SLAVIC HORIZON

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Information magazine of Slovak Matica for the Slavic world and Slovaks abroad Vol.: 1

A NEW THREE-VOLUME SLAVIC ENCYCLOPEDIA IS RELEASED

INTERVIEW WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SLOVENIAN MATICA ALEŠ GABRIČ

HOW THE SILESIAN MATICA LIVES IN THE 21ST CENTURY

EFFORTS TO PROGRESSIVELY SILENCE SLOVAK MATICA

COUNTRY MEMORY CONFERENCE (FROM THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MORAVIAN MATICA)

SLOVAK ASSOCIATION FROM BULGARIA

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On the cover:
Top left: Adoption of joint conclusions from IV. Congress of Maticas and Institutions of Slavic Nations in the Slovak Matica residential building, June 6, 2019. Photo: Ján Seman · Bottom left: Portrait of Adolf Dobriansky. Photo: encyclopediaofukraine.com · In the middle: Covers of the Slavonic Encyclopedia. Photo: rusinst.ru · In the middle below: Delegates and guests from IV. Congress of Maticas and Institutions of Slavic Nations at the Museum of the Slovak Village in Martin, June 6, 2019. Photo: Ján Seman · Right: Jozef Hajniš, Chairman of the Regional Cultural and Enlightenment Organization in Transcarpathia, June 6, 2019 in Martin. Photo: Ján Seman

Chairman of Slovak Matica Marián Gešper. Photo: Ján Seman

TO NEW CHALLENGES!

Marián Gešper, Chairman of Slovak Matica, Slovakia

At the end of last year, Slovak Matica published memorial book from IV. Congress of Maticas and Institutions of Slavic Nations, which took place from the 4th to the 6th June 2019 in Martin (Slovakia) and was dedicated mainly to the 100th anniversary of the resumption of the Slovak Matica in 1919. So-called a viral pandemic, which has had a significant negative impact on the lives of European nations and thus on the running of our matica´s organizations.

But history teaches us that life goes on. Regardless of the adversities of the time, creative work in the field of culture and science can be slowed down by external events, but they can never be stopped completely! Proof of this is the publication of the aforementioned memorial book, which we sent these days to all participants of the congress, as well as to friendly organizations and institutions. In compiling it, we based on the experience from previous Matica´s meetings at the First European Congress of the Maticas of Slavic Nations on March 26th-28th, 2007 in Martin, II. European Congress of the Maticas of Slavic Nations from 31th July to 3th August 2013 in Martin and III. Congress of Slavic Maticas in Ljubljana (Slovenia) on February 4th, 2014. The memorial book contains not only current information on the state of Matica´s movements in Slavic states, but also scientific and professional contributions of participants on lesser-known but even more surprising Slavic topics. We learned from the past and published the aforementioned memorial book in three Slavic language versions in order to make it accessible to the widest possible professional public of our nations and to break down the language barrier as much as possible.

At the same time, Matica fulfilled another promise from the last congress in Martin and published the first issue of a new newsletter, which has the ambition to keep the imaginary flame of cooperation between Slavic institutions and Slavic Maticas and to promote mutual information in the field of culture and science. The Slavic horizon that you have in front of you will also try to include the lives of other slavic Maticas and other Slovak expatriate organizations operating abroad, which we think will attract not only Slovak readers.

Today we can say that we live in an increasingly contradictory and dangerous world. In order for national organizations to survive in this difficult time, which clearly does not favor traditional national culture, it is necessary to learn from the experience of fraternal Slavic nations. This applies in particular to Matica´s that have a similar historical development and face similar or identical problems. It is professional and scientific exchange for us it will help to orient ourselves in today's globalized world and to make the right decisions at the imaginary historical crossroads that arise before us.

Slovak Matica does not come up with anything new, rather they returns to its roots. One hundred years after the resumption of its activities in 1919, Slovak Matica took concrete steps towards Slavic reciprocity in the scientific and social spheres. The then Chairman of the Ministry of Justice back then, Jur Janoška (1856 - 1930), submitted in 1923 a proposal for a fundamental expansion of contacts between Slavic Maticas. During this period, the Secretary of the Slovak Matica, Štefan Krčméry (1892 - 1955), introduced a separate section „Slavic" in Slovak views/Slovenské pohľady (the oldest Slovak magazine and the second oldest continuously published magazine in Europe). Later, in 1948, the „Slavic division" was established within the Slovak Matica, the „Slavic almanac" was published and 41 volumes of books by Slavic authors were published in the „Slavic library „ edition. Until the negative intervention of the Marxist regime in the 1950s, Matica co-organized several successful years of the „Slavic Days" at a memorable Devín Castle, which was her contribution at the level of organizing social events.

Today, let's build on the work of our ancestors. If I have my own and specific proposal for our joint professional cooperation, then it is the realization of the idea of the researcher and long-serving Matica´s worker PhDr. Michal Eliáš, CSc. (1934 - 2018), who pointed out the need for a comprehensive multilingual processing of the history of all existing Maticas from their foundation with an overlap to the present day.
This is exactly what one of the sections of the magazine could help to, which will systematically publish articles from the historical development of our individual Matica´s. In the future, this could serve as the basis for the multilingual „History of Slavic Maticas".

It would be a basic civilizational contribution to the heritage of European culture and science. It would also be in favor of preserving the collective historical memory of the Slavic nations. Joint efforts will clearly succeed.

Delegates from IV. Congress of Maticas and Institutions of Slavic Nations June 5-6, 2019. Photo: Ján Seman

SLAVS AND THE WORLD OF MATICA´S SCIENCE

View from IV. Congress of Maticas and Institutions of Slavic Nations

Pavol Parenička, Slovak Literary Institute of Slovak Matica, Slovakia

At the initiative of Slovak Matica and its Chairman Marián Gešper, it took place on 5th and 6th June 2019 in Martin IV. Congress of Maticas and Institutions of Slavic Nations, in which their authorized representatives, top representatives and leading scientists took part and actively participated in presentations and discussion papers, including participation in the adoption of the final communiqué. In addition to the Chairman of Slovak Matica, the Chairman of Matica srbská Dragan Stanić, the Chairman of Slovak Matica Aleš Gabrić and the Chairman of Matica Lužicko-srbská Jurij Łušćanski also came to Martin at his invitation. The congress, which had a ceremonial and social, but especially the focus of the working part, was attended by several important guests and delegates from Slovakia and abroad (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Montenegro, Hungary, Germany, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Serbia, Ukraine), representing almost two dozen important Slovak and other national matica ´s, pedagogical, ecclesiastical, writing and especially scientific institutions.

Globalization and national identity

In real global processes, globalization, liberalization, the uncontrolled invasion of information, internet and cyber technologies and wars in today's post-industrial times, and postmodernism constitute a dangerous society within an open world society, also for the Maticas and institutions of the Slavic nations, because they clearly persist, systematically promote and, as a matter of priority, spread traditional conservative values, especially Christianity and patriotism. They are proving to be an actionable alternative for preserving Slavic and national identity and its culture, especially in the globalization dangers of today. Three hundred million Slavs, most of whom live in Europe, are paradoxically exposed to a constant onslaught of assimilation in their home countries, but this threat is particularly acute for national minorities in diasporas. For these reasons, e.g. Adrian M. Merka, Chairman of the Democratic Union of Slovaks and Czechs in Romania, pointed out the issue of national identity in a national minority environment, whereas, despite the involvement of expatriate associations and their activities in supporting minority education, preserving folklore ensembles, Christian traditions and developing cultural policy activities, the Slovak minority in Romania has been dramatically reduced from 50,000 to 13,000. Young generation is moving for better social and working conditions to non-Slavic countries. This issue was followed by a discussion paper by Michal Spevák Sr., a representative of Slovak Matica in Serbia, who dealt with the position and sociological analysis of the contemporary Slovak minority in Serbian Vojvodina, where its decrease is currently estimated at 50,000 to 40,000 members. From congress guests e.g. slovak evangelical General Bishop Ivan Eľko

pointed out that together with the Chairman of the Slovak Matica Marián Gešper they will pay increased attention to the spiritual and cultural life of Slovak evangelical believers in the diaspora as well as in the ethnically mixed territories of Slovakia to face negative globalization and postmodernism.

Cyril and Methodical tradition

Especially in the Slavic and wider European cultural environment, given the desired revival of spiritual and religious life, it should be primarily a matter of preserving and spreading the Cyril-Methodist cult, helping to establish universal and national identity and awareness, which is the very essence of history and the perspective of Slavic civilization mission. This must be developed on the principles of the unique spiritual, cultural and educational heritage of St. Cyril and Methodius as patrons of Europe, proclaimed by pope St. John Paul II. on december 31, 1980, and it seems necessary to update their legacy and work. In this context, Dimo Czeshmedzhiev of the Bulgarian Cyril and Methodius Academy of Sciences emphasized the importance of the Cyril and Methodius tradition and cult, as well as the need to constantly promote them through the prism of traditional scientific and popular science output, as well as modern interpretation through the Internet and new media. The Cyril and Methodical idea forms the alpha and omega of the cultural existence of Slavic nations and several matica´s movements, including the Slovak Matica, which closely corresponds to the state cultural doctrines of Slavic countries.

History and national identity

In their presentations, several delegates pointed to the demand for mutual knowledge of the history of Slavic nations and the past of their institutions, especially in terms of cultural phenomena of the mother movement. Konstantin I. Mogilevsky, executive director of the History of the Motherland Foundation, emphasized Russia's role in the process of national liberation struggle of Slavic nations in Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries, but also on the history and presence of Slavic reciprocity. He pointed out the need for an absent scientific dialogue between Slavic cultural institutions. Dragan Stanić, Chairman of Matica srbská, reflected on the issue of national consciousness and identity. He described the history of Matica srbská as the oldest of the Slavic matica, founded in 1826, introduced its founding personalities and highlighted the tasks of the Chronicle of Matica srbská as a scientific and information periodical. He emphasized the need for cooperation in the field of Slavic studies and other humanities. Aleš Gabrić, Chairman of the Matica slovinská reported on the matica´s movements and their contribution to the emancipation efforts of the Slavic nations, pointing out the humanistic mission of all the Maticas. Jurij Łušćánski, Chairman of the Matica lužicko-srbská, focused on describing the history and presence of the Matica lužicko-srbská, which is active in four sections (linguistics, literary science, museology, musicology). Marián Gešper, Chairman of Slovak Matica, shed light on its history and recapitulated the numerous coordination efforts initiated by it for the active cooperation of Slavic Maticas. He recalled a lesser-known fact that it dates back to 1923, while its pioneer was evangelical Bishop Jur Janoška, one of the later chairmen of Slovak Matica, which is also its primacy.

