recognized as an indigenous South Slovak nation with the mother tongue used in official communication. We continue these efforts, and we hope that the disgraceful act of 1945 will finally be described as an act of assimilation of one nation, also because it has the unfortunate consequences that the Bunjevs feel to this day. This is followed by the advocacy of all the rights that were deprived of us by this regulation. We remain true to what we have been pointing out for a long time, we shake hands with the Croats in Subotica, but also more broadly with the hope of communicating, cooperating, respecting each other and looking for compromises, all with a view to living for us all in this city better. All those who question that decision do so for the sole purpose of proving that the Bunjev language does not exist, that the Bunjevs are not an indigenous minority, that they do not have their mother tongue and, in that sense, do not have the right to use that language in official communication. All this has its roots in 1945, when the order was issued that the Bunjevs did not exist and that regardless of their self-determination they would be considered Croats, which means that in this sense the Bunjev language was considered part of the Croatian language. Basically, this was the only argument of those who questioned the recognition of the Bunjev language as the language that will be officially used in Subotica,"* said Bajić.

The chairman of the Subotica assembly, Balint Pastor, said that with this decision, the Bunjevs would acquire the same rights as the others. *„The documents prepared in this regard have 190 pages and 93 comments,"* added Patsor.

The meeting was also attended by Suzana Kujundžićová Ostojićová, President of the Bunjev National Council, an institution that proposes a change of status in favor of recognizing the Bunjev language as a language to be used in official communication.

Dr. Kujundžić-Ostojić: *„A big and clear day."*

Dr. Suzana Kujundžićová-Ostojićová, President of the National Council of the Bunjev National Minority, declared that the town of Subotica had approved a change in the statute approving the Bunjev language for official use:

"Extraordinary satisfaction, happiness and pride. I thank everyone on behalf of the National Council of the Bunjev National Minority and all those who in any way participated in the standardization of our language, I thank everyone who teaches the Bunjev language at primary, secondary schools and faculty. First of all, the greatest thanks go to our nation, the Bunjevs, who have protected our language for three and a half centuries, using it even when it was not socially acceptable or even condemned. This is a big and clear day, a day when the Bunjev language became the official language in our city, in Subotica."

THE MEMORIAL PLAQUE TO JOSEF KAROL VIKTORIN WAS UNVEILED IN BUDAPEST

Peter Schvantner – Zuzana Pavelcová, Slovak Matica, Slovakia

The work of Jozef Karol Viktorin will forever reminds lasts in the Church of St. Anny in Budapest a thanks to a new memorial plaque, which was unveiled on March 20, 2022. Here, at the address of the then German parish, that J. K. Viktorin worked as a priest in the years 1856 - 1866. At the invitation of the Slovak self-government in Budapest, a delegation of the Slovak Matica led by its chairman Marián Gešper attended the ceremony.

Kazimír Kápolnai contributed greatly to the fact that the name and deeds of J. K. Viktorin were preserved in the consciousness of Slovaks in Hungary. For many years he was chairman of VIII. district of the Slovak self-government in Budapest. During his tenure, he developed collaboration with the King Matej Museum, the Hungarian National Museum in Vyšehrad and its chief museologist Peter Gróf. The compatriots unveiled the plaque on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of Viktorin's birth. The ceremonial program was opened by St. Mass served by the Vdp. János Domokos. The Slovak word came from the Capuchin brother Blahoslav Pataya: *„Viktorin sought to elevate the Slovak nation in the cultural field in the former Hungary, so that Slovaks could find their place in Europe and be a classic Slovak nation as we know it today. „ Mass was performed at the act of unveiling the memorial plaque. Edita Hortiová, President of the Slovak Self-Government in Budapest, accompanied this part of the program. The chairman of Slovak Matica emphasized the importance of his work:"* Viktorin is not a very well-known personality in our Slovak -history. It is a relatively sad fact, because it belonged to the members of the legendary Štúr´s generation. He was an exceptional cultural official, publisher and publicist, but it is very important for Slovak Matica that he was also the initiator and founder of our oldest national cultural institution. I would like to thank the Slovak self-government in Budapest for making a huge effort to bring the memory of Jozef Karol Viktorin back to Slovak society and to our collective historical consciousness, and to thank them for unveiling a memorial plaque here in Budapest. "*The mayor of Viktorin's hometown of Zavar, Lukáš Sochor, the chairman of the Slovak Matica Marián Gešper, and the President of the Slovak Self-Government in Budapest Edita Hortiová unveiled the plaque. The event was also attended by representatives of the Slovak Embassy in Hungary, the Slovak Cultural Institute in Hungary and Michal Hrivnák, a prominent novelist and supporter of Slovak cultural life in Budapest.*"

A memorial plaque of Jozef Karol Viktorin was placed in the interior of St. Anne's Church in Budapest. Photo: Marko Gajdoš

Jozef Karol Viktorin (March 12, 1822 Zavar – July 20, 1874 Budapest) was a priest, national awakener, publisher of Slovak literature, organizer of cultural life, publicist and founding member of Slovak Matica. He was a chaplain in Senica, Trstín, Skalica, Budatín and a priest in Vyšehrad. In his literary work, he devoted himself to journalism, news and the processing of biographies of personalities, and he also focused his attention on travelogues and linguistics. He was a patron - the publisher of poetry writings by Ján Holly, Andrej Sládkovič and plays by Jonáš Záborský. He was responsible for the erection of the monument to Ján Holly in Dobrá Voda. He also worked in the committee of the Association of St. Vojtech. Through his activities, he contributed to the unification of the Slovak National Movement in the 1850s and 1860s. He participated in the efforts for the birth of Slovak Matica. In 1861, Viktorin was commissioned by a famous memorandum meeting in Martin to administer contributions to the establishment of the Slovak Matica. The attempt to establish the Matica was finally published in 1863. He was active in its establishment, managed monetary contributions and became a member of the committee at the first general meeting of the Slovak Matica. He ranked among the „Slovak excellent". His personalities were also addressed by the employees of Slovak Matica, whose contributions are published in articles on the website of Slovak Matica.

The Slovak Matica delegation was also invited to an informal meeting, which was attended by representatives of individual Slovak municipalities in Budapest. They are also members of the Chamber of Deputies of the Slovak Self-Government in Budapest. Vice-chairman Pavol Beňo, deputies Levente Galda, Rozália Papová-Polereczká, Zuzana Szabová, Monika Szelényiová, head of the secretariat of the Slovak self-government in Budapest Ľubomíra Fallerová, former chairman of the Slovak self-government VIII. of the Budapest district Kazimír Kápolnai and MEP Eva Gedőová.

St. Anne's Church in Budapest, the work of Jozef Karol Viktorin. Photo: Marko Gajdoš

The President of the Slovak Self-Government in Budapest, Edita Hortiová, introduced the deputies and guests present and acquainted them with the history of the Wekerle district, where the informal meeting took place. She also thanked the delegation of Slovak Matica: "*Thank you for celebrating with us today as the leaders or representatives of the Slovak Matica. I think we have a very important day behind us, we have honored the memory of Jozef Karol Viktorin by revealing a nice marble plaque. In this way, it will become famous even in the capital. I am very pleased that we have met and that this meeting can be the beginning of a long-term cooperation.*" Meetings with compatriots are always very important. Slovak Matica positively appreciates that after almost two years of the pandemic, the compatriots in Hungary managed to organize such a meaningful event, which ignited further fires on both sides of possible cooperation. Renewable personal meetings, gaining new contacts and suggestions for further cooperation were also rare.

Detail of a memorial plaque dedicated to Jozef Karol Viktorin. Photo: Marko Gajdoš

We thank our compatriots for this event and we are looking forward to meet them in Martin. We would also like to thank Jozef Schwarz, a member of the Slovak Matica Committee and a member of the Local Slovak Matica Department in Petržalka, who has been regularly participating in the memorials of Jozef Viktorin since 2012. These are organized by the Slovak self-government of the VIII. district in Budapest in cooperation with the Hungarian National Museum – the museum of King Matej in Vyšehrad at his Slovak-Hungarian memorial plaque on the school building and at Viktorin's tomb.

Festive Holy Mass in the Church of St. Anne. Photo: Marko Gajdoš

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC ROUND TABLE – CHURCH AND HISTORICAL MEMORY

On the 1030th anniversary of Orthodoxy in the Belarusian countries in the year of historical memory in Belarus

Mikhail Yuryevich Dronov - Sergei Mikhailovich Sloistov, Institute of Slavic Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia

On March 25, 2022, an international round table on the church and historical memory was held in the capital of Belarus. The main organizers of the event were the Center for Eurasian Studies of the branch of the Russian State Social University in Minsk, the Synodal Historical Commission of the Belarusian Orthodox Church and the Minsk Spiritual Academy. In addition to the Russian partners, the Russian partners modestly contributed to the organization of the scientific meeting: the Institute of Religious Research „Northwest" of the Institute of Humanities of the Baltic Federal University I. Kant in Kaliningrad and the Russian Vocational School in Moscow.