Slavic studies and humanities

In the field of science, it is necessary to ensure active cooperation of Maticas and institutions of Slavic nations in the field of Slavonic and other humanities (historiography, literary science, culturology, ethnography, folklore, bibliography, linguistics, Slavic comparative linguistics and comparative studies). From this aspect, the most interesting was the speech of Sergei M. Sloistov from the Institute of Slavic Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, who pointed out the development of Slavic studies and other related scientific disciplines in Russia, as well as the need for their bibliographic presentation with international overlaps and penetrations. At the same time, Academician Sloistov rejected the soulless copying of Western models in science and the pedagogy of the Slavic nations, which must find its own path, respected by Western Slavic studies and other sciences. Anna Konderlová, a member of the committee of Matica sliezska from the Czech Republic, pointed out that in addition to theory and scientific knowledge in the field of Slavic ethnology, folklore and ethnography, the organization of folklore festivals is also important. Nevertheless, in addition to the presentation of folklore, the exchange of experts, researchers and study visits (including doctoral studies) should also be taken into account, but also the organization of scientific conferences and professional seminars. The All-Slavic Union of Russia, founded in 1993, was described by its secretary and coordinator Dmitry V. Orlov as the modern Russian Matica of the 21st century, resp. Institute for the Study of Slavic Civilization. It is to illuminate the past and the present of Slavs and Russians in all context, from historical excursions to current cultural policy phenomena, as well as the protection of cultural heritage.

Media space

The conduct of scientific and professional dialogue and information between cultural institutions and the Maticas of Slavic nations must be carried out in a high-quality modern media format and on a multifunctional institutional basis. To this end, Marián Gešper, Chairman of Slovak Matica, proposed the creation of a working group called the Information Committee of Slavic Maticas, the establishment of an Internet newsletter and portal, the establishment of Slavic sections in institutional journals and the constitution of Slavic unions and contemporary Slavic authors. In the media field, it is necessary for matrices to be established by regular cultural programs in state and public media, especially in television and radio. In this regard, it is necessary to draw on the experience presented by Jozef Hajniš, Chairman of the Regional Cultural and Educational Organization Slovak Matica in Transcarpathia from Ukraine. He reported on several areas of activity of Slovak Matica in this region, while in the media space it managed to promote herself to the Ukrainian state television and radio with regular cultural programs.

Protection of cultural heritage

In the field of protection of the world cultural heritage in connection with Maticas and institutions of Slavic nations, it was recognized that it is necessary to recognize opportunities for participation in UNESCO programs and projects, including digitization of matica´s museum collections and their mutual information, scientific, presentation and virtual use. This aspect in the activities of the Slavic Maticas was pointed out by Jurij Łušćánski, Chairman of the Matica lužicko-srbská, who took stock of publishing activities and activities in the field of cultural heritage protection, as well as their incorporation into UNESCO projects. Matica´s collections and archives, whether literary, musical, manuscript, museum or historical, often belonging to cultural uniqueness and spiritual gems of national, transnational and global significance, need to be digitized as quickly as possible and completely as possible from the point of view of cultural heritage protection. Only the collections processed in this way can be brought closer to the widest possible public through classical (books, editions, magazines) and new media (internet portals, newspapers, presentations, exhibitions).

Education and pedagogy

The Congress agreed that special attention should be paid to the field of education and pedagogy, focusing on youth education, while on the one hand it is necessary to review the already implemented Western education systems, but on the other hand to creatively build on and develop their own pedagogical and school traditions, historically determined by the sketched line of the civilizational and cultural mission of the Slavic nations in the spirit of the Cyril and Methodius mission. Jekaterina S. Chudjaková from Perm University in Russia informed about the possibilities of philological studies, as well as the lack of Slavists from Slavic countries, whose masses are almost replaced by Chinese, aware of the cultural and economic potential of Slavic countries, especially Russia. In addition, it is the duty of Maticas and Slavic institutions to take an interest in and comprehensively support their own Slavic minorities in ethnically mixed territories and in non-Slavic countries in the fields of education, culture and science, which are most exposed to the process of globalization. The Rector of the Technical University in Košice, Stanislav Kmeť, spoke on behalf of the Slovak academic community, highlighting the role of all-round education for the needs of today's modern educational society.

Writers and members of Matica

Significant support for organizing and participating in IV. Congress of Maticas and Institutions of Slavic Nations was manifested by the Slovak Writers' Association. Its agile Chairman Miroslav Bielik, former scientific secretary and long-time administrator of Slovak Matica, as well as a member of its presidency and committee, made a greeting and at the same time introduced several important foreign and compatriot writers as guests at the congress (Miroslav Dudok, Michal Harpáň, Michal Hrivnák) .

The following spoke: Bojan A. Ivanov from the Bulgarian Writers' Association. He emphasized the need to spread the Cyril and Methodical tradition and cult, which should not only become the basis of Slavic education, science and culture, but also literature and fiction. Theme of St. Cyril and Methodius should serve as one of the permanent sources of inspiration and motivation for literary activity in Slavic authors of verbal works of art.

Working presidency of the congress. From left: Pavol Parenička, Slovak Literary Institute of Slovak Matica, Marián Gešper, Chairman of Slovak Matica, Pavel Mičianik, then scientific secretary of Slovak Matica. Photo: Ján Seman

IV. CONGRESS OF MATICAS AND INSTITUTIONS OF SLAVIC NATIONS FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ

We, the participants of IV. Congress of Maticas and Institutions of Slavic Nations, which took place at the initiative of Slovak Matica on 5 and 6 June 2019 in Martin on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of its revival, as legitimate representatives, we resolved on the following communiqué:

In the ongoing processes of globalization, liberalization, information, Internet and cyber technologies and wars, postindustrial times and postmodern Slavic maticas, and cultural institutions of Slavic nations must continue to promote and spread traditional conservative values, especially Christianity and patriotism. Especially in the Slavic and European environment, we want to preserve the Cyril and Methodist tradition, help establish the All-Slavic and national identity and historical awareness, which is the essence and perspective of the Slavic civilization mission. We develop this on the principles of the heritage of St. Cyril and Methodius as patrons of Europe.

In this context, there is a need for continuous scientific and professional dialogue and information between our institutions, including penetrations into the wider media space. To this end, a working group called the Slavic Maticas Information Committee will be set up to set up an online newsletter. It is also necessary to establish the section Slavdom in magazines and in individual mother movements with the perspective of constituting Slavic disciplines and editions of Slavic libraries to support the dissemination of works by Slavic authors.In the media field, it is necessary to establish regular cultural programs in the mass media, especially television and radio.

In the field of science, it is essential to ensure active cooperation in the field of Slavic studies and other humanities (historiography, literary studies, culturology, ethnography, bibliography, linguistics, Slavic comparative linguistics and comparative studies), exchanges of experts, scientists, national activists and study visits (including doctoral studies), as well as the organization of scientific conferences and professional seminars.

In the field of protection of cultural heritage in connection with matrices and institutions of Slavic nations, it is necessary to reconnoiter the possibilities of participation in UNESCO programs and projects, including digitization of maticas museum collections and their mutual information, scientific, presentation and virtual use.

Special attention must be paid to the field of education and pedagogy, with a focus on the education of Slavic youth, while critically reviewing the implemented Western educational systems and, above all, creatively to establish and develop their own pedagogical and school traditions, historically determined by the sketched line of the civilization mission of the Slavic nations.

In this context, the negative accompanying factors of ongoing migration in Europe cannot be ignored either.

As part of their civilizational mission, maticas and Slavic cultural and scientific institutions will continue to support their own Slavic minorities in the fields of education, culture and science, which are most exposed to the process of globalization.

WE COMMEMORATED THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF ADOLF DOBRIANSKÝ - THE CO-FOUNDER OF SLOVAK MATICA

Ján Seman, Secretary of the Information and media department of Slovak Matica, Slovakia

One hundred and twenty years have passed since the death of an exceptional figure in the Slavic world, a staunch defender of the Ruthenian and Slovak nations, a cultural official, a writer, co-founder of Slovak Matica, prominent politician and imperial court advisor Adolf Dobriansky (19 December 1817, Rudlov - 19 March 1901, Innsbruck).

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the oldest national cultural institution of Slovaks commemorated it by by laying wreaths in the place of his birthplace and in the online space with a new historical document about his life and work. *„Adolf Dobriansky is an undeservedly forgotten and overlooked personality in our region. It is a great pity, because it is one of those who largely contributed to the defense of the national rights of Ruthenians and Slovaks in the then Habsburg monarchy. Highly moral, Christian and nationally based man preceded his time and created the basis of ideological heritage as a strong link between Ruthenians and Slovaks, but also other Slavic nations,"* said the Chairman of the Slovak Matica Marián Gešper.

Slovak Matica made the very first historical document in our Slovak online space describing Dobriansky's life, work and national activities, the first contacts with the Slovak national movement, his participation in the Slovak Uprising in 1848 - 1849 and his merits in the founding of the Slovak Matica. *„Adolf Dobriansky has played a very positive role in this regard. He used his functions at the time in the so-called Royal Court or the Hungarian Square in Buda and promoted legal steps to allow the establishment of the Slovak Matica,"* explained the secretary of the Slovak Matica and a producer of the above mentioned document Ján Seman.

All his life, Adolf Dobriansky fought for autonomy and selfgovernment for all nations in the Habsburg monarchy. According to Dobriansky, the equality of the peoples of Hungary could only take place on the natural principle of the right of nations to self-determination. In the 1840s, he visually predicted the state-building union of the Czech, Moravian, Slovak and Ruthenian nations, which was long before the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic in 1918.

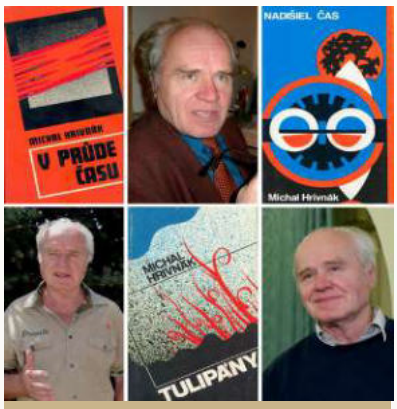
This is also the political and democratic legacy of Adolf Dobriansky today.

Adolf Dobriansky
Foto: dukladestination.com

IDEA OF IV. CONGRESS OF MATICAS AND INSTITUTIONS OF SLAVIC NATIONS IS LIVING IN OUR COUNTRY...

Michal Hrivnák, novelist, Hungary

I was present at the congress as an observer, we consider the invitation to be a sign of appreciation for our more than 60 years of work, whether in the field of creating the literary, cultural or social life of Slovaks in Hungary. Ultimately, it is also a manifestation of the recognition of the local Slovak, its existence in general, which in the given circumstances acquires special significance, provides an opportunity to expand contacts, make the life of our community in the home country more visible. In addition, the main theme of the conference - the challenge of the negative trends of globalization - is extremely topical, it concerns us all, the fundamental issues of the peoples of the whole of Europe, their future. On the other hand, our participation in the assembly also binds us, it only makes sense if we put our contribution into joint efforts. For these reasons, we complied with the organizers' request - which we otherwise consider a special honor - to summarize our impressions of the congress in the forthcoming rapporteur. Over the past six months, we have tried to spread the idea of the congress in our narrower environment as much as possible. We work under special circumstances. When presenting the idea of Slavic reciprocity as such, we must pay attention to the optimal degree, adequate historical memory of the wider environment, as the assessment of this idea, as well as the operation of Slovak Matica during its existence was not always the same in our country. At the same time, our current internal problems have also prevented us from working towards an adequate way to optimally and impressively spread the idea in the wider circle. In conclusion, we tried to keep her alive permanently according to interest. We published a short report on the course of the congress and its intentions in Ľudový noviny, and we published resolutions from the meeting on the Internet. We paid more attention to the issue at the annual meeting of the Slovak National Self-Government of the 12th district of Budapest in the presence of our Hungarian friends, with whom we also occasionally cooperate. We have put forward a perspective idea of organizing a special event to divorce the matter.



Michal Hrivnák, novelist from Hungary
Collage author: Imrich Fühl

Sub-speakers discussed the efforts for a good cause, pointed out the role and responsibility of smaller groups and individuals in participating in solving global problems and strengthening friendly relations between our nations.

The attitude of those present was another impulse for us to continue working.

Based on our possibilities, we decided to include the issue of expanding this topic in the work plan for the years 2020 - 2021. For the realization of these ideas will certainly be an excellent basis for the congress memorial, which should contain texts related to the issue. According to the ideas, we should, for example, make its presentation in a wider environment and in cooperation with other partners, institutions, or with the participation of experts from Slovakia.

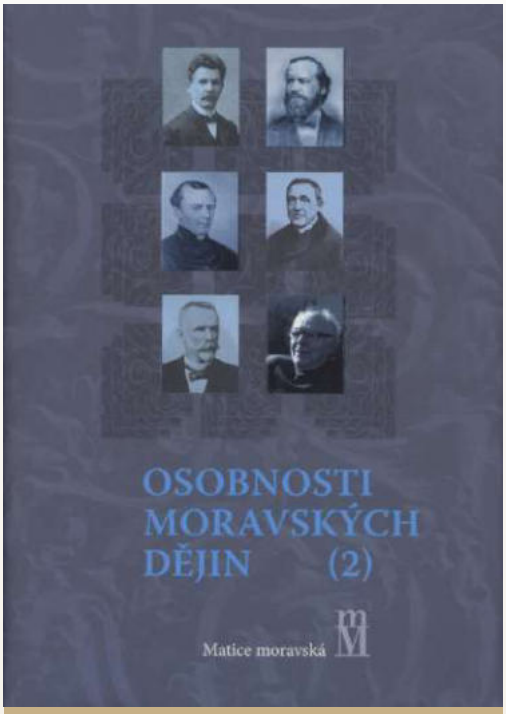
We have already started negotiations on the topic with subparties.

COUNTRY MEMORY CONFERENCE

(from the activities of the Moravian Matica in Brno)

Jiří Malíř, Chairman of Moravian Matica, Czech Republic

Moravian Matica in Brno, which in addition to publishing the *Magazine of Moravian Matica* and historical publications also organizes lectures and professional conferences, organized in cooperation with the Moravian Provincial Archive, the Brno City Archive, the Institute of History and the Institute of Auxiliary Historical Sciences and Archival Science from 6 to 8 November 2019, the conference Memory of the Earth with the subtitle Forming the Institutional Foundations of Historical Science in Moravia in the 19th and 20th Centuries. The meeting of scientists from all over the Czech Republic was part of events commemorating the 170th anniversary of the founding of the National Unity of St. Cyril and Methodius, the direct predecessors of the Matica moravská, and 150 years since the establishment of the *Magazine of Matica moravská* - the oldest scientific periodical in Moravia, which is continuously published to this day. More than thirty experts spoke at the conference, reflecting in their contributions on the formation of historical disciplines and related institutions, including their role in society, focusing on methodological impulses and conceptual issues in the disciplines. In comprehensive conference blocks, researchers addressed key issues related to the work of archives, museums and associations in the long 19th century, focused on the complex impact of changes in historical sciences during the 20th century and during the last day of the conference focused on the role of memory institutions in today's society with prospects for the future. The conference met with great interest not only from academics, archivists, librarians, museologists, but also from many university students. In the second half of 2020, a representative publication will be published by Matica moravská and the Archives of the City of Brno, which will present the achieved research results and the latest findings in printed form.



Cover of one of the latest publications of the Moravian Matica - Personalities of Moravian History (2), 2019.
Photo: matice-moravska.cz

ASSOCIATION OF SLOVAKS FROM BULGARIA

Katarína Koňariková, Association of Slovaks from Bulgaria

The Association of Slovaks from Bulgaria is a voluntary association of compatriots who lived in the in Bulgaria and, as part of repatriation during 1948/49, returned to what was then Czechoslovakia.

In 1989, at the initiative of Associate Professor Štefan Zelenák, the historically first meeting of more than 260 compatriots took place, and in 1990 the Association was established, which continues to function successfully to this day. It has undergone many changes since its first years of operation, but it has always kept in mind why it was founded - respect for traditions, the life of our compatriots in the Bulgaria, respect for their courage and the strength they have shown. Today we can boldly say that Association of Slovaks from Bulgaria is a modern association, which brings together not only compatriots who have lived in Bulgaria in Slovak villages, but also their descendants who, thanks to a lively active life in the Association, can know their roots, meet loved ones and distant relatives and to become acquainted not only with the historical facts of the life of their great-grandfathers in the Bulgaria. In recent years, the Society has significantly „rejuvenated", joining many into its ranks from the very generation that listened with nostalgia to the stories of their old mothers about life in the Slovak colonies. Society is overlaid with many generations, so traditions are passed on and on.

Cultural and social quarterly
Association of Slovaks from Bulgaria Fajauka.
Photo: author's archive

The Association of Slovaks from Bulgaria, under the new leadership, continued the work of the previous chairmen, Štefan Zelenák and Štefan Červenák. The work could be defined as both publishing and scientific. The association began publishing a quarterly called Fajauka, which is very popular among compatriots and is available in electronic form on the website: www.ssb.sk. The first issue was published in September 2019 and today we have seven successful issues. With the help of generous sponsors, we try to print each issue in a few pieces for our oldest and send it to them by mail.

In order to make available to our members as well as non-members as much as possible information, thanks to which they can search for their family and historical essence, we have also made available on the website (http://www.ssb.sk/rodostromy/) old albums, which families cordially provided, and at the same time we drew up a scheme of several family trees dating back to the 17th century. In the last year of 2020, we founded a unique and completely new literary competition called *Dolnozemské zlaté pero*. The aim is to present the work of Slovaks in the Bulgaria and is open to all ages. The collection of winning works is also available on the website: (http://www.ssb.sk/dolnozemske-zlate-pero/). We sincerely believe that young talents will be able to get into the world of literature and point out their work in the Slovak language. Therefore, we try to promote the competition in Slovakia as much as possible and it is supported not only by *Dotyky* magazine and *Literárny týždenník*.

We have also established a federal library, whose records of donated books on lowland themes have been completed these days (http://www.ssb.sk/kniznica/ kniznica-2 /).

Since the new year has begun, we have currently compiled the evangelical calendar of the Association of Slovaks from Bulgaria for 2021, this time with historical photographs from the life of Slovaks in Gorna Mitropolia, Podema and Brasljanica.

The Association Committee is also working tirelessly on other interesting projects, about which we will be very happy to inform you through the forthcoming newsletter. It is a great opportunity to learn more about the individual institutions and to establish beneficial cooperation that will undoubtedly enrich not only compatriot life.

An international conference organized by the Association of Slovaks from Bulgaria on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the arrival of Slovaks from Bulgaria to the Czechoslovak Republic.
Photo: author's archive

NEWLY APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF THE OFFICE FOR SLOVAKS LIVING ABROAD HAS VISITED SLOVAK MATICA

Zuzana Pavelcová, director of the Comaptriots Museum of the Slovak Matica, Slovakia

The continuity of cooperation between the Slovak Matica (MS) and the Office for Slovaks Living Abroad (OSLA) has lasted successfully for more than a decade. The cooperation of the oldest scientific and cultural institution in Slovakia - Slovak Matica - with the Office for Slovaks Living Abroad has in recent years been characterized not only by the cooperation of experts from both institutions in commissions, advisory bodies and councils in the implementation of state policy towards Slovaks living in abroad, but also by representative cooperation in the preparation of several years of the matica´s summer camp for compatriot youth.

The Chairman of Slovak Matica Marián Gešper (left) and the Chairman of the Office for Slovaks Living Abroad, Milan Ján Pilip (right) during the first official visit of Slovak Matica, September 10, 2020. Photo: Ján Seman

On September 10, 2020, Slovak Matica invited a delegation of OSLA to its headquarters in Martin due to the appointment of its new Chairman Milan Ján Pilip. Together with the vice-president of the office, Peter Procházký, and clerk Kristína Vargová, they held the first joint meeting on the premises of Slovak Matica, led by its Chairman Marián Gešper. The discussion focused mainly on the issues of long-standing cooperation and their future strengthening, with a visions for new projects.

The meeting also focused on the comprehensive activities of the MS with its development plans. Marián Gešper, Chairman of the Slovak Matica, said at the introductory discussion: *„We exchanged experiences in expatriate issues and focused on joint projects such as the organization of international summer camps for young Slovak compatriots or the National camp of Mladá Matica (Young Matica) also with foreign participation."* OSLA covers the subsidy policy towards compatriots and issues certificates for foreign Slovaks, Slovak Matica provides liaison, scientific and documentation activities in this area.