The round table was opened by the director of the Minsk branch of RGSU, behind the walls where the event took place, the candidate of economic sciences (PhD.) asssociate professor S. A. Poletaev, who called on the participants to defend the historical truth. The round table was moderated by the Doctor of Historical Sciences (DrSc.) Prof. K. V. Shevchenko, Head of the Center for Eurasian Studies and Vice-Chairman of the Synodal Historical Commission. The candidate of theology, Alexander Roman Chuk, chairman of the Synodal Historical Commission, presented a theoretical report entitled *Church Tradition and Historical Memory*, which reflected the current situation in the East Slavic area. Deputy Father Alexander Romanchuk in the commission, Candidate of Historical Sciences, vns of the National Research Institute of World Economy and International Relations E. M. Primakov of the Russian Academy of Sciences A. D. Gronsky presented the report *Between Historical Memory and Historical Politics: Belarus at the Crossroads of Science and Ideology*. Based on rich facts, the Belarusian-Russian scientist analyzed the genesis of „all-Russian" (generally East Slavic) and Belarusian nationalist tendencies in modern Belarus. The candidate of historical sciences, associate professor, head of the Institute „Severwest" R. V. Shizhensky in his speech *Pagan Speeches 2022* dealt with the state of neo-paganism in the post-Soviet states. V. A. Shchipkov, Candidate of Philosophical Sciences, Associate Professor at MGIMO MID RF, shared his vision of current threats to Russian Orthodoxy. This panelist also presented the first two issues of the scientific journal Ortodoxia (the editor-in-chief is the father of the lecturer A. V. Ščipkov). Mrs. A. I. Filimon, a candidate of historical sciences, an associate professor at the Moscow Humanities University, made an emotional contribution on I*nadmissibility of Forgetting: Activities of the Roman Catholic Church in the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes in Supporting and Preparing Croatian Extremist Policy*. This presentation was the only one dedicated to the special world of the Balkans. Speakers from the Institute of Slavonic Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences addressed topics that are far removed from the modern social and political agenda. So the candidate of historical sciences, ns M. J. Dronov gave a presentation on the *Religious Life of East Slavic Immigrants in North America in the journalism E. N. Matrosova*. S. M. Sloistov, based on new archival findings, spoke about the participation of the Bishop of Prešov Alexija (Dechtereva) in the reunification of Greek Catholics with the Orthodox Church in Czechoslovakia in the 1950s. The fact that E. N. Matrosov and especially Bishop Alexy (a native of Vilnius, who headed the Vilnius-Lithuanian diocese in 1955-1959) was closely connected with the history of the Belarusian-Polish-Lithuanian borderland, which aroused additional interest in these historical figures from parties of the other participants in the meeting. The event also included a discussion between E. E. Mamajev from the Russian Vocational School and A. D. Gronsky on current issues of historical policy in the Republic of Belarus. The round table was closed by the presentation of K. V. Shevchenko *Historical Memory as an Object of Manipulation: the Historical and Cultural Heritage of Galician-Ruthenian Personalities in Ukrainian Public and Scientific Discourse*. It should be emphasized that the past scientific meeting had a greater public response than similar previous events of local science organizers K. V. Shevchenko, O. A. Romanchuk and A. D. Gronsky. First Secretary of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Belarus J. E. Arjajev was present throughout the round table, from the first to the last performance. It is gratifying that the Synodal Historical Commission, recently established (June 8, 2021) by a decision of the Synod of the Belarusian Exarchate, has become an active platform for the productive interaction not only of church historians but also of secular experts. His extensive activities include three main fields: narrow scientific (basic scientific research in the field of church history of the Belarusian countries), educational (projects to popularize scientific knowledge of confessional history) and analytical (professional support of various church and church-public events). The Minsk and Zaslaus Metropolitan Benjamin, the patriarchal exarch of the whole of Belarus, paid special attention to the organization of research, educational and professional work in the exarchate. Thanks to his constant support, it was possible to bring together various scientists in the commission and within its long-term programs. Intensifying the exchange of information between them (and in the future the deep integration of their plans) will undoubtedly help to make scientific work more efficient.It is also important to mention the high level of practical preparation of the round table. Arrival and departure days were specially planned for lecturers outside the city, which not only reduced overall organizational costs, but also freed up additional time for such important scientific contacts with colleagues from Minsk, as well as visiting libraries, purchasing local editions, exchanging books, etc. With the blessing of His High Enlightenment Metropolitan Benjamin, guests were accommodated in the hostel of the Minsk Theological ¬Academy. On this occasion, the staff of the Institute of Slavonic Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences donated the latest Slavic publications to the academic library.

An erudite expert on Serbian-Slovak relations Nebojša Kuzmanović

SLOVAKIA, MY SECOND HOME

Activities aimed at increasing Serbian-Slovak relations

Nebojša Kuzmanović, Director of the Archives of Vojvodina, Novi Sad, Serbia

For more than twenty years, I have been intensively researching Serbian Slovak contacts and relations in the field of literature, science and culture in the broadest sense of the word. The interest intensified especially after I became the director of the Archives of Vojvodina.

From the moment I became the director of the Archive of Vojvodina, in mid-2018, the second archive in the Republic of Serbia by size, I have been very much in line with my own zeal and awareness of the importance of Serbian-Slovak relations, as well as the importance of cultural history of Slovakia as the national minority in the Republic of Serbia focused on research activities in the context of raising the profile of topics related to the Slovak national minority. At the same time, together with their collaborators (the management of this important cultural institution), quality cooperation was established with numerous cultural institutions, civic associations, as well as with cultural actors or personalities from the academic field of Slovakia. In this sense, the Archive of Vojvodina today belongs to the cultural institutions of the Republic of Serbia, which is clearly proud of the best cooperation with numerous cultural institutions in Slovakia. On the other hand, with regard to my own professional and academic activities in favor of research and enhancement of cultural and social relations of Serbia and Slovakia, respectively. Slovakia and Serbia, which has been going on for several decades, in the middle of 2020 I founded the Center for Serbian-Slovak Topics together with several individuals. Thanks to this non-governmental organization, several activities were carried out, which are focused on the multi-meaning deepening and exploration of Serbian-Slovak relations in the past and their revitalization in the current context.

In this brief article, I will try to summarize activities and projects that are aimed at the Slovak national minority, as well as Serbian-Slovak relations, which took place under the auspices of the Vojvodina Archive or the Center for Serbian-Slovak Topics on my own initiative or on the initiative of my colleagues. From its foundation in 1926 to the present day, the Archive of Vojvodina (Novi Sad, Serbia) has undergone a dynamic path in terms of performing its most important task, ie the protection of archival material as a cultural heritage. It is one of the three largest archives in the Republic of Serbia and organizationally it is the central archive for nine interdistrict archives in the territory of AP Vojvodina. The depositories of this institution protect and professionally maintain more than 7,300 meters of archival material, which was created in the period from the 12th to the 13th century until 2014. The archives are classified into 551 collections. The archival materials stored in the archive were created in Latin, German, Hungarian, in variations of Serbian vernacular and literary language, as well as in the current (standard) Serbian language. The archive also contains materials in other languages, including Slovak and Czech. The oldest document in the Archives of Vojvodina is the breviary, a fragment originating from Bohemia, which dates back to the turn of the 12th and 13th centuries. Most of the preserved archival materials date from the 17th century to the 20th century and some of the most important collections were created by the county registries of the Habsburg and Austro-Hungarian monarchies, the Illyrian Court Deputation, the Illyrian Court Office, the authorities of the Serbian Voivodeship and the Taman Banat, the Royal reports of the Danube Banovina, the Commission for the Investigation of Crimes of the Occupiers and Their Minions in Vojvodina, the Executive Council of Vojvodina, the Assembly of the Federal Autonomous Province of Vojvodina and others. The archive also stores materials of other bodies of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, judicial bodies, military, cultural, educational, scientific, health, social, economic, sports, socio-political and religious institutions, organizations and associations that have operated or still operate in today's Vojvodina. It also preserves collections of charters, maps and cartography, master's diplomas and Calfen script, travel documents, personal funds of individuals whose activities were important for AP Vojvodina. There are significant archival materials in the funds of the Archives of Vojvodina, which are connected with the Slovak national minority living in the territory of the Republic of Serbia. Apart from the numerous archives related to the immigration of Slovaks to the Lower Land and which are mostly written in Latin or

Hungarian (until 1918), there are numerous archives written in the Slovak language within the archives, from 1918 to the present. The archives contain, among other things, the founding memorandum of Slovak Matica, a document on the establishment of a book printing house, as well as the founding document of the Grammar School in Báčský Petrovec. Of particular importance are the several hundred documents from the F. 183 fund, which testify to the war crimes committed against Slovaks in the Bačka, Banat and Sriem territories during the Second World War, which until my inauguration as director were completely unknown to the general public as well as to the general public for academia. It is a first-class historical source of research on hitherto unknown topics. The Vojvodina Archive is a contemporary institution of culture with a developed system of protection of archival material and documentary material, as well as corresponding forms of presentation of documents and popularization of archival activities. Starting in the middle of 2018, the archive has increased its presentation several times, undertaken a number of archival and interdisciplinary projects and significantly expanded its exhibition and publishing activities. In accordance with the current tendencies of the modern information society, Vojvodina Archive launched several internet platforms, through which he presents archival materials and various content-related documents related to archiving and its related disciplines. As a cultural institution that encourages a critical culture of remembrance and tends to become more accessible, the Archives of Vojvodina today, in the context of its own basic and project activities, stands out with the motto: Openness - Accessibility - Remembrance - Identity. It is in correlation with this new employment policy of this institution that several dozen activities have been implemented since mid-2018, as well as important projects related to the cultural history of the Slovak national minority in the Republic of Serbia with well-known members of academia in Slovakia. In the context of the above, I will mention only the most important projects and activities. Listing all projects would go well beyond this brief contribution. On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Slovak Grammar School in Báčský Petrovac, the Archives of Vojvodina in 2019 organized a thematic multimedia exhibition entitled *Educational and Cultural Life of Slovaks between the Two World Wars in Báčský Petrovec*. The exhibition was seen by several hundred visitors, and for the first time the cultural and educational activities of the Slovak national minority in a hundred years were presented to the Serbian audience in an adequate, critical and loving way through the concept of the exhibition. The exhibition also included a trilingual study in Serbian, Slovak and English, published by the Archives of Vojvodina entitled *Collective Identity of Slovaks in Serbia*. This professional monograph, which I authored together with a social anthropologist, archaeologist and at the same time an advisor to the director of the Vojvodina Archive Kristián Obšust, was reviewed by competent experts from Slovakia and is a comprehensive study devoted to the topic indicated in the project title. The success of the publication is also evidenced by the fact that it has so far been published in two editions and its third edition is also planned.