The Chairman of OSLA Milan Ján Pilip evaluated: *"The cooperation between Slovak Matica and our office is very close, even narrower than I thought, and it is mutual, even from a professional point of view. We are now discussing it, taking stock of it, we want to resume some activities, such as children's camps. We are also working to establish a museum of emigration. It is very important that we are preparing a state concept of policy towards compatriots for the years 2021 - 2025, for which we have set up an expert commission, where Slovak Matica will also be represented. We are simply counting on Slovak Matica, both conceptually."* Preparations for the new state concept began in October 2020.

The first official visit of the Chairman of OSLA was also focused on the presentation of the activities of individual departments and professional workplaces of Slovak Matica. At the end of the meeting, the Chairman of the Slovak Matica, Marián Gešper, commented: *"Despite the fact that there is often talk of caring for foreign Slovaks, there are many reserves in this area that we could remove together and more support for expatriate cultural or educational activities in Europe and the world."*

SLOVAK MATICA DECLARED YEAR 2021 AS THE YEAR OF ALEXANDER DUBČEK

Information department of Slovak Matica, Slovakia

After the current Year of National Identity, Matica declared the Slovak year 2021 as the Year of Alexander Dubček. Next year will mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of one of the most important Slovak politicians, the top representative of the revival process in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and at the same time an honorary member of Slovak Matica.

„Alexander Dubcek was not only a reformist politician, but he also represented the Slovak political line in socialist Czechoslovakia. Proof of this were his important state visits to Slovak Matica in Martin. In 1963, as the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Slovakia, he honored the institution with a personal visit on the occasion of the centenary founding of the Slovak Matica. In 1968, as the first secretary of the communist party in Prague, he welcomed the delegation of the MS led by the administrator of the MS Ján Marták, from whom he accepted the honorary membership of the MS. He visited our institution again in 1992 as the Chairman of the Federal Assembly of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, where he was welcomed by the recently deceased MS administrator Štefan Hanakovič," said the Chairman of the MS Marián Gešper.

The director of the MS Archive, Pavol Madura, added that Slovak Matica is also associated with an important episode of democratization processes in Czechoslovakia: *"Alexander Dubček began the revival process in Slovakia in the first half of the 1960s. It was also symbolized by Dubček's visit to Slovak Matica in 1963, which the Communists degraded in the 1950s. The so-called Prague Spring in 1968 was preceded in August 1967 by a kind of „Martin's summer". During his visit to Slovak Matica, President Antonín Novotný infamously insulted Slovaks when the administrator of the MS, Juraj Paška, presented him with the intention of taking care of compatriots abroad. President Novotný was upset, accused the MS members of bourgeois nationalism, and forbade his wife to accept gifts from Matica. This rift definitely angered the president and Czech centralists with Alexander Dubcek and his supporters."*

Every year, Slovak Matica dedicates actual year to some Slovak personality or event of national history. In 2021, in addition to Alexander Dubček, it will also commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Štefan Boleslav Roman, a Canadian industrialist and the first president of the World Congress of Slovaks, or the 175th anniversary and the 140th anniversary of the renewal of Slovenské Pohľady, the oldest Slovak and second oldest European literary magazine. It will also be dedicated to the 190th anniversary of the East Slovak Peasant Uprising. It prepares cultural, educational and scientific events and activities for the important events of our history.

Visit of the delegation of Slovak Matica to the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party Alexander Dubček in Prague on October 16, 1968 on the occasion of handing over the decree on honorary membership of Slovak Matica. Administrator of Matica slovenskej Dr. Ján Marták hands over the decree to Alexander Dubček. Photo: archive of Slovak Matica

EFFORTS TO GRADUALLY SILENCE THE SLOVAK MATICA

A militant ideology that demonizes a different ones

Marián Gešper, Chairman of Slovak Matica, Slovakia

Illustration author: Andrej Mišanek

I would like my first lines in the new year 2021 could be soulful and full of optimism. Unfortunately, the situation at the end of last year forces us to think about the next steps that the matica´s movement must take in defending of the oldest national institution of Slovaks. Despite the fact that we have been patiently drawing the attention of the competent state authorities and the Ministry of Culture for months to the serious consequences of Slovak Matica by reducing the state subsidy, it was reduced by almost four hundred thousand euros, ie from 1.744 million euros to 1.344 million euros. To make matters worse, the increase in the minimum wage has increased additional costs in the budget by several tens of thousands of euros. We did not resist a ten percent area saving, as we cannot be indifferent to the increasingly chaotic situation caused by the so-called pandemic events at home and abroad. A plan was prepared in the case of restrictions of 174 thousand euros, but the restrictions of 400 thousand euros overcame everything. Regardless of the pandemic, nothing can be a reason for the deliberate destruction of our national cultural heritage. The temporary working group of the Government Council for Culture in the case of the Slovak Matica, which met twice, has no fundamental powers and in its opinion as if no one was curious. After all, regardless of the fact that she has not even finished her work yet, the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic has flagrantly informed her that the Slovak Matica will lose up to twenty-three percent of the subsidy. At the same time, the ministry reduced subsidies to other organizations by the announced ten percent.

MATICA IS DAMAGED

The written answer of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic from 18 November 2020, signed by the Genera Director of the Secretariat Henrietta Geierová, had a very important conclusion: "I believe that you understand that spread this obligation in the resort. I hope that Slovak Matica also wants to contribute to the improvement of the state of public finances so that the state can better fulfill its role towards citizens in all areas of society." Well, in this context I do not know whether it is important to remind that in recent years, a considerable amount, considering that our subsidy has not been valorised for almost a decade (!), while energy prices and labor costs have risen rapidly. I do not know how much our cut has saved public finances so that „the state can better fulfill its role towards citizens", but not much, when another „state department" will still have to pay unemployment benefits to redundant matica´s employees. It will not be a very different amount from the one they saved on the Matica. Instead of registering at the employment office at the time of the pandemic (!), These Matica ´s employees were able to continue working in the field of culture and science. They will certainly have nice memories of the current leadership of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic ...

The outlined contexts also have a broader, more negative dimension. For those more experienced in this context, the question arises: Where does the wind actually blow from? Aren't these restrictions part of a longer-term plan to slowly prune Slovak Matica and inconspicuously turn it into an ever smaller organization without much shouting, leaving one department out of it? And thus to avoid a mass reaction of the movement and supporters of the Slovak Matica, its bodies and trade unions as well as professional units, if Matica were attacked once and for all? This thesis could only be an academic guess if MS employees using the Act on Free Access to Information did not obtain from the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic in the last days of last year „current analysis of the Institute of Cultural Policy department was commissioned by the Ministry of Culture

of the Slovak Republic. Part of the provision of information in accordance with applicable legislation is the identification of the authors of the analysis." The cover letter of 9 December 2020 also contained an alibi addition: "The material presents the views of the ICP, which do not necessarily reflect the views of the Ministry of Culture. Citations of the text should therefore refer to the ICP (and not the Ministry of Culture) as the author of these views. ICP is open to discussion of this material."

PANTHEON OF DICTATORS

After the first reading, it is clear that for such an analysis of the so-called The ICP would not be ashamed of the Hungarian Ministry of the Interior in 1875 or the Ministry of Culture and Interior of the Czechoslovak Republic in the infamous years of building a new Marxist-Leninist society in 1950. It does not matter which completely unknown names created the analysis or signed under it. SNN will continue to address the topic. In any case, they will sit in the „honorary places" in the pantheon next to Béla Grünwald, Koloman Tisza, Václav Kopecký, Klement Gottwald and Rudolf Strechaj. Let us quote at least an introduction from five pages: *"The tasks of the Slovak Matica from the law, especially the original from 1997, are problematic because they allow a full-scale interpretation between healthy patriotism and extreme nationalism, with MS moving in the second half of the spectrum. ... Above all, it is necessary to clarify what is the meaning of MS and what is expected of it. Most of the basic activities of the MS are already more successfully performed by other institutions: university and Slovak academy od science (SAS) research, publishing of original Slovak literature by private or state publishers (Literary Information Center, Veda - SAS publishing house and others), general media journalism, local cultural and educational activities and regional cultural and educational centers and Národné osvetové Centrums, presentation of Slovak culture abroad and relations with compatriots of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic. From this point of view, the Slovak Matica as a separate institution is not necessary."*

What does it just remind us of? Almost identically, but much shorter, once in the fifties, the Ministry of the Interior of the Czechoslovak Republic wrote from Prague to Bratislava: *"The purpose of the Slovak Matica is procured by national organizations so it appears to be a useless institution. All that remains is to find the right form so that the instituion can be liquidated."* Slovak bourgeois nationalism and in the staged monster trials in which several Slovak personalities, including members of Slovak Matica, were murdered by the judiciary.

But that's not all. The analysis of ICP on the following pages, completely without a mask, provides a manual in five points or scenarios, from the variant of limiting its activities through financial restriction to the variant of its de facto abolition. We can quote at least one point: *"It requires a public discussion and a participatory decision-making process on the future of the Slovak Matica, its tasks and funding, whether as a public institution or some form of civic or non-profit organization, or its complete abolition. This option represents a long and difficult process with an uncertain outcome."* In 2021, an attempt was made to fulfill the first alternative.

LEADERS OF CULTURE

Let's not be fooled. Slovak Matica is only tip of the glacier. Despite the calls of the Association of Cultural Institutions of Slovakia, today the town houses of culture are left in the pandemic stem of cultural events at the mercy of fate, with the justification that the cities take care. Some local authorities are liquidating awareness centers that have been developing culture in the regions for so many years. Artists are invited to apply for support from the state, and on the other hand, we let the real everyday „leaders" of Slovak culture, especially regional, fall. It is rumored that they are inconspicuously getting rid of people who preferss nationalism and Christianity, or at least conservative values as such, in state scientific organizations. If some professional employees are dismissed in a state cultural or scientific organization, their protests, if any, will fall into the media noise of the marginality of the individual.

Democracy is based on self-governing organizations, and that true democracy respects both the minority and the majority. Aren't institutions with an autonomous position in different spheres of society and their non-subordination to the state the best guarantee of a truly free, democratic society? Should science and culture be from only one state center and ideologically uniform?

PSEUDOLIBERALISM

No, it is not real democracy if, contrary to the Constitution of the Slovak Republic (Article 1), a single militant ideology is promoted at all levels, which describes itself as a „liberal democracy", but in fact it systematically ridicules other views with media support, which defend natural national values, family and traditional Slovak culture. It overlaps with pseudoliberal slogans, but its core is socio-engineered and constructed, reminiscent of some contemporary intolerant neo-Marxist ideological forms. He describes opponents of „cultural policy" as a „19th century experience" and sometimes even as „fascists."

The opposite is true. We didn't stay in the 19th century! They remained in the 20th century marked by a totalitarian understanding of society, where every other opinion, under the pretext of building an imaginary paradise on earth, was liquidated and demonized.

Matičiari have always been national workers, culturalists, scientists, artists, writers and lovers of the language and folk culture of the Slovak nation. We have also done a lot in maintaining the minority culture in the regions and in building a real civil society. We have survived several attempts at abolition, with, without exception, the attempts of intolerant, chauvinistic and later totalitarian ideologies. The 157-year-old Matica would be able to talk about it.

What to do? This is a question as old as humanity itself. Matica stood in the formation of Slovak statehood, culture and science, without which the positions of current deputies, ministers and politicians would not have been exist.

We will turn to the state and draw attention to it. However, if the processes are to be further curtailed, we will call on the matica´s members but also on our associated mayors, volunteers, cultural workers, deputies from municipal councils to the National Council of the Slovak Republic, foreign Slovaks, matica´s authorities and local unions at home and abroad to defend not only the Slovak Matica, but also democracy in Slovak culture and scientific research.

The World Association of Slovaks Living Abroad and other expatriate associations based in the South Europe and in Western Europe expressed its support for Matica.

COMPATRIOTS SUPPORT FOR SLOVAK MATICA – DECLARATIONS BY SLOVAKS LIVING ABROAD

Several expatriate associations reacted to the situation of cutting the funds of Slovak Matica by the Ministry of Culture. Strong support was expressed by the main organization of the expatriate world, the World Association of Slovaks Living Abroad, which brings together 114 expatriate associations from 26 countries. The situation in Slovak Matica also concerned the central expatriate associations in France, Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Serbia and Sweden. Dušan Daučík, the honorary Chairman of Sweden-Slovakia, was the first to support Slovak Matica. His initiative was followed by the Association of Slovaks in Poland, Slovak Matica in Rijeka (Croatia), the National Slovak Self-Government in Hungary, the Association of French-Slovak Friendship based in Paris and the Association of Slovaks and Coexistence from Báčský Petrovac, Serbia. We want to show you at least part of the supporting letters to Slovak Matica.

SVETOVÉ ZDRUŽENIE SLOVÁKOV V ZAHRANIČÍ
World association of Slovaks living abroad

PODPORNÉ STANOVISKO

Ako predseda Svetového združenia Slovákov v zahraničí, strešnej organizácie slovenského sveta, ktorá združuje 114 organizácií z 26 krajín sveta, sa chcem vyjadriť k historickému i súčasnému významu Matice slovenskej pre tento dôležitý segment slovenskej kultúry.

V zahraničí žije 1,5-2 mil. osôb slovenského pôvodu. Aj v zmysle Ústavy SR sú integrálnou súčasťou slovenského národa, ich kultúra a udržiavanie identity sú podporované Slovenskou republikou. Jedným z kanálov, ktorými sa tak deje, je i neštátna ustanovizeň – Matica slovenská. V minulosti zohrala neraz zásadnú, či dokonca rozhodujúcu rolu. I dnes je jej úloha nemalá, zvlášť, samozrejme, v krajinách, kde pôsobia zahraničné matice. Mimoriadne pozitívne je zvlášť pôsobenie malého, ale agilného pracoviska – Múzea zahraničných Slovákov Matice slovenskej.

I preto nám záleží na tom, aby bola Matica slovenská podporovaná zo strany štátu tak, aby mohla dôstojne pôsobiť a napĺňať i tieto svoje úlohy.

Chcem vyjadriť presvedčenie, že Matica slovenská prekonala niektoré negatívne trendy z minulosti, došlo v nej ku generačnej obmene, a myslíme si, že by nebolo spravodlivé trestať ju za chyby bývalých predstaviteľov, ktorých je súčasné vedenie matice samo zazantným kritikom.

Chápeme samozrejme dnešnú situáciu, keď dochádza k mnohým úsporným opatreniam. Domnievame sa, že kultúra či starostlivosť o Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí by s ohľadom na svoju dlhodobú podfinancovanosť i na programové vyhlásenie vlády SR nemali patriť k tým najviac postihnutým oblastiam. To úzko súvisí aj s financovaním Matice slovenskej, ktoré by rovnako nemalo byť znižované nadproporcionálne a predovšetkým tak, aby to viedlo k nevratnému poškodeniu ustanovizne, ktorá má nesporne – bez ohľadu na to, aké má kto z nás aktuálne politické názory – zásadné zásluhy o náš spoločný národ a jeho hodnoty.

V Prahe dňa 11. 11. 2020

Vladimír Skalský,
predseda Svetového združenia Slovákov v zahraničí,
riaditeľ Slovenského domu v Prahe,
člen Rady vlády ČR pre národnostné menšiny

Svetové združenie Slovákov v zahraničí
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St. Denis 12/11/2020

Matica slovenská, organizácia, na ktorú sme hrdí my všetci, Slováci žijúci doma či v zahraničí, organizáciu, ktorá by mala byť podporovaná, aby pokračovala v jej dôležitej činnosti, plniť jej poslanie. Namiesto toho znižovaním financií ju likvidujeme, podrezávame vetvu našej kultúrnej organizácii. Ktorý z národov to robí? Myslím si, že žiaden.

Každý národ sa snaží čo najviac zviditeľňovať svoju kultúru. Ktorá iná organizácia ju môže nahradiť, rozvíjať a upevňovať slovenské vlastenectvo, prebúdzať a umocňovať národné povedomie Slovákov i krajanov žijúcich v zahraničí, prehlbovať vzťah občanov k slovenskej štátnosti? Ale aj zúčastňovať sa na propagácii Slovenskej republiky, rozvíjať styky s európskymi a svetovými organizáciami pre otázky kultúry, národnej identity a ďalšie dôležité úloh. Z tohoto dôvodu by naše orgány mali prehodnotiť svoje rozhodnutie.

So zármutkom sme sa dozvedeli o skracovaní dotácii NAŠEJ Matice slovenskej. Pre nás, Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí, je to nepochopiteľný krok! Keď sme odchádzali za hranice Slovenska, v srdci sme si brali so sebou kus slovenskej zeme. Čo sa stane so zemou, keď sa nepolieva? Čo sa stane so zemou, keď na ňu nesvieti slnko? Čo sa stane so zemou, keď sa neobhospodaruje? Matica slovenská od svojho vzniku až podnes bola našou vodou, našim slnkom a našim kultúrnym správcom. Ak jej pôsobenie zanikne, lebo bez finančnej podpory aj s najlepšou vôľou oddaných pracovníkov iná možnosť nie je, tak nás opustí jeden z hlavných pilierov, ktorý udržuje našu slovenskú kultúru pre nás a našich potomkov. Naozaj to chceme? Naozaj chceme, aby bolo zabudnuté na tých, ktorí si udržiavajú a šíria našu krásnu kultúru? Naozaj chceme prestať propagovať našu krásnu krajinu?

Prehodnoťte, prosím, Vaše rozhodnutie, ktoré trvalo poznači našu identitu, na ktorú sme pravom hrdí! Dôverujeme Vám a prosíme Vás, aby ste nás nesklamali!

Edita Manáková za Spolok francúzsko-slovenského priateľstva

TOWARZYSTWO SŁOWAKÓW W POLSCE
SPOLOK SLOVÁKOV V POĽSKU

Podporné stanovisko Matici slovenskej od Spolku Slovákov v Poľsku

Spolok Slovákov v Poľsku vyjadruje podporu Matici slovenskej v súvislosti a návrhom na zníženie dotácie Ministerstva kultúry Slovenskej republiky o 23%, s ktorým táto národná inštitúcia nestotožnila, keďže by znamenal značné obmedzenie jej činnosti.

Matica slovenská je totiž jedinú inštitúciu svojho druhu na Slovensku, založená na národnom princípe, s významným historickým akcentom a s presahom aj do zahraničia. Má zásluhu na pestovaní a kultivovaní slovenského jazyka, vzdelávaní a vytváraní hodnotového systému založeného na národnom princípe, ako aj budovaní, udržiavaní a kreovaní slovenského národného povedomia. V minulosti i dnes sa v rámci možnosti usiluje implementovať tieto hodnoty tiež medzi Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí, vrátane Slovákov v Poľsku.

Obávame sa, že likvidácia činnosti Matice slovenskej, ktorá jej pri tak rapídnom znížení finančných prostriedkov hrozí, nielenže eliminuje jeden z historických pilierov slovenskej svojbytnosti, ale zároveň spôsobí relativizáciu národných hodnôt, pričom národ, ktorý si neváži sám seba, je aj v zahraničí inými národmi vnímaný ako národ, ktorý nie je hodný úcty.

Preto veríme, že aj v tejto ťažkej dobe Ministerstvo kultúry Slovenskej republiky nájde primerané finančné prostriedky i morálnu podporu na fungovanie Matice slovenskej.

V Krakove, 11. novembra 2020

PhDr. Ľudomír Molitoris, PhD., generálny tajomník Spolku Slovákov v Poľsku
Mgr. Agáta Jendžejčíková, šéfredaktorka krajanského časopisu Život
PhDr. Milica Majeríková-Molitoris, PhD., šéfredaktorka vedeckej ročenky Almanach Slováci v Poľsku

Celoštátna slovenská samospráva v Maďarsku

Vážený pán
JUDr. Marián Gešper

Ev. č.: 447-1/2020
Vybavuje: Dr. Orsolya Szabó

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Vec: vyjadrenie podpory pre Maticu slovenskú

Vážený pán predseda!

Matica slovenská sa do vedomia príslušníkov slovenskej komunity v Maďarsku zapísala ako národná kultúrna inštitúcia, ktorá v období existencie slovenského národa v rámci multietnického Uhorska dbala o zachovanie a pestovanie slovenského jazyka a kultúry a vyvíjala úsilie v záujme uplatnenia politických práv slovenského národa. Na zabládaní a financovaní sejto inštitúcie sa podieľali aj mnohí Slováci, žijúci na území dnešného Maďarska.