Title page of the monograph

Probably the most important activity connected with the research of archival materials -related to the Slovak national minority in the Republic of Serbia is the creation and development of a website containing the results of the *Digitization project and presentation of archival materials from the F. 183* Archives of Vojvodina in Slovak language. The project was implemented thanks to financial resources of the archive and with the support of the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Serbia during 2020. Activities were connected with digitization, translations and presentation of archival material in Slovak from fund F. In the process of implementation, more than 1,300 pages of archival material were scanned and technically processed, and part of the minutes prepared by the Commission for the Investigation of Crimes of the Occupant and His Minions over the Slovak Nation in Vojvodina was translated. The existence of the material was almost unknown until 2020 and was discovered during the research, resp. during project activities during project implementation. These are reports from Banat, Bačka and Sriem, which were written bilingually, in Serbian and Slovak, and are published separately in the section of this website. These are extremely rare documents, given that they provide an exhaustive description of the nature of war crimes committed by the occupiers and their minions in the territory of Banat, Bačka and Sriem, resp. describing war crimes against Slovaks during World War II. The content of these materials is still unknown facts, which are of key importance in the context of the research that the project is engaged in.

Together with these two mentioned projects, the Vojvodina Archive organized several special events (literary parties, book presentations, exhibitions, etc.) by Slovak authors from Serbia and Slovakia, which took place in the gallery rooms within the Vojvodina Archive. As part of its extremely rich publishing activities, books in the Slovak language have been published, among others, which deal with the cultural history and history of the Slovak minority in Serbia and Serbian-Slovak cultural relations.

A special segment is the professional cooperation of the Vojvodina Archive with professional institutions and academic soil in Slovakia. The Vojvodina Archive has so far signed a memorandum on cooperation with the following institutions: the Museum of the Slovak National Uprising in Banská Bystrica, the Department of History of the Matej Bel Faculty of Arts in Banská Bystrica, the Slovak National Library and the Literary Archive of the Slovak National Library in Martin. During February 2022, we cooperated with institutions and individuals from Slovakia, let's also mention that a presentation of our activities took place in the ceremonial hall of the Government of the Slovak Republic (SR) - the

Chairman of the Slovak Matica Marián Gešper during the presentation of the Memorial from the Congress of the Matica of Slavic Nations. From left: Kristián Obšust and Nebojša Kuzmanović

Archives of Vojvodina and the aforementioned Center for Serbian-Slovak Topics. Together with my coworker Kristián Obšust, I presented our activities, which we carried out individually or together in the field of deepening Serbian-Slovak relations.

The presentation took place at the invitation of Iveta Galbavá, Adviser of the Prime minister of the Slovak Republic, and was also attended by the Chairman of Slovak Matica JUDr. Marián Gešper, Secretary of Slovak Matica Mgr. Peter Schvantner, Chief State Counselor of the Government of the Slovak Republic Ing. Milan Antolík, MP Lucia Drábiková, MP Ing. Marcel Mihalík, Director of the Research Department of the Institute of the Memory of the Nation Peter Jašek and Chairman of the Office for Slovaks Living Abroad Mgr. Milan Ján Pilip.

During the February visit to Slovakia, we were officially received by the Minister of Defense of the Slovak Republic, we also visited the National Council of the Slovak Republic, as well as other institutions with the aim of deepening cooperation and enhancing Serbian-Slovak relations. At the end of this article, I would like to emphasize the most important activity of the Center for Serbian-Slovak Topics. It is a monument that we had made to the Slovak poet Adolf Svätopluk Oswald, who perished in the Serbian-Turkish war 1876 - 1878 as a volunteer of the Serbian army in Drin near Sriemská Rača. Adolf Svätopluk Oswald was born on May 12, 1839 in Banská Bystrica. He completed his primary and secondary education at his birthplace and studied philosophy at the University of Prague from 1863 to 1866. In 1862 he became a clerk at the court in Banská Bystrica, later he was the editor of newspapers in Prague, Budapest and Slovakia. He wrote political commentaries, biographies and essays for Czech and German magazines. He translated from German, Polish and Hungarian. Published under the pseudonym: A. Vol. Bystricky, Detvan, A. S. Pohronsky, Turansky, Tursky, Urpinov, Urpinsky. He died as a member of the volunteer unit in the Serbian Drin Infantry on July 4, 1876 at the Battle of Sriem Rača. I financed the construction of the monument from my own resources. All of the above is only one part of the activities that have been carried out on my initiative, and I sincerely hope and believe that in the years ahead, we will do much more in deepening Serbian-Slovak cultural and social relations.

MODERN MAN SYMPOSIUM

Jozef Polom, United Kingdom

On July 24, 2021, the Symposium of Modern Man - a meeting of creators and friends of art - took place in London. Art exhibitors from the Czech and Slovak community currently -operating in the United Kingdom presented their work in the Bohemia House restaurant, an environment which, in terms of its social significance and wide range of drinks and tasty Czech and Slovak cuisine, has become a place for many people traveling abroad feel to be as home. Among the exhibited works of talented artists were paintings, photographs, glass decoration, printing, clothing and letter hike.

Symposium of modern man. Photo: Jozef Polom

The symposium was held in the midst of discussions about who a modern man is and the need for creation in today's modern world. In the rhetorical part, the individual exhibitors presented themselves and their work and engaged in an engaging way about their journeys for art, foreign journeys.

After the speech and after everyone had a great dinner, the cheerful mood of the symposium participants and guests was taken care of by the talented accordionist Gabriel Gazdík, who sang nice melodies and danced to many entertainers to the singing tones of modern and folk songs. Talented fashion designers Jitka Tiztová and Danuše Sajvaldová presented their fashion collection - women's dresses under her own brand SAJVALDesign.

Establishing and strengthening sincere friendships, joint discussions about art, its needs, social significance and the search for human values in the results of his creative work are among the roots of society, which looks to its future as a successful development of culture, learning and self-confidence.

Many thanks to the helpful staff at Bohemia House, the artists as well as the guests of the symposium for their help in organizing.

ASPECT OF SLAVIC RECIPROCITY IN RELATIONS OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC AND THE KINGDOM OF YUGOSLAVIA IN 1939 – 1941

Martin Jarinkovič, East Slovak Museum in Košice, Slovakia

Slovaks, together with Serbs and partly also with Croats, belong to the nations with the most developed Slavic feelings. The idea of Slavic mutuality has its own historical tradition among these peoples, which played a significant role in the process of their national self-identification. It can be stated that the Slavic idea plays a significant identifying function in Serbs and Slovaks to this day. The Croatian case is a bit different at present, where the aspect of Slavic reciprocity in the national consciousness has been suppressed in the background due to the tragic development of Serbian-Croatian coexistence.

The idea of Slavic reciprocity, which Slovaks such as Kollár, Šafárik and Štúr greatly helped to develop, also represented the basic framework for the development of mutual relations between Slovaks and southern Slavs. A powerful impetus for their development was the period of the emergence of modern nations, the so-called „National revival". In contacts with their Serbian and Croatian counterparts, Slovak intellectuals sought support from Budapest's growing assimilation pressure. Their culmination was the synchronization of progress towards the Hungarians in the revolutionary years 1848 – 1849. After a temporary slowdown, the continuity of relations was maintained in the second half of the 19th century. Slovak and Croatian personalities of spiritual life. At the end of the 19th century, political cooperation within the forming Romanian-Serbian-Slovak coalition in the Hungarian Parliament was renewed. The disintegration of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy brought a new quality to mutual relations. Within Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, Slovaks and Croats found themselves in a qualitatively similar position, which brought their interests closer together. However, contact with the Serbian environment was not completely severed, mainly due to the existence of a large Slovak minority in Vojvodina. The local Slovak intellectuals were the bearers of a tradition of mutual interaction in the cultural field that has persisted since the time of the national revival. Official foreign policy was again based on the allied bloc of the Little Entente uniting the Czechoslovak Republic, Yugoslavia and Romania, which also reflected the interests of Slovakia and Slovaks, regardless of their political orientation. The Little Entente was a protective barrier against Hungarian revisionism. It was a vital prerequisite for Slovak development. This issue also significantly affected the Slovak political-diplomatic efforts following the change of circumstances in Central Europe established by the Munich Agreement.

Emblem of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia

Nazi Germany became the new decisive geopolitical factor in Central Europe, which caused the disintegration of Czechoslovakia and at the same time enabled the establishment of the Slovak state (since the adoption of the Constitution on July 21, 1939 – the Slovak Republic). The independence of the new state, declared by the parliament on March 14, 1939, was curtailed by the so-called protection treaty, which bound Slovakia closely to the German Empire in the field of foreign policy, economy and military. The Slovak Republic, which had lost part of its territory to Hungary before its inception, felt the greatest direct threat to its existence from its southern neighbor. Leading political circles in Bratislava hoped for protection from Germany against this threat. At the same time, however, they intuitively sought support from Czechoslovakia's former partners in the Little Entente, while they found greater friendliness in Romania, which, after the second Vienna Arbitration in August 1940, lost part of its territory like Slovakia and reoriented the country towards cooperation with Germany. Relations with Yugoslavia were more complicated. Yugoslavia's attitude towards Slovakia, as it arose, was not accommodating, despite Slovak expectations. This was reflected in the fact that Yugoslavia left a lower-ranking diplomatic mission in Bratislava in the form of a consulate general. Yugoslavia did not even rush to adjust this temporary situation, which can be understood as a manifestation of distrust of stability and especially the permanence of the new state establishment in Slovakia. On December 23, 1939, Yugoslavia transformed the Consulate General into a diplomatic agency, leaving the former Consul General Stanoi Simić at its head. As the Serbian historian Milan Sovilj pointed out, Yugoslavia was setting up diplomatic agencies in countries it did not consider fully sovereign.

According to the common idea in Czech and Slovak his-

Dr. Jozef Cieker in the study. Source: Slovak National Archive

tory, the Kingdom of Yugoslavia recognized the Slovak Republic de jure on June 8, 1939. However, Milan Sovilj came to the conclusion that Yugoslavia recognized the Slovak Republic only on the day of official opening of the Slovak embassy in Belgrade, ie September 18, 1939. The head of the Slovak diplomatic mission in Belgrade was the diplomat Dr. Jozef Cieker, acting as Chargé d´affaires, who was subject to the Slovak Ambassador to Yugoslavia, based in Bucharest, with powers formally covering the whole of the Balkans. It was a reaction to the Yugoslav position, for which, in the end, the seat of the embassy for the whole Balkans was not established in Belgrade, but in Bucharest. The process of accreditation of the diplomatic representation of the Slovak Republic in Yugoslavia was completed on November 11, 1939 by the inaugural audience of the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic in Yugoslavia Dr. Ivan Milecz (based in Bucharest) and Chargé d´affaires Cieker with Prince - Regent Pavel Karadjordjević.

The Slovak period press testifies to the fact that Bratislava placed ¬hopes in its partnership with Yugoslavia based on Slavic sentiments. E.g. in May 1939, the daily "Slovák" states: *„... our relationship with this Slavic state cannot be other than sincerely vicious, dignified, positive, because it is dictated by the voice of the heart and the strict laws of political reality."* Consul General Miloš Kičevac from Bratislava (due to the appointment of a new Consul Simić in response to the establishment of the Slovak state) again states: *continue to understand the interests of the young Slovak state*. "The spread of sympathy for Yugoslavia was also noted by Yugoslav diplomacy in one of the few reports commenting on events in Slovakia that have been preserved in the Archives of Yugoslavia in Belgrade. It is therefore not surprising that the calculations based on the Slavic motif are also reflected in the analysis of one of the few foreign policy analysts in Slovakia at the time, the origin of the Russian emigrant scholar prof. Juraj Garin Michajlovského, who in the daily "Slovák" in February 1940, in addition to the state's orientation towards Germany, emphasized that: *"Slovakia is naturally interested in the fraternal Slavic Balkan states, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria, the Slovak Republic has cordial diplomatic relations."* At that time, however, it was already clear that, despite Bratislava's hopes, diplomatic relations were not developing ideally.

The fact that the Slovak Republic was not perceived positively in Belgrade is reflected in the reports of Dr. Jozef Cieker for being sent to Bratislava. In one of them, he stated that all his efforts were aimed at "*informing at least official circles that what had happened was an inevitable necessity and that the policy pursued by the Slovak government must, in the circumstances, be such that*". He expressed the hope that *„... in time they will find that Slovakia has remained, and even if they have doubts about our independence, they must nevertheless acknowledge that this is the only possible solution for the Slovak nation"* (report located in the Slovak National Archive). Cieker tried active presenting the Slovak Republic, communicating with representatives of the press, politics and public life. During these visits and contacts with Yugoslav officials, he also got acquainted with the Yugoslav (Serbian) view of the development of the situation in Europe. In his reports, he often recorded statements reflecting the Slavic feelings of Serbian public officials. For example, in an interview with Damjan Sokić, the owner and editor-in-chief of "Pravda", Cieker sensed *„that he did not like Germans and that the idea of Pan-Slavism seemed to him the best guarantee for the Slavic peoples"* (SNA). However, he noted the strongest manifestations of Slavic solidarity in connection with the momentary Hungarian-Yugoslav diplomatic rapprochement that resulted in the Hungarian-Yugoslav Pact on Eternal Friendship of 12 December 1940. Cieker received several assurances from Serbian officials that relations with Budapest were only pragmatism. The spirit of Slavic solidarity reflects several statements (which are documented in his reports in the State Archives in Bratislava). For example, Ilija Jukić stated that: *„... Yugoslavia will have its say in the adjustment of Central Europe and will not allow it, even though it now has very good relations with Hungary, for Hungary to expand at the expense of Slavic nationalities."* Dragan Damić again assured him that "*the Yugoslav- Hungar-*

ian friendship is ephemeral. It is inconceivable that a Serb or a Croat would like a Hungarian." He described the relationship with Slovakia as emotional, in contrast to the Hungarian-Yugoslav relationship, which he described as a product of political calculation. The Deputy Foreign Minister Miloj Smiljanić Cieker assured me *„that he will not forget from time to time to indicate to the good Hungarian circle that Slovakia's fate for Yugoslavia is not entirely indifferent"*. A similar, albeit more general, reassurance was given to Cieker by the Minister of Agriculture, Branek Čubrilović, who blessed him *"that although in this chaos in which a new Europe is born, everyone takes care of themselves in the first place, Yugoslavia also thinks of Slovakia, which is yet a Slavic and friendly state.*" He received a similar assurance even during an official visit to the Patriarch of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Karlovy Vary, Sri Lanka, on March 28, 1940. On this occasion, Patriarch Gavrilo said to Cieker: "*they deviated from their Slavian road. I can assure you that at crucial moments the Slovak nation can count on the sympathies of the Serbian nation.*" Despite these, more or less verbal declarations of solidarity, relations between the Slovak Republic and Yugoslavia were carried and developed in an unsentimental, highly pragmatic spirit. From time immemorial, it has been trade and economic cooperation, which can be understood as the only successful sector of mutual relations. Overall, however, diplomatic-political relations were full of disharmony. The problems stemmed from the different political and social conditions on which the two states were built. Yugoslavia, although gradually adapting itself tactically to growing German pressure, perceived Slovakia as an unreliable German satellite. Belgrade's elites perceived German expansion not only with apprehension, but also with determination to resist German pressure as long as possible. Negative emotions against the Germans from the First World War persisted in the Serbian nation. The German advance in Europe provoked natural resistance in the Serbs. To a certain extent, these moods also had to be respected by the pragmatically oriented government, which came into conflict with the opinion of the Serbian public. In real politics, this tactic was reflected in the policy of ambiguity, which Cieker often mentioned in his reports. The fact that Yugoslavia, in parallel with the establishment of diplomatic relations, maintained contacts with representatives of the Czechoslovak government in exile and tolerated or even supported the activities and organization of the Czechoslovak resistance on its territory testifies to the Yugoslav position towards the Slovak Republic. Belgrade was one of the centers of resistance and an important stage for refugees to the West. The Yugoslav diplomatic mission in Bratislava was also actively involved in the support of resistance activities directly in Slovakia, which mediated connections with foreign countries to the resistance circles. Yugoslavia was not willing to meet Slovak demands to increase the level of its diplomatic representation to the level of the embassy. On the other hand, Bratislava was not willing to meet the needs of the Serbian Orthodox Church in demanding recognition of its jurisdiction over Orthodox parishes in eastern Slovakia. In connection with the extradition of Josef Dřímal, a Czech volunteer living in Bratislava in the Serbian army from the First World War, fell into the hands of the German Gestapo, mutual relations even reached a freezing point at the turn of 1940/41. This turned into a mutual animosity between the diplomatic representative of Yugoslavia in Bratislava Simić and the Slovak chargé d´affaires in Belgrade Cieker.

Dr. Jozef Cieker, Chargé D´affaires of the Slovak Republic in Belgrade. Source: Slovak National Archive

From the very beginning, the tradition of Czechoslovak-South Slavic relations and, seemingly, paradoxically quite widespread in Serbia, also played a role in this development of relations, for which the Slovak Republic was created on the ruins of Czechoslovakia with the help of Hitler. This is fully reflected in the commentary of the already mentioned Patriarch Gavrilo, who noted in his report Cieker: *"We have been looking and are looking at the catastrophe of the Czechoslovak Republic as for the catastrophe of Slavs ... All Slavs are close to us. We regret the Czechs, we also regret the Poles"*.

Paradoxically, the differently understood of Slavism formed one of the important pillars of mutual misunderstanding. The Serbian perception of Slovakia through the prism of Slavism was influenced by the tradition of Serbian-Czech relations before the First World War, as well as the interwar alliance built on the harmony of the ideologies of Czechoslovakism and Yugoslavism. They were united by the negation of Slovak and Croatian emancipation aspirations. For Bratislava, however, the idea of Slavic reciprocity meant complications with regard to real policy oriented towards Germany, as well as negative experiences with Czechoslovakism.

The government could not give up this idea, which was at the birth of the Slovak emancipation movement, on the other hand it had to adapt it to the current political line and the development of German expansion in Europe. The compromise was a variant of Slavic reciprocity adapted by government circles during the march, accentuating the Štúr´s concept based on the originality of individual Slavic nations in opposition to Czechoslovaks „Slavism".

From the point of view of practical policy, Bratislava viewed Belgrade as a potential „Slavic" support against the Hungarian threat. On the other hand, Belgrade, which perceived it as an unequal partner, had nothing to offer. On the contrary, by defeating Czechoslovakia, Belgrade lost an important ally in this field, forcing it to seek a path of understanding with Budapest. Thus, the interests of both states did not really have intersections that could bring them closer. Declared but differently perceived Slavic reciprocity could not change much.

"SCHLINGER" AS A BUNEVAN FONT

Sandra Iršević, Matica Bunjevská, Serbia

White embroidery with folk motifs called The Schlinger is typical of Bunevs living in Serbia. This technique has also found its application in the world of fashion. Recently, white embroidery has also appeared on drapes or clothes. Once upon a time, the Schlinger was especially represented among the Bunevs. Specifically, of the various types of shlingers, the one on the white canvas stood out, into which holes were cut and these were then sewn with white embroidery. Despite the fact that technologies and machine processing of textiles developed rapidly, Bunev women retained the hand embroidery of the shlinger and today teach their young people their art.

Ľubica Mandić from Subotica has been engaged in shingling for more than 20 years, resp. white embroidery. She is a shoemaker by profession, but she has always wanted to learn this technique as well. When the whole world hit the Covid-19 in 2020, Ľubica decided to produce drapes, which were also a fashion accessory. Recently, more and more young girls are interested in shingling holiday dresses.

White embroidery with folk motifs called a shlinger. Photo: author of the article

„Krista Bukvić, who worked in the KUS branch Bunevka, taught me how to schingling. It is our traditional embroidery on white canvas and is embroidered with white thread. This means that it is not colorful, crushed. The ornaments can be made very nicely, richly or sparingly. Mainly, holes or tickets are made, which are created by a combination of these two details, so we actually create a unique image on the canvas," says Ľubica Mandićová.

Her work can also be found on bed linen, curtains, tablecloths or lace, but this embroiderer wanted to use shingling on other textiles as well, so she also sheds dresses or applies embroidery on toiletry bags. Such pieces are also found in the Netherlands and Croatia and increasingly in Serbia.

„The interest in this embroidery and its use in the home is very great. The details on the dress tend to be very nice. I had orders for 18 birthdays or other festive occasions. Girls love him. There is a great interest in shingled sheets and curtains in southern and western Serbia, which surprised us a bit, because in these localities they have their typical embroidery. In order to attract younger generations, I try to look for colored fabrics and those that do not shrink,"

Embroidery can be applied to new but also to old dresses, Ľubica agrees with the seamstress, but most of all are occasions such as baptism, wedding or graduation. All dresses of this kind are unique.