V období socializmu mala inštitúcia nespochybniteľné zásluhy na tom, že sa slovenské písané slovo – detské časopisy a krásna literatúra – dostalo na slovenské školy, do Slovákmi obývaných obcí a regiónov Maďarska. Jej Ústav pre zahraničných Slovákov, pracovníci Ústavu boli oporou študentov slovenskej národnosti z Dolnej zeme.

Po vzniku samostatnej Slovenskej republiky sa miesto Matice slovenskej v živote slovenského národa výrazne zmenilo. Transformačný proces inštitúcie bol dlhý a občas protirečivý.

Napriek zmenených podmienkam a skromným finančným možnostiam nové vedenie Matice našlo cestu ku krajanom. Fórom pre koordináciu spolupráce sa stala **Rada pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí pri Matici slovenskej, ktorá je poradným orgánom Matice slovenskej pre** styk a spoluprácu so slovenským zahraničím.

Pre Slovákov v Maďarsku sú nenahraditeľné kontakty s Miestnymi odbormi Matice slovenskej v lokalitách so zmiešaným slovensko-maďarským obyvateľstvom, kde sa po výmene obyvateľstva medzi Maďarskom a Československom po druhej svetovej vojne usadili presídlenci z Maďarska.

Záujmom nás všetkých je, aby sa podmienky fungovania Matice slovenskej ustálili na úrovni, ktorá okrem ďalšej existencie organizácie vytvárajú perspektívy vzájomne prospešnej spolupráce medzi krajanmi a touto národnou kultúrnou inštitúciou.

So srdečným pozdravom,

Alžbeta Hollerová Rajtárová
predsedníčka

V Budapešti 16. novembra 2020

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HOW THE SILESIAN MATICA LIVES IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Jana Novotná Galuszková, Chairman of Silesian Matica, Czech Republic

Silesian Matica is a cultural organization that was established by the merger of Matica opavská, founded in 1877, and the other Silesian Matica which has been operating in the Těšín region since 1898. Despite the difficult periods of its history, this association did not disappear and today, in the form of the Matica sliezská, it develops all kind of activities in most of the territory of Czech Silesia. But how does Silesian Matica and its individual branch associations live and work in today's fast, economically oriented, competitive time? Does an association founded in the last century and for a purpose that is no longer relevant today make any sense? Are individual matica´s branches as non-profit organizations able to survive economically?

To answer all these questions, we must look at the history of the Silesian Matica, which began to be officially written more than 140 years ago. At that time, our ancestors decided to fight in an organized way in Silesia, where at that time almost 50% of the population spoke to the German language and in Opava itself even more than 80%, for „everything Czech". On February 12, 1877, the inaugural general meeting of Matica Opavská met, which represented the beginning of the activities of the association defending the interests of the Czech minority in the Opava as part of Silesia. Already after three years, Matica managed to provide the necessary livelihood by purchasing a house in the center of Opava, which it gradually rebuilt and expanded and which, as „Matiční dům" (Matica´s house), became the center of Czech social, cultural and economic life in Opava and the surrounding area. The Matiční dům hosted events that today form a significant part of Opava's history - Czech theater performances were performed here, concerts, lectures, cultural evenings, balls, famous matica´s days, meetings and various meetings

The significant history of the Matiční dům in Opava began in 1880, when it became the matica´s headquarter. Photo: archive of Silesian Matica

were held here, there was the Matica´s library, Matica´s museum, a puppet theater and also an saloon, which was clearly perceived as a Czech enterprise. The Matiční dům thus gradually became the heart and artery of Czech life in western Silesia. The foundations of the Silesian Matica in the Těšín Region were laid at the General Meeting on September 8, 1898. The association - like Matice Opavská - set as its main goals the establishment of Czech schools, libraries, dissemination of Czech literature and extensive educational activities. At the end of 1918, Silesian Matica belonged to the largest national organizations in Silesia in the Těšín region with its almost eighteen thousand members.

The establishment of an independent Czechoslovak Republic in 1918 paradoxically did not mean a decline in matica´s activity, but quite the opposite. The institutions of the newly formed state worked closely with Matica opavská in some areas and directly envisaged her help. During the First Republic (the First Republic is the designation for Czechoslovakia in the period from its inception in 1918 until the adoption of the Munich Agreement in 1938 and the transmission of the border to Germany), the Matica and its activities flourished. At that time, Matice opavská united 85 unions, in which seven and a half thousand members were organized. In 28 municipalities, Matice owned 30 buildings, which, according to an official estimate, were worth 12 million crowns in 1938.

The promising development of the activities of the Matica opavská was interrupted suddenly and tragically in 1938, when, on the basis of the Munich Agreement, the border area of Czechoslovakia - Sudetenland was ceded to Germany. In April 1939, most of Silesia was incorporated into the Imperial Sudetenland and the Matica opavská into the protectorate's National Matica, which was dissolved by the Reich Protector a few years later. Matice opavská lost all its property, its extensive, long-established network of local unions disintegrated, and the results of its long-term activities were destroyed. Although the year 1945 brought a new revival, further development was prevented in February 1948, after which Matica opavská had to end its activities.

A short revival occurred in 1968, when the activities of the Matica opavská were renewed, and after an agreement with the Silesian Matica, which operated in the Těšín region since 1898, it merged under the new name „Silesian Matica". Thus, it expanded its scope to the entire historical territory of Czech Silesia. The plans of the Silesian Matica were very ambitious at the time, but the year 1972 brought a re-termination of its activities based on a political decision by the communist authorities. It was not until the „Velvet Revolution" of 1989, which brought freedom to Czechoslovakia, that it allowed Silesian Matica to resume operations. Of the original property, only the Matiční dům in Opava was returned to Silesian Matica, which is today the center of its organizational work. The current Silesian Matica is a non-profit association - an association that associates 16 associations with their „leaders" must try to navigate the complex world of regulations unscathed, it must try to adapt its activities to modern times and find sufficient financial resources for it. Silesian Matica (and its predecessor Matice opavská and Silesian Matica) is an example of a federal organization that dealt with repeated falls, when its activities were restricted or directly banned, when it lost all its property and position, despite the difficult present he is still fighting heroically for his existence. It is no exaggeration to say that Silesian Matica is a „heroine of her time".

Extensive side wing of the Matiční dům in Opava.
Photo: archive of Silesian Matica, a branch association in Opava

THE OLDEST LUZICE SERBIAN ASSOCIATION IN UPPER LUŽICE

Jurij Łušćánsky, Chairman of the Upper Lusatian--Serbian Matica, Bautzen, Germany

Chairman of Lusatian-Serbian Matica Jurij Łušćánsky addressing IV. Congress of Maticas and Institutions of Slavic Nations, June 5, 2019, Martin. Photo: Ján Seman

Upper Lusatian-Serbian Matica was founded in Bautzen in 1847 as a Lusatian-Serbian association for the purpose of publishing Lusatian-Serbian books, and in the following years it became a supra-confessional cultural and scientific center.

From 1848 to 1937, the association published the Maćica Serbskeje Magazine every year, which was devoted to linguistic, historical, literary-historical, folkloristic and demographic research. From the donations of Lusatian-Serbian and foreign supporters, the first Lusatian-Serbian house, the Serbian House, was built in Bautzen, in which a museum, archive, library and gallery were established.

In 1880, the Lower Lusatian-Serbian Matica was founded in Cottbus for Lower Lusatia. In 1937, the activities of the Lusatian-Serbian associations were made impossible by the Nazis, who confiscated all their property. At the end of the Second World War, the Lusatian-Serbian house also fell victim. In 1945, Matica horno-Lužickosrbská continued its activities mainly in the field of linguistics and history. In 1949, at the behest of the Soviet occupation power, the association had to relinquish independence and join the Domowina Union. With the founding of the Institute for Lusatian-Serbian Folk Research in 1951, Lusatian-Serbian science was given a new institutional basis.

The activities of the Matica were resumed on April 2, 1991 at the first joint assembly of old members and its young adherents, and its statutes included activities such as support for Lusatian-Serbian science, promotion and dissemination of knowledge about the Lusatian Serbs inside and outside both Lusatia. Thus, Matica horno-lužickosrbská organizes symposia and international conferences on the history of Lusatian Serbs and organizes lecture evenings on Lusatian-Serbian patriots. At the same time, it takes care of the restoration and construction of new monuments. Due to the different situation in Lower Lusatia, the Matica dolno-lužickosrbská was registered in the statutes of the Lusatian-Serbian Matrix in 1993 as a special section. Matica Horno-Lužickosrbská and its members were internationally recognized through the organization and implementation of conferences both in Bautzen and in Prague and Warsaw. Working contacts are maintained by Matica Lužickosrbská with Matica sliezská, Matica moravská, Matica srbská and Slovak Matica. Every year, most often on the Saturday after Easter, member assemblies are held in Bautzen on the basis of the statutes. In addition to the Lusatian Serbs, the association also includes their friends (especially Sorabists) from all over Germany, England, Russia, Ukraine, Slovakia, Poland, Finland, the Netherlands and the Czech Republic. The membership consists of approximately 120 members. In 1992, Matica horno-lužickosrbská joined Domowina, the main association of Lusatian-Serbian associations.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SLOVAK MATICA IN ZAGREB

Alena Baliová, Vice-Chairman of Slovak Matica in Zagreb, Croatia

Slovak Matica in Zagreb (MSZ) during the long twenty-five years of its founding (December 1, 1995) has had more than three hundred regular matica´s meetings, more than a hundred events in which it participated as a co-organizer and during its operation published sixteen book prints in Croatian and Slovak. As part of her annual study trips around Slovakia, MSZ visited every interesting place in Slovakia, which they documented not only through the Slovak minority monthly in Croatia „Prameň", but also through documentaries broadcast by HRT - Croatian Television, bringing the motherland closer to Croatian viewers.

During the 20th century, Slovaks, individually or as a whole family, gradually moved from other parts of Croatia to Zagreb, where in the interwar period they came into closer contact with Czech settlers. Initially, their goal was to meet compatriots, Czechs and Slovaks in order to preserve their native language, customs, culture, so it was primarily an effort to preserve their traditional way of life. Great emphasis was placed on maintaining good relations and friendships between locals and immigrants. They were organized together in companies under different names, which was the result of the coexistence of two nations in one state, the Czechoslovak Republic as a state community of Czechs and Slovaks, which was established in 1918.