Recall that even in medieval Serbia, the girl was taught handicrafts, which included embroidery and stitching, and later in Yugoslavia, as part of a school subject called a household, children were taught to embroider.

INTERVIEW WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CROATIAN MATICA, MIRA GAVRAN, Croatia

Interviewer: Zuzana Pavelcová, director of the Regional Museum of Slovak Matica, Slovakia

„The strongest aspect of our Matica is its membership. People in Croatia have a very positive view of Croatian Matica as the guardian of our tradition, but also the builder of the future of our nation."

In November 2021, Miro Gavran was elected Chairman of the Croatian Matica. He is known worldwide as a Croatian writer. He was born in 1961 in a family of teachers in the Slavonian village of Trnava near Nová Gradiška. His works have been translated into more than forty languages, in two hundred and fifty editions at home and abroad. His dramas and comedies have had more than four hundred theatrical premieres around the world, seen by more than four million people. He is probably the only living playwright in the world to whom he has organized a theater festival dedicated to him in up to five countries, based exclusively on his plays and comedies. He is the most played contemporary Croatian playwright at home and abroad. He made his debut in 1983 with the play Kreont's Antigone at the Gavella Drama Theater in Zagreb, in which he spoke in an artistically strong way about political manipulation.

He has won about thirty literary and theatrical awards in Croatia and abroad, including the STREDEUROPEAN TIME 1999 Award for the best Central European writers for his work in Budapest, Hungary, and the EUROPEAN CIRCUIT 2003 Award in Zagreb for confirming European values.

He studied dramaturgy at the Theater, Film and Television Academy in Zagreb. From 1986 to 1992, he worked as a playwright and theater director for the Zagreb ITD Theater. Since January 1993, he has lived and worked as a professional writer. His theatrical and prose texts have been included in many anthologies and collections of anthologies at home and abroad. His work is studied at many universities around the world. He is one of the few European playwrights who premiered their play (Kings and Grooms) at the EU's most important theater, EUGENE O'NEILL THEATRE CENTER, in Waterford in 1999. In April 2014, Miro Gavran was elected a member of the Russian Academy of Literature in Moscow and May of the same year as a collaborator of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Zagreb. In November 2016, he became a member of the Slavonic Academy of Literature and Art, based in the Bulgarian city of Varna. In 1996 got award of the Council of Danica Chorvatská with the face of Marek Marulić from the President of the Croatian Republic. He was a Croatian candidate for the Andersen Prize for 2016 (the most important world award for children's literature). In January 2016, he received the Silver Medal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic for many years of work in the field of Slovak-Croatian theatrical and literary cooperation, while in August of the same year he received the Order of Prince Branimir with a necklace. He has lived in Zagreb since he was 20 years old. He is married to the actress Mladena Gavranová, with whom he founded the GAVRAN Theater in 2002. Their son Jacob is an actor.

Chairman of the Croatian Matica Miro Gavran during his speech. Photo: Mirko Cvjetko

Miro Gavran, Chairman of the Croatian Matica. Photo: Mirko Cvjetko

You are the chairman of the Croatian Matica, which celebrated its 180th anniversary this year. The Croatian Post issued a commemorative postage stamp for the anniversary, Matica prepared the events. With what plans did Croatian Matica enter this jubilee year: what did it manage to fulfill and what awaits it this year?

It is a truly significant anniversary, which we have decided to celebrate all year. In January, we bought two cameras and launched a own podcast. We have opened a series of Confrontation forums in the Croatian Matica, because we believe that the Croatian Matica should address all important social, scientific and political issues. It is particularly gratifying that our membership base has increased by 300% in the first five months compared to the same period last year, and we are being watched more by the Croatian media in the same percentage. We are currently finishing a film about the first 180 years of our Matica and we have embarked on a number of new projects, most of which will be visible in the autumn.

Each of the Slavic Maticas is otherwise legally anchored, differently financed, and on that basis develops various types of activities. What about Croatian Matica today? How is it financed, who works in it and what is it currently dealing with?

Our Matica is mostly funded by two ministries: the Ministry of Culture and Media and the Ministry of Science and Education, as well as income from donors, membership fees, rental of some premises that are our property, and income from the sale of our books and magazines. In recent years, we have managed to raise funds from the EU project, and we hope that we will be able to do so in the years to come, although I believe that the high bureaucracy in accounting for these funds has long since surpassed Franz Kafka's description of the bureaucracy. In general, much less money is spent on culture and education than before.

Presidency of the Croatian Matica. Photo: Mirko Cvjetko

Croatian Matica has membership and local unions. How do its components work? Matica meet the disinterest of young people. Is it similar for you?

We try to attract young people through high school professors, assistants and university professors at universities. We have programs such as the School of Media Culture, Young Musicians in Matica, which are designed especially for young people and we try to attract them with an attractive selection of forums. We have exactly 100 branches in Croatia, another 15 in Bosnia and Herzegovina and another 9 in the world. Each branch has organizational, managerial and financial independence, but each branch respects the headquarters of the Croatian Matica in Zagreb.

An important presentation of the results of Croatian Matica´s research activities is provided by its publishing house. Which are last new books from there?

We have just published the seventh book, The History of Croats, via the 20th Century. We have published a new translation of Dante´s Hell at the end of the jubilee 700th anniversary of the death of this great Italian and world writer, one of our most widely read and important authors. Viktor Žmegač has published his new book on the best European novels of his choice. Of course, our publications are also published regularly: the biweekly Vijenac and the magazines Kolo and Hrvatska Revija.

What is Matica croatian currently struggling with, and vice versa, what do you consider to be its strongest foreign exchange?

Since our central building in Zagreb was damaged by an earthquake two years ago, our biggest ¬problem is that we need to find money and a way to renovate it well and with quality. It is a building that was built in 1887. The strongest aspect of our Matica is its membership. People in Croatia perceive Croatian Matica very positively as the guardian of our tradition, but also as the builder of the future -of our nation. Do not forget that in the last 180 years, five countries have changed on the territory of today's Croatia, if we take into account the European Union, then it is six, it can be said that everything is changing, but the Croatian Matica is eternal.

Last year, Slovak Matica published the first issue of the information bulletin of Slavic Maticas and Slavic institutions in three language versions -Slavic horizon. On the pages of this periodical, it presents the activities and news of individual Maticas with the intention of connecting information from events in the Slavic world. How do you evaluate this act?

This I consider as a extremely positive, and I think that all of us in Europe should be grateful to Slovak Matica for what it has done for the benefit of all Slavic Maticas and institutions.

TWO „DARK YEARS“ (2020 AND 2021) OF THE SLOVAK MATICA IN MARTIN

Slovak and Slavic culture lost some great Maticas personalities

Pavol Parenička, Slovak Literary Institute of Slovak Matica, Slovakia

In the years 2020 and 2021, several former important employees of Slovak Matica in Martin died shortly after each other. In 2020, on March 2, it was polyglot, linguist, ethnolinguist and literary archivist Viliam Mruškovič, and on June 12, librarian and church historian Štefan Hanakovič. In 2021, archivist, iconographer, artist and poet Viliam Sokolík left for eternity on 24 January, literary scientist, editor, publicist and writer Tomáš Winkler on 19 April, librarian, bibliographer, cultural politician and writer Miroslav Bielik on 22 July and on 27 November literary museologist, cultural and ecclesiastical historian, publicist, editor, translator and Russianist Juraj Chovan-Rehák. For many years, several of the deceased martyrs of Martin have held the positions of responsibility of administrators, scientific secretaries, directors of departments and heads of departments of Slovak Matica. They have been employed by it since the middle of the last century and have worked in the -institutional component of Slovak Matica throughout their professional careers, spreading its reputation and scientific credibility at home and abroad, especially as representatives of the oldest and highest cultural and scientific institution in Slovakia, especially in the Slavic world. These leading researchers of Slovak Matica contributed to the development of Slovak librarianship, bibliography, literary and cultural history, literary archiving and museology, but they also left a significant mark in the field of art, especially in the history of literature and art, including international and Slavic contexts. It is not possible to list all the works and activities of the recently deceased in the mass memorial obituary, so we will, only succinctly in an informative abbreviation, recall only those activities and works that had an overlap on Slovak-Slavic relations.

Cultural historian, literary archivist, philologist, polyglot, ethnolinguist and translator **PhDr. Viliam Mruškovič** (1940 – 2020) worked in the years 1970 to 2001 in Slovak Matica in Martin. At first he was the director of the Literary Archive and the scientific secretary, from 1987 to 1990 he held the position of administrator of Slovak Matica, finally he worked in its Archive of Literature and Art. As a literary historian, Viliam Mruškovič introduced himself with the monographic work *Slovak-Lusatian-Serbian Literary Relations* (1980). However, the dominant area of his research was comparative linguistics and ethnolinguistics. In this context, he developed textbooks for librarians Languages of Europe (1983) into a monumental monograph and his masterpiece *Europe of Languages and Nations on the Threshold of the Third Millennium* (2008), published by Slovak Matica.

In 1988, Viliam Mruškovič wrote an extensive informative handbook in Slovak: *Slovak Matica. Guidebook*, which was also published in 1989 in the Russian version (*Matica slovackaja. Putevoditeľ*). For Slovak and Slavic studies, his list of *Slaviká in the Archive of Literature and Art of Slovak Matica* (1993) and the thematic inventory *Source documents on the history of Slovakia and Slovaks from the earliest times to the first phase of Slovak national revival in the collections of the Slovak National Library* (2008) are of central importance.

Literary archivist, librarian, bibliographer, publisher, editor, cultural historian, theoretician of photography ¬, iconographer, poet and artist **PhDr. Viliam Sokolík** (1927 - 2021) worked at Slovak Matica in Martin from 1958 to 1991, while his focus was on the Archive of Photodocumentary Monuments of the Archive of Literature and Art, which he ran from 1965 to 1987 and where he creatively used his rich cultural and historical knowledge, librarian and publishing experience as well as the creativity of artistic talent. In his archival activities, Viliam Sokolík focused on building collections of photographs and their acquisition and cataloguing, including a large and extremely valuable fund of unique pictorial documents related to the life and work of the world-famous Russian writer, thinker and social reformer Lev Nikolayevich Tolstoy, which Slovak Matica acquired from the numerous estates of several Slovak Tolstoys, especially Dušan Petrovič Makovický. Viliam Sokolík dealt with iconographic issues in his masterpiece *Unwritten Monuments of the Slovak Matica 1863 – 1969* (1969). In addition, he compiled two pioneering anthologies and the theory of photo-

graphy. As an amateur artist, Viliam Sokolík belonged to the top representatives of insit painting in Slovakia, while he also created a collection of paintings motivatively connected to the world-famous seaside spa of Yalta in the Crimea, where he went on medical holidays.

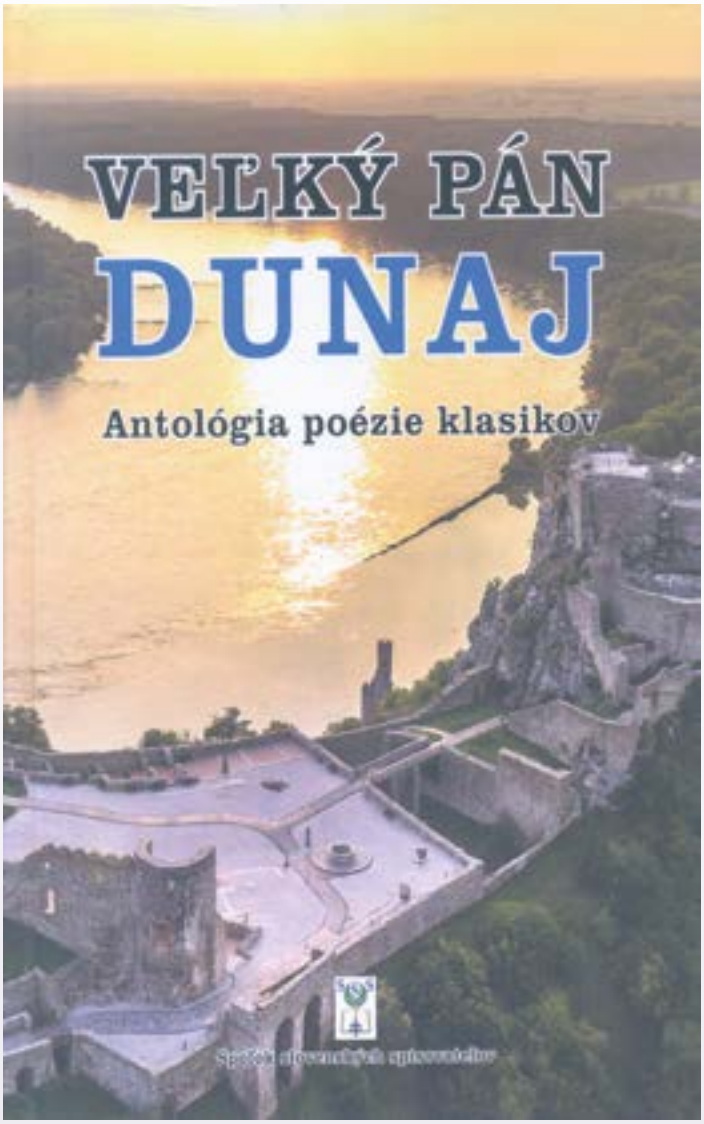
Library and archive worker, literary, cultural and ¬art historian, editor, publicist and writer **PhDr. Tomas Winkler, PhD.** (1940 – 2021), worked from 1961 to 1971 in Slovak Matica in Martin, where he was an employee of the Literary Archive, head of the library and editor of the polar magazine *Matičné čítanie*. Tomáš Winkler was expelled from his employment in the Slovak Matica for political reasons during period of communist normalization in 1971 and was persecuted by the totalitarian regime, which inspired him to write an autobiographically stylized novel from Slovak Matica field ... *We'll Be Dead for a Long Time* (2008). Tomáš Winkler was able to return to Slovak Matica only after the fall of the communist regime and from 1990 to 2010 he worked as a scientific secretary, deputy editor-in-chief of the magazine *Slovenské pohľady*, director of the Monument of Slovak Culture and the Slovak Literary Institute, and edited *Slovenské národné noviny*. Tomáš Winkler was one of the most important historians of Slovak Matica in the entire almost one hundred and sixty-year epoch of its existence. Slovak Matica elaborated the Matica past, movement and figures in a scientific synthesis. *History and Presence* (2003, with Michal Eliáš), in documentary ensembles (*Slovak Matica in the years 1919 – 1945, Slovak Matica in the years 1945 - 1955,* 1st and 2nd vol., 1971), popular science works (Slovak Matica to compatriots, 1967; *Growing up in time. Talking about Slovak Matica*, 1992; *Jewels of Slovak national culture,* 1994; *History of Slovak Matica*, 2013; and in the information guide Matica slovenská (1995 and 1998, with Stanislav Muntág), also in the English version. In cultural and historical works from the history of mathematics, he also noticed the activity of Slavic Maticas. Tomáš Winkler also devoted himself to biographical research and was the author of several works on the focus of Slovak and Slavic culture (*Pen and Sword. Biography of J. M. Hurban*, 1982 and 1997; *Jozef Škultéty. Witness of the Past*, 2003). In this genre, he also worked on the life and dramatic destinies of the most important Slovak Tolstoy Dušan Makovický, who lived from 1904 to 1920 near Lev Nikolajevič Tolstoy and his family in Jasná Poľana, Russia, as family doctor and secretary, in a documentary biography *Dušan Makovický: The Tragic Search for Life* (1991). Tomáš Winkler compiled and was the editor-in-chief of several conference and constitutional scientific proceedings published by Slovak Matica (*Maticas leaders - Michal Chrástek - František V. Sasinek; Štefan Moyses 1769 - 1869*, both 1971; *Proceedings of Matica slovenská. Literary science,* 2010). As a member of the author's team, he participated in the creation of the monumental encyclopedic *Dictionary of Slovak Writers of the 20th Century* (2001), where the passwords of compatriot writers and foreign Slovakists are also processed.

Bibliographer, librarian, cultural politician, writer, poet and organizer of literary life in Slovakia **PaedDr. Miroslav Bielik** (1949 - 2021) from 1973 to 2013 worked at the Slovak Matica in Martin, where he held the positions of director of the Slovak National Library, scientific secretary, administrator and finally director of the Slovak Literary Institute. As a librarian and bibliographer, he developed the project *Cooperation of the Slovak National Bibliography System with Other Automated Systems in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic* (1979) and was involved in the project Conception and Development of the Slovak National *Library until 2000* (1984) with Tomáš Trancygier. From 1995 to 1997, Miroslav Bielik edited the information magazine Slovak Matica *Matičné slovo*. In the field of historical documentary, together with the Czech historian Jan Rychlík and the American historian of Czech origin Thomas D. Marzik, he participated in the publication of an exceptional book of documents *R. W. Seton-Watson and his relations whit the Czechs and Slovaks 1 - 2* (1995 - 1996), which she published Slovak Matica in cooperation with the T. G. Masaryk Institute in Prague.

This annotated set of documents describes the activities of the British politician, diplomat, historian, publicist and prominent Slavist Robert William Seton-Watson, known by the pseudonym Scotus Viator, as well as his political and diplomatic participation in the constitution, foreign resistance and the establishment of the first Czechoslovak Republic in 1918.

From a young age, Miroslav Bielik devoted himself to fiction. He was one of the most important contemporary Slovak poets, he was the author of several poetry collections (*Time is a Silent Messenger of the Mind*, 2003; *A Slight Movement on an Inclined Plane*, 2005; *At the End of an X-*

Year, 2009; *Reflection,* 2013; *Time Forever Present,* 2019). He wrote novels of Reality in the field of prose. *Venetian diptych 1 - 2* (2007 - 2010) and *Kaleidoscope* (2013), in which he presented himself as a postmodern author. Some of his poetry collections, novels and selections from the work have been translated into Czech, Romanian and Serbian. Miroslav Bielik compiled, among others, an anthology of the poetry of the classics of the national literatures of the Danube states, *The Great Danube* (2019), together with Katarína Kolániková, and a representative anthology of Slovak poetry about the Danube, *The Danube* (2020). From 2013 to 2021 he served as chairman of the Slovak Writers' Association, in which, following the organization of the Congress of Slovak Writers in Trenčianske Teplice since 2016, he developed rich cooperation with compatriots and non-nationals, especially writers and professional literary, cultural and Maticas institutions from Slavic countries, especially from Serbia.



Literary and cultural historian, museologist, editor, publicist, editor, writer and translator **Juraj Chovan-Rehák** (1931–2021) was the head of the Literary Museum of the Slovak Matica in Martin from 1965 to 1990. He devoted himself to literary science and cultural history, especially the Cyril-Methodist tradition and the issues of the first phase of the Slovak national revival, especially the Bernolák movement. At the same time, he participated in the origin and development of literary museology in Slovakia, in the field of philological studies he dealt with Russian studies, mainly focusing on Russian-Slovak literary relations and translating from Russian. Juraj Chovan-Rehák, together with Imrich Sedlák, prepared a screenplay for the exposition of the Alexander Sergeyevich Pushkin Literary Museum in Brodzany near Partizánske, which was part of Slovak Matica and the outpost of its Literary Museum, entitled *Slovakia's Relations with Russian and Soviet Literature* (1978). Reflections, information, facts about this important institution and its exposition in accordance with modern literary trends after the reconstruction and innovation of the museum, again in collaboration with Imrich Sedlák, presented in an extensive guide *Literary Museum A. S. Pushkin Partizánske - Brodzany* (1987). The topic of Pushkin was also covered by his translation of a biographical work of Russian music glass by the date and publicist Alexander Abramovich Krejn *Notes from Pushkin's House* (1989), published by Slovak Matica. Juraj Chovan-Rehák wrote a text about the autobiographical work of the -important Czech painter and book illustrator Jaroslav Vodrážka, who worked for a long time in Slovakia and in Slovak Matica, under the title *Mánes* mark with the subtitle *The painter's notes from the summer 1946* (1973). As editor for the publication, he prepared the linguistic and Slovakist works of the legendary Slovak scientist, Slovakist, Slavist, Maticas officiale and Slavianophile Jozef Škultéty, concentrated in his 7th volume of the collective Works (1992).