Preparations for the establishment of the MSZ began in the first half of 1995, and the first ambassador of the Slovak Republic to Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, the university prof. PhDr. Matúš Kučera, DrSc was really helpfull. The founding assembly of MSZ as the 9th local branch of Slovak Matica in Croatia, based in Našice, took place on December 1, 1995 in the premises of the Croatian-Israeli Association on Vodníková Street in Zagreb. The founders of MSZ were Slovak Matica in Croatia and the Association of Croatian-Slovak Friendship in Zagreb. Zlatko Jevák st. was elected Chairman of the Slovak Matica in Zagreb, who was Chairman for twenty long years and who, unfortunately, died on 22 May 2018 at the age of 93. In its beginnings, MSZ focused on organizing commemorative evenings about the greats of Slovak and Croatian history, who in their time sought and fought to preserve Slovak and Croatian identity and built a friendship between two nations, Croatian and Slovak. MSZ also focused on cultivating the Slovak tradition, promoting Slovak culture and customs through exhibitions, manifestations and gastronomic offer. Since its inception, MSZ has been organizing study stays in Slovakia. Today, MSZ, as one of the fifteen Slovak Maticas, is under the Association of Slovaks in Croatia, an unifying organization based in Našice, and in the cultural and social magazine of Slovaks in Croatia, Prameň publishes articles about its activities. Under the auspices of the Council for National Minorities of the Republic of Croatia and in cooperation with the representative of the Slovak national minority in the city of Zagreb, MSZ is preparing monthly meetings for its members with an interesting program.
Unfortunately, in this article it is not possible to write all

manifestations, round tables, memorial meetings, unveiling of memorial plaques to Slovak important personalities in Croatia, Christmas concerts, documentary film screenings, cultural evenings on the occasion of Easter holidays, music evenings, study tours and many other activities carried out by MSZ. In 2006, the MSZ published activities on the tenth anniversary of the Slovak Matica in Zagreb on the activities of the first ten years of its establishment. Among the activities of MSZ in recent years, we can mention the following: presentation of the book Stjepan Moyses i Hrvati (Štefan

Zagreb members of Matica in Čičmany.
Photo: author´s archive

Moyses and Croatians) in Zagreb and Bratislava in the presence of representatives of the Croatian Embassy in Slovakia and Slovak Matica, literary evening on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of the death of the writer, publicist, Dr. Martin Kukučín with a lecture by doc. PhDr. Zrinka Kovačević, Head of the Department of Slovak Language and Literature at the Department of Philosophy, University of Zagreb; a lecture on the occasion of the centenary of the tragic death of Milan Rastislav Štefánik, one of the founders of the first Czechoslovak Republic on October 28, 2019 and many others.

With the adoption of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities in Croatia in 2002, members of national minorities are guaranteed the right to elect members of councils and representatives of national minorities in local and territorial self-governing units, thus enabling national minorities to participate in public life and local governance. A Representative of the Slovak national minority of the city of Zagreb has been elected in the city of Zagreb since 2006 (hereinafter - the Representative). In the last elections, which took place on May 5, 2019, Zlatko Jevák Jr. was elected Representative, who has been leading Slovak Matica in Zagreb since 2017.

In addition to its monthly meetings with a rich program, since 2013 the MSZ has been involved in joint activities with the Representative and the Coordination of National Minorities in Zagreb, where together with other minorities operating in Zagreb it promotes Slovak tradition, culture and enriches Zagreb's public-cultural life. The most important activities include: the demonstration of the Day of National Minorities in Zagreb, demonstrations on the occasion of the Easter holidays, sports competitions, etc. Slovak language courses for Zagreb members of Matica. Artists have also been held since 2016, and since 2018 a painting (fine art) course has been held within the Literary and Art Section. MSZ has already prepared two exhibitions of paintings by course participants. Every year, we also prepares Christmas concerts, at which invited guests from Slovakia perform, as well as matica´s artists from other Slovak maticas: MSZ is also a co-organizer of the Slovak Culture Days in Zagreb.

Since its founding, MSZ can boast a rich collection of 16 published books on Croatian-Slovak church dignitaries, well-known Slovak personalities (Juraj Haulík, Martin Kukučín, Štefan Moyses and others), the arrival of Slovaks in Croatia, a Croatian-Slovak dictionary and others. It is worth mentioning the most valuable book Slovaks in Croatia (Slovaci u Hrvatskoj) by doc. PhDr. Kvetoslava Kučerová. In 2016, a book about Štefan Moyses - Stjepan Moyses i Hrvati (Štefan Moyses and the Croatians) by Ruda Brtáň, Dragutin Ivančić and prof. Dr. Agneza Szabova. Traditionally, every year, and it will be more than twenty years, Zagreb members of Matica organize study trips to explore the motherland. This tradition was introduced by its first Chairman of MSZ Zlatko Jevák st. and continues on. It also maintains friendly relations with the branches of Matica chorvátska in Ogulin, Križevce. In Croatia, they also visited the places where Slovak Matica operates in Ilok, Osijek, Rijeka, Našice, Lipovľany, Međurići, etc. Information on all activities of the MSZ and the Representative, which have been documented since 2010 in Slovak and Croatian, can be found on the website: www.slovaci-zagreb.com.

Behind all the above activities and activities that MSZ has prepared and continues to prepare, it is certainly not necessary to forget about the people behind each event, sacrificing their free time and contributing to a cheerful association, where everyone feels like one big family.

Without enthusiasm, hardworking and dexterous hands, not a single event could be organized, and therefore everyone deserves a big THANK YOU.

Demonstration, Day of National Minorities, Zagreb.
Photo: author´s archive

INTERVIEW WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SLOVENIAN MATICA

Aleš Gabrić, Slovenia

Zuzana Pavelcová, director of the Compatriot Museum of the Slovak Matica, Slovakia

„The Slovenian Matica must remain a living organism that must pursue two goals: to continue to attract the cooperation of experts from different profiles and to respond to current challenges."

Aleš Gabić was born in 1963, spent his youth in Nové mesto and after graduating from the high school he studied history and geography at the Philospohy Faculty in Ljubljana, where in 1994 he successfully finish his doctorate in history. He is employed at the Institute of Recent History in Ljubljana, where he researches recent Slovenian political, cultural-political and cultural history. His scientific monographs have been published in Slovenian and also in foreign languages, mostly of course in English; he has appeared at conferences and published in magazines oin several European countries, and also in the USA and Japan. He edited several scientific proceedings and in the years 2008 - 2018 he was the editor of publications at the Institute. He spent a lot of time transferring knowledge about history to the school space. He lectured on cultural history at the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Ljubljana, and wrote textbooks for primary and secondary schools. In the years 2008 - 2020, he was the Chairman of the State Graduation Commission for the subject of history, which prepares programs and graduation examination sheets for Slovenian high school graduates. Since he was elected Chairman of the Slovenian Matica in 2018, he has given up additional duties and his free time is mostly directed to the Slovenian Matica - the oldest scientific and cultural association of Slovenes.

„You are one of the younger, agile chairmen of Slovenian Matica. Would you explain to us how Slovenian Matica works today, what she does, what Matica „lives" with?"

Indeed, I am one of the younger leading members of Slovenian Matica in recent decades, my election to the position of Chairman overlaps with the desire to rejuvenate the leading structure of the association after the application of new regulations. However, these changes do not affect the basic activity of the Slovenian Matica, which is publishing and event preparation. Slovenian Matica continues to publish top literary works and professional literature. Strict selection is very important, as publishing in Slovenia has entered a crisis and many smaller publishers have disappeared; for larger publishers, the financial balance is often a more important criterion than the quality of the work published. For our permanent editions, such as e.g. The Philosophical Library, the Slovenian Philosophical Thought, Books on Cities, Slovenian Regions or the History of Countries and Nations, which have a long tradition, would hardly be sought by a comparable edition from other Slovenian publishers. The same is true of the original and translated literature, and we do not want to abandon the high standards achieved in terms of appearance either. We also supply our book publications to Slovenian libraries outside Slovenia and also to Slovenian language lectureships at universities around the world. Another area of activity of Slovenian Matica is organizational activity, which has resumed more strongly in the last two years. Every year we try to prepare one larger two-day symposium and several shorter one--day sessions. Although scholars of scientific policy are constantly promoting greater interdisciplinarity in scientific work, I dare say that larger meetings of the Slovenian Matica are among the events in which a more diverse circle of experts joins their potential than in similar meetings prepared by professional research institutions. In 2018, we organized a symposium on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the disintegration of Austria-Hungary and the establishment of the South Slavic state, last year's planned meeting was canceled due to Covid-19, this year we very much hope to hold a symposium on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the Ljubljana Congress of the Holy Alliance, ie the largest international diplomatic event on Slovenian territory in the past. During the one-day sessions, we strive to cover various aspects of creativity in the annual plan, so last year we drew into mathematics, literary history, geography, industrial design and art history. The regular monthly lectures of our science and technology section have a long tradition, several dozen other events take place on various occasions, e.g. presentations of books, hosting of foreign guests or Slovenes living outside Slovenia.

„On IV. Congress of Maticas and Institutions of Slavic Nations, you have described the difficult struggle for the legislative anchoring of the law on the Slovenian Matica. What exactly did this law bring? How did the staff of the Slovenian Matica also determine the scope of activities?"

The difficulties of the Slovenian Matica began to deepen as Slovenia began to separate too rigidly the separation of professional research and artistic institutions on the one hand and associations on the other. The first of these is financed by the founder, mostly the state, but the associations should operate in an absolutely amateurish way. Due to the this specifics, such as an institution with a tradition and a top program located in the center of the capital, there was no place in such a scheme. After many years of negotiations, a special law on the Slovenian Matica was finally adopted at the end of 2017. In the Slovenian Parliament, where the discourse of disputes and controversy usually prevails, the law was passed by the votes of all the deputies present, which confirms that our Matica is valued by Slovenes from different ideological and political perspectives. I do not know if we would find many examples of such a consensus in Slovenian politics in dealing with such a complicated cultural issue. The law provides (only) the initial salary for three employees of Slovenian Matica (the difference to the full amount of salary must be provided by Matica itself). All the above activities are organized by only three employed persons, of course, in addition to the considerable help of the members of the association, who doing the work completely voluntarily and free of charge. This also applies to the Chairman and members of the Management Committee; among the 14 elected members, exactly half (seven) are members of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, which also confirms the reputation of the Slovenian Matica among Slovenian intellectuals. Thus, despite the adoption of the law on the Slovenian Matica, the position of the Slovenian Matica cannot be compared with the position of related institutions with which we have been in contact in recent years, the Croatian Matica (Matica hrvatska), Serbian Matica (Matica srpska) or Slovak Matica. Slovenian Matica does not have its own cultural institutions, it has a modest income, with which, according to my evaluation, it achieves above-average results. It has retained the status of an association, which allows it that politics cannot interfere in the planning of its activities.