To commemorate the 1150th anniversary of the arrival of the Slavic apostles St. Cyril and Methodius to the territory of Great Moravia wrote the publication *Mission from Thessaloniki* (2014). Juraj Chovan-Rehák's masterpiece, co-authored by Marián Augustín Húsk and František Vnuk, was an extensive cultural-historical monograph *West versus East with the subtitle Christian - Slovak and European Perspective on the Rivalry between West and East* (2016).

We briefly recalled important representatives of Maticas, Slovak, Czech-Slovak and Slavic science, literature and art, such as Viliam Mruškovič, Viliam Sokolík, Tomáš Winkler, Miroslav Bielik or Juraj Chovan-Rehák, with selections from their rich work bordered by Slavic and Slavic overlap. Although these exceptional personalities physically left us in the short period of eighteen months between 2020 and 2021 and are, with the exception of Juraj Chovan-Rehák, buried at the National Cemetery in Martin, but permanently in Slovak Matica and the wider Slovak, Czech-Slovak and Slavic in various scientific, documentary, popular science, archival, museum, publication, literary and other works of art remain present as permanent values in the cultural space. In a sense, these universally oriented Martin Maticaers can rightly be considered the giants of Slavism. Honor their memory!

TO THE CENTURY OF THE BIRTH OF TIBOR KÖNIG

Katarína Pucovská, information portal kulpin.net, Serbia

Tibor König was born 100 years ago in Petrovec and tragically died 69 years ago on April 19, 1953. Tibor-Michal König was born on June 5, 1922 in Petrovec. When the war began, he studied medicine at the University of Belgrade. During the occupation, he morally and materially supported the national liberation movement, but as early as February 1942, the occupiers arrested him and took him to the infamous Navajad „Army", from where he was later released, but he was still under surveillance. In September 1943 he was taken to a concentration camp in Poland, but in early October 1944 he managed to transfer to the Red Army. After Second World War he returned to the liberated Petrovec and from 1947 he taught history and civics at the grammar school in Petrovec, where he worked until his tragic death on April 19, 1953. He is buried in the Petrovec cemetery and his wife Zuzana Königová later joined his tomb (1927 - 2011) and most recently placed in the tomb an urn with the ashes of their daughter Jarmila König (1950 - 2020).

He did a lot during the six years of working time. In November 1947, when he returned to the liberated Petrovec, he immediately became actively involved in youth and, soon, party -organization. At the same time, he worked in the Voice of the People, first as an editor and from 1948 as the chief and responsible editor. He was a member of the district committee of the Union of Communists, a member of the presidency of the Slovak Cultural Council and an official of several socio-political organizations. Although he was employed as the editor-in-chief of the Voice of the People, he was also an extraordinary professor at the grammar school and the Teacher's School in Petrovec. He was also preparing for a scientific career. He studied social relations and Slovak-Serbian relations and most recently worked on the more extensive history of Petrovec. As a student of the 5th grade of the grammar school, was actively involved in the work of the literary Sládkovič circle, at that time he wrote mainly poems. He started working in the press as a student of 7th grammar school class in the then National Unity. As a journalist and publicist, he has written editorials, articles, reflections, comments, pamphlets, critiques, as well as reports. In addition to the Voice of the People, he also collaborated in Naš život, Rozhledy, Ľudový kalendář, Slobodná Vojvodina, Letopis Matice srbskej, in the newspaper Glas omladine and on the radio. In addition to National Unity, he also published some poems in the People's Calendar and New Life. In the meantime, he studied history remotely at a higher pedagogical school. He was in front of a diploma exam when, after a serious traffic accident, he died at the JĽA hospital in Novi Sad on April 19, 1953.

„„Life was one –
renunciation one big
and good luck one
found in the ways of battle."

Being a historian and fond of writing, Tibor König nevertheless left a remarkable mark, despite a clumsy fate that severed his life at the earliest age. He was a good speaker, often appeared at many events, published a lot, supported the literary Sládkovič circle and in 1953 was the editor of

TBoard of graduates of the State Real Grammar School in Petrovec.
Tibor König is at the bottom right. Source: kulpin.net

the People's Calendar. He also paid more attention to Serbian-Slovak relations and his extensive text was published in Petrovec in 1975. It is a collection of works by members of the Sládkovič Circle at the grammar school in Petrovec and was published on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Sládkovič Student Self-Educational Circle at the Ján Kollár Grammar School in Petrovec and the 30th anniversary of liberation and victory over fascism. It contains the text of Tibor König SVETOZÁR MILETIĆ AND SLOVAKS. We present a shorter excerpt from the introductory pages of this article, where the author focuses on the deep roots of Slovak-Serbian cultural cooperation:

„Celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Svetozár Miletić, we want to point out the close cooperation between this great Serbian warrior and the Slovak revolutionaries at the end of the first and second half of the 19th century. However, the Slovak-Serbian cooperation, which manifested itself so clearly during Svetozár Miletić, has deep roots. We consider it necessary to describe this cooperation at least briefly in order to find out its further organic development during Svetozár Miletić.Numerous contacts between Serbs and Czechs and Slovaks are recorded in the Middle Ages. History has recorded the participation of Czech ¬and Slovak knights in the struggle of Serbs against the Turks, just as on the other hand we know Yugoslav heroes who became famous in Slovakia or the Czech Republic. This gallery can be started by Bjelos Urošević from XII. century and continue to the Serbian despot of Pavel Bakić in the XVI. century. The contacts between Charles IV, the „father of the homeland", and Tsar Dušan are also interesting. Behold, what the Serbian folk singer sang about fraternal compassion for the Czech and Slovak nations, giving Tsar Dušan the following words:

»Još ja imam roda plemenita...
a što mi je ponajđalja seja,
Moja seja gospođa Ljubuša
Baš u gradu, u Zlatnome Pragu...
Da mi seji do nevolje dođe,
Prešao bih zemlju i gradove,
Da se seji u nevolji nadem...«

Much could be said about these medieval contacts - about the Slovak Blažej from Salka, who in the thirties of the XV. century spread in Sriema and Bačka the teachings of John Hus, about Dimitro Srbin, who in the XVI. century he walked around Slovakia, extending the teachings of Primož Trubar, about the numerous Serbs and Croats who went to the Bratislava Assembly since 1526, about many Serbian students who took knowledge in Bratislava, Modra, Trnava, Komárno, etc. These students then occupied leading positions in Serbian cultural, scientific, political and social life. Suffice it to mention that, among other things, the first Serbian historians Pavle Julinac and Jovan Rajić, the great Dosita Obradović and others studied in Slovakia"

The first Slovak professors at the grammar school in Sriemske Karlovce, whose 60th anniversary we founded this year, also played an important role in strengthening Slovak-Serbian relations. Even its first administrator was the Slovak Ján Gross and then Andrej Volný. The professors were Slovaks Karol Rumy and Pavel Magda. The arrival of Pavel Jozef Šafárik to Novi Sad is allegedly connected with the latter. Pavel Magda was Kollár's teacher. Speaking of these coryphae of Slavic reciprocity: Šafárik, Kollár - the warm and fraternal relations between Ján Kollár on the one hand and Ljudevit Gaj on the other should be emphasized, and the warm and loving relationship between the great Montenegrin lord and the poet Njegoš and Štúr must be emphasized. Behold, as Peter II Njegoš wrote to Ľudovít Štúr:

„Svud te vidim djeno dubiš u zrcala mističeski,
S mrakama se gordo boriš, glas venčišeš na lučama...
a ti smjelo igrajući na zenitu točku sjediš
sa nje himne prostorima uz sudebne žice poješ..."

We could relaunch the entire gallery of people - XIX. century from both the Serbian and Slovak sides, who excelled in the zealous promotion of Serbian-Slovak reciprocity. For example, the Serbian writer Todor Pavlović was Kollár's spiritual disciple and translated from Slovak into Serbian. Pavle Stamatović translated the Slovak anthem. Štúr's Bratislava -pupil Dimitrije Teodorović, later a professor of lyceum in Kragujevac, translated Kollár's book *On Slavic Reciprocity*. Serbian scholar and statesman Jovan Bošković, otherwise a pupil of Modran, translated Štúr's book *On National Legends and Songs of Slavic Breeds*. Bishop Nikanor Grujić was an honorary member of Slovak Matica. This constellation also includes Jovan Ilić, a Serbian poet and minister, teacher Đorđe Natošević and others.

As we have gone a little deeper into the analysis of Serbian- Slovak relations in the past, we cannot fail to mention the numerous unions that were born in our Slovak and nearby Serbian settlements. Perhaps the most beautiful manifestation of these unions were the so-called Kulpin elections, which became a symbol of Slovak-Serbian reciprocity. Namely, in the Kulpín district, an agreement was concluded between Slovaks and Serbs in the sense that they would elect a Slovak once and a Serb a second. National Announcer once wrote: *„In this district (Kulpín - note T. K.) a convention was concluded between Slovaks and Serbs 9 years ago, according to which they mutually undertake to elect a Slovak once and a Serb as an ambassador a second time"* (National Announcer, September 25, 1875, number 209).

The tombstone of Tibor König. Source: kulpin.net

A NEW ALMANAC OF SLOVAKS HAS BEEN RELEASED IN POLAND

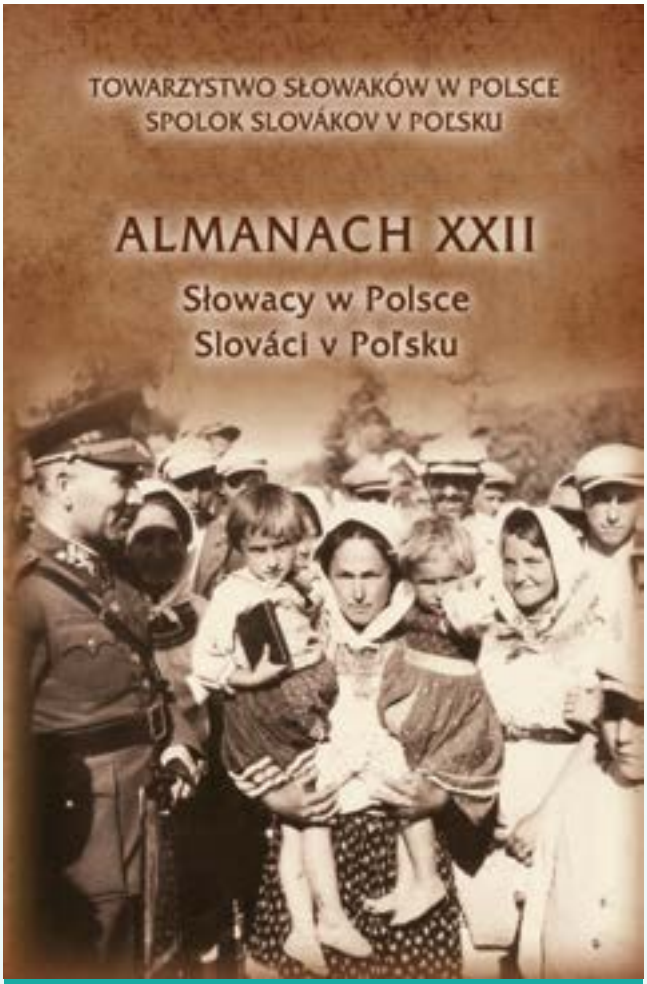
Milica Majeriková-Molitoris, Slovak Association in Poland, Poland

MAJERIKOVÁ-MOLITORIS, Milica. *Almanac Slovaks in Poland XXII. Slovak Association in Poland, Krakow, 2021.*

KAt the end of last year, the 22nd year of the scientific yearbook of the *Almanac Slovaks in Poland* has been released. In the history of Slovaks in Poland we can find a number of diverse events, personalities, but also historical twists, the interpretation of which takes various forms. In the latest *Almanac Slovaks in Poland XXII*. you will find a wide range of knowledge from this history, enriched with source material and research activities of the authors.

The study of the historian a latinist Mgr. Katarína Karabová, PhD., *The Zamagura villages of Nová Belá, Krempachy and Spišská Stará Ves in the light of the canonical visitation of Spiš provost Ján Palfalvaj from 1655 and 1656*, which contains an introductory study, a Latin transcript and Slovak translation of canonical visits of the mentioned municipalities. Since these visitations received their first Slovak translation, they bring a lot of information ¬not only about church but also ordinary life in Nová Belá, Krempachy and Spišská Stará Ves for the general public among Slovaks in Poland and Slovakia.

The study of the archaeologist and art historian Mgr. Michal Čajka, PhD., *Upper Orava houses with height* that deals with a specific group of architectural and historical monuments of the northernmost part of Orava - aristocratic mansions. In addition to the description of the manor in question, the author also drew attention to the unique fact that, according to the latest research, the manor of the Moňákov family is the oldest profane wooden architecture in the whole of Orava.



Almanac Slovaks in Poland XXII., Cover

The study of the historian PhDr. Ľudomír Molitoris, PhD., *Participation of the Slovak Republic in the war against Poland on September 1 - 15, 1939*. You will find new knowledge on this topic, as well as controversy with several myths and controversial claims associated with the participation of the Slovak army against Poland.

The post-war events are discussed in the study of the *Slovak Exodus after the Second World War* by the historian PhDr. Milica Majeriková-Molitoris, PhD. You will learn more about the hitherto little-treated topic of emigration of Slovaks from the territory of northern Spiš and Upper Orava, which were annexed to Poland in 1945, to Czechoslovakia, including the causes, quantification, distribution or legal status of these refugees.

Recent history is described by the editor-in-chief of the magazine "Život" (Life) Mgr. Agáta Jędrzejczyková in her study *Tradition of Wind Music in Nová Belá*. The presentation -is the history of more than a century of wind music, which has always been associated with the Slovak national movement in Poland during its existence. In addition to history itself, it also provides information about the personalities who contributed to its development.

Current events are discussed in an expert article by ethnologist Dr. Jerzego S. Ląt to the title From *„Provocative Destination in Montenegro"* (1991) to the lay of the *Foundation Stone of the Slovak Cultural House in Jablonka* (2019). The author points out many interesting facts and animosities from the current history of Slovaks in Poland and life on the Slovak-Polish border.

The conclusion of the almanac belongs to the work *Ethnic Identity of Slovaks in Poland, which is a master's thesis of a native of Krempachy,* ethnologist and ethnographer Mgr. Marek Bryja. In it you can learn more about the theory of ethnic issues, but also about specific research on the ethnic identity of Slovaks in Poland about ten years ago.

The latest *Almanac Slovaks in Poland XXII*. came out with the support of the Office for Slovaks Living Abroad, the Ministry of the Interior and Administration of the Republic of Poland (Ministerstwo Spraw Wewnętrznych i Administracji RP) and, of course, the Association of Slovaks in Poland. It is available at the association's headquarters in Cracow, and we will gradually distribute it to individual local groups. It can also be purchased in our online store at www.tsp.org.pl.

WE REMEMBER

2022 YEAR OF THE ŠTÚR GENERATION LEGACY

In 2022, Slovak Matica commemorates 200th anniversary of the birth of several Štúr´s generation and Maticas participants. In the peak phase of the national revival in the middle of the 19th century, the Štúr´s participated in the principle of popularity in the codification of standard Slovak, representing Slovak romantic literature known as Štúr's school, art, culture, enlightenment and science. They became disseminators of the revolutionary ideas of German classical philosophy, which they absorbed during their studies at German universities and successfully implemented them in the process of constituting and emancipating Slovaks as a modern nation with distinctive language and culture. Štúr's activities at the turn of the epochs of feudalism and capitalism within the democratization context of eight European movements culminated in cultural policy programs that went down in our history as the Requests of the Slovak Nation from 1848 and continuously in 1861 in the form of the Memorandum of the Slovak Nation. In fulfilling the memorandum goals, the Štúr´s contributed in 1863 to the establishment of the Slovak Matica. Today, the Štúr generation appears to us unrivaled as the most important generation in the entire Slovak history.

For this reason, Slovak Matica declared **Year 2022 as the Year of the Štúr generation legacy**. On this occasion, Slovak Matica has organized and still plans to prepare dozens of scientific, popular -science and educational events throughout Slovakia.

STRONG YEAR 1822

category Younger Štúr´s (from the exhibition about Štúr generation)

Pavol Parenička, Slovak Literary Institute of Slovak Matica, Slovakia

There were no big or small **Štúr´s**, they were all important, because they faced only big and noble tasks. Each member of the Štúr generation retinue put the best in the national movement, and they tried to be helpful and devoted to Ľudovít Štúr. Much also depended on talent and intellect, individual abilities, but also on other circumstances, but all **Štúr people** tried to do their best, **full of ideals wanted to work to elevate the people**, their self-awareness, awakening and involvement **in the process of historical transformation of Slovaks from feudal nationality to a modern and conscious nation**. It began to take place in Štúr´s student groups, in the national cultural association Tatrín, and finally the activities of the Štúr´s in the famous Slovak uprising.

Born in 1822: under Kriváň near Váh in Liptov, one of the top representatives of Štúr's poetry school and romantic poetry, the mysterious poet **Janko Kráľ**. In the Rimava valley in Gemer-Malohont under Vepor, the leader of the younger Štúr generation and one of the leading figures of the national movement, the courageous **revolutionary Ján Francisci was born.** The most important promoter of Štúr´s historicism, the romantic **novelist Ján Kalinčiak,** came from the bottom of "Martinské hole" and the left bank of the Turiec. Under Urpín in the Zvolen capital on the right bank of the Hron, the volunteer commander and the eternally dissatisfied heroic **captain Samuel Dobroslav Štefanovič began a pilgrimage.** Under the Muránská planina in Malohont, the formator of the basic Štúr´s politics documents and the prudent **lawyer Štefan Marko Daxner was born.**

In 1822, several lesser-known Štúrs were born on the Slovak lands, who stood by Štúr's side during his great deeds. **Jakub Grajchman, Ján Križan, August Horislav Krčméry** and **August Radislav Roy** were involved in the Štúr´s Slavonic Institute in Bratislava, and **Rudolf Homola** in Levoča. In February 1843, **Ján Krasomil Gáber** was present at the resurrection of Slovak. After the deportation of Ľudovít Štúr from the lyceum department in protest in March 1844, **Ľudovít Augustín Gál, Gustáv Adolf Koričanský, Karol Drahotín Hrenčík, Ľudovít Adolf Reuss** left Bratislava for Levoča. In March 1848, after rising up with the Príbelce uprising in Hont, **Ján Rotarides** (with Janko Kráľ) began. In June 1849, the insurgent martyr **Ľudovít Jaroslav Šulek died in the casemates of the Komárno fortress.** They all had the year 1822 written in their birth certificates.

Ján Alexander Rotarides
February 15, 1822 - December 8, 1900

Peter Michal Bohúň
September 29, 1822 - May 20, 1879

August Horislav Krčméry
November 1, 1822 - March 9, 1891

Ján Kalinčiak
August 10, 1822 - June 16, 1871

Ján Francisci
June 1, 1822 - March 7, 1905

Janko Kráľ
April 24, 1822 - May 23, 1876

Samuel Dobroslav Štefanovič
August 19, 1822 - November 25, 1910

Ján Križan
March 19, 1822 - December 29, 1904

2022
ROK ODKAZU
ŠTÚROVCOV

MATICA SLOVENSKÁ

Rudolf Homola
April 1, 1822 - December 6, 1898

Štefan Marko Daxner
December 26, 1822 - April 11, 1892

Ľudovít Adolf Reuss
April 18, 1822 - September 25, 1905

August Radislav Roy
January 18, 1822 - June 16, 1884

Jakub Grajchman
July 25, 1822 - June 9, 1897

A grave with a memorial plaque to the revolution of Ľudovít Jaroslav Šulek(- September 12, 1822 - June 16, 1849) in Komárno