„What do you consider to be the most significant shifts and successes of Slovenian Matica and, conversely, what does Slovenian Matica with?"

The new management first dealt with the financial consolidation and repayment of debts that had accumulated in previous years. In my program to run for Chairman, I announced that, unfortunately, we would first have to talk first about financial and organizational issues and then about content issues. Fortunately, I was able to inform after only two years that from now on we are putting the content questions of Slovenian Matica´s activities first again. So, in two years, we managed to solve the bad financial situation and, instead of worrying, evaluate the position of the association with happier and more optimistic forecasts. This was greatly aided by the new secretaries - the editors; In our country, this job position combines the position of editor-in-chief of editions and business secretary of the institution. Ignacija Fridlová Jarcová was first selected for this position; The response to her success in the organization is already indicated by the fact that, after two years of work at Slovenian Matica, she was offered the position of Secretary of State at the Ministry of Culture, which she accepted. Miljana Cuntová became the new editor, bringing important news to publishing planning and new forms of promotion of our books and events.

Of course, the widest circle of people has the most information about news available through the Slovenian Matica channel on

From left: Editor of Slovenian Matica Ignacija Fridl Jarc, Vice Chairman of Slovenian Matica Janez Stergar and Chairman of Slovenian Matica Aleš Gabrić at the reception hosted by the President of the Republic of Slovenia Borut Pahor at the Slovenian Matica Open Day on February 4, 2019. Photo: archive of Aleš Gabrić

Youtube, which we founded last year. The results of the established innovations are obvious. The Slovenian Matica is much more successful in obtaining funds from various sources than it was years ago. This allows us to publish more books and organize more events. In my opinion, we have already reached the limits that a modest number of employees allows us to achieve. The number of books published annually, which ranged from twelve to thirteen ten years ago, has already reached and even exceeded twenty. We achieved an even more significant shift in the number of events, as their number more than doubled. I am not just referring to meetings at the premises of the Slovenian Matica and presentations of activities in other Slovenian cities and Slovenian associations in neighboring countries. The number of events entrusted to us at our request by the organizers of the Slovenian Book Fair has increased significantly - it takes place every year at the beginning of December and is a kind of barometer of Slovenian book production.

I myself have represented the Slovenian Matica since my election and have been a guest at events prepared by the three already mentioned maticas, Croatian Matica, Serbian Matica and Slovak Matica, as well as in Vienna at the presentation of the book Avstrijska zgodovina (Austrian History) or at the Slovenian Consulate in Szentgotthárde. , where the seat of Slovenian associations is in Hungary.
In the building of the Slovenian Matica on the Congress Square in Ljubljana, we renovated the courtyard in 2019, and during the warmer months, interviews and round tables are held there, which we called Matica under the stars. With all these innovations, there is a growing interest in cooperation with Slovenian Matica among Slovenian intellectuals. The editor informs me that there are always new offers for book printing, which allows us to choose the best products and maintain the level achieved. Unfortunately, Covid-19 last year had the impact of canceling many events. However, those that we managed to implement in a few months were very well visited and showed that people really want such lectures, meetings a so on. Fortunately, the closure of the institutions due to the epidemic did not affect the sale of books, as sales through electronic sales and electronic book fairs even increased compared to last year; people obviously had more time to read.

„What are the visions of the development of the Slovenian Matica for the near future? What is institution planning and what are your plans, as its Chairman, personally?"

The first wish is, of course, the return to normal life as soon as possible, so that we can hold meetings and events live (and not just through Zoom or posting on Youtube). It would be nice if we could hold a scientific symposium on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the Ljubljana Congress, at which the participation in the opening and welcome speeches have already been confirmed by the President of the Republic of Slovenia and the Mayor of Ljubljana, live in a fully occupied hall! We are aware, of course, that we cannot influence the course of the health crisis, so when planning events, we take into account the various possibilities of implementation.

The Slovenian Matica must remain a living organism and pursue two goals: to continue to attract the cooperation of experts from different profiles and to respond to current challenges. If I had to define more precisely the wishes for the first: when, on the occasion of the 155th anniversary of our establishment, we organized an open day and an all-day program with events from various scientific and artistic fields on 4 February 2019, I was a little skeptical about being able to attract sufficient audience. But when interviews, lectures and presentations alternated between different audiences and after the all-day program the hall was still full, it was clear that Slovenian Matica was still considered to be own by intellectuals from various fields.

As for the second goal, responding to current issues, the Slovenian Matica must, in contrast to the discourse that cultivates a large part of politics and the media, provide an open discussion of people of different opinions in a tolerant and argumentative dialogue. Here, I would just mention the round table that was prepared during the controversy over what role to allow the use of English in Slovenian higher education. One of the most professionally mature discussions took place in the premises of Slovenian Matica.

Regarding the book program, I have already mentioned that Slovenian Matica has reached a limit that allows it to reach a modest number of employees. I wonder how we could provide funding for another editorial position so that we can exceed the current volume of published books. So far, however, it is really just a wish. However, since there are enough offers for the publication of works that are suitable for the program of Slovenian Matica, we must not lose sight of this goal.

I must not forget one more goal set by the Slovenian Matica leadership, and that is the gradual renewal of its premises. In any case, the necessary renovation significantly exceeds the current possibilities of Slovenian Matica. A small step in this direction was the modification of the inner courtyard, which allows us to hold events in the heart of Ljubljana in the open space.

Renewal is related to the desire to devote even more space to live contact with our members and our audience. However, these objectives will be pursued, in my view, gradually over a number of years or decades, when there will be changes in the position of Chairman.

ŠTEFAN MOYSES

Pavol Parenička, Slovak Literary Institute of Slovak Matica, Slovakia

Štefan Moyses is one of the most important personalities in Slovak, Croatian and Slavic history of the 19th century. He became known to the Slovak nation in the years 1863 to 1875 as the historically first Chairman of the Slovak Matica. He played an important role in the field of church, school, enlightenment and wider cultural and social life in Slovakia, Croatia and the entire Habsburg monarchy. Bishop Štefan Moyses was a man of a physically powerful figure, but also of a huge Slovak and Slavic spirit, who manifested itself most clearly and multiplied in his matica´s work as a reflection of the cultural phenomenon of the Slavic Matica´s movement in contemporary Habsburg power.

Štefan Moyses was born on October 24, 1797 in Veselý near Piešťany in a poor peasant family. A look at Moyses' birthplace, now preserved as a museum exposition, evokes the prophetic verses of his contemporary, friend, collaborator, poet of Slavism and the ideologue of Slavic literary reciprocity Ján Kollár: *"Often a small shepherd's maid for the homeland can do more than the camp from which Žižka fought."* To make Moyses' suffering in early childhood even more bigger than when was, when he was a seven-year-old became a complete orphan. Like hundreds of other orphans, the Roman Catholic Church, its orphanages, and school institutions took him in. Thanks to the church, after the departure of folk schools in the years 1806 to 1813, a gifted and diligent student was able to graduate from a Catholic grammar school, and in 1813 he was accepted as a cleric of the Esztergom archdiocese. From 1813 to 1815 he studied philosophy at the Catholic lyceum in Trnava, from 1815 to 1818 he completed his studies of theology at the central seminary in Pest. Since he did not reach the canonical age, from 1819 to 1820 he was a domestic educator, from 1820 to 1821 he was preparing for a priestly ordination in the Esztergom presbytery, in 1821 he was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in Esztergom. In 1821, Štefan Moyses worked as a chaplain in several places in Hungary (Szentendre, Bzovík, Krupina, Tesárske Mlyňany, Tölgyes), finally in the years 1828 to 1829 became the Slovak preacher in the Church of St. Joseph in Pest. In 1828 he passed a rigorous examination at the University of Pest and obtained the title of Doctor of Philosophy and Liberal Arts. In 1829 he was appointed professor at the Catholic Academy in Zagreb, where from 1830 to 1847 he lectured on ethics, philosophy, classical and Slavic languages. From 1847 to 1850 he was a canon of Zagreb, at the same time rector of the diocesan priestly seminary in 1848 and from 1848 to 1849 a member of the mining council (Croatian government) in Zagreb, while he was in charge of ecclesiastical, educational and cultural affairs. From 1849 to 1850, Štefan Moyses worked as an imperial confidant for Croatia. In 1850 it was decided to appoint him bishop of the Diocese of Banská Bystrica, in 1851 he was ordained in Esztergom and was captured by the episcopal prestige, from 1851 to 1869 he lived in a residence in Banská Bystrica and its resort in Svätý Kríž (now Žiar nad Hronom). From 1863 he was the real inner secret advisor of Emperor Francis Joseph I and a member of the imperial secret council. Štefan Moyses died at the age of 72 symbolically on the feast of St. Cyril and Methodius, the introduction of which he himself initiated, on July 5, 1869 in Žiar nad Hronom.

Stefan Moyses. Photo: Archive of Slovak Matica

Štefan Moyses has been involved in the Slovak national movement since his youth. During his studies in Trnava, he became intimately acquainted with the Bernolák family and became an active member of the second Bernolák family. During his time in Pest, he established close contacts with the poet and chief ideologue of Slavdom, Ján Kollár, while he contributed to the rapprochement of Catholic Bernolák and Evangelical representatives of the national movement of the Czechoslovak orientation.

After arriving in Zagreb, Štefan Moyses joined the Illyrian movement and mediated contacts between South Slavic nationalists and leaders of the national movement in Slovakia. He was mainly involved in Croatian church, school and cultural life, working agilely in top Croatian national cultural and religious institutions. From 1842, Moyses was a member of the Illyrian Matica, founded under the patronage of Janek Drašković at the initiative of Stanek Vraz, in Zagreb, while Ján Kollár and Pavol Jozef Šafárik also became Slovak co-founders and agile members of this Croatian national literary-publishing association. At the same time, Štefan Moyses agilely participated in the activities of the Brotherhood of Cyril and Methodius in Zagreb. He translated Ján Kollár's debate on Slavic reciprocity and Sam Tomášik's anthemic song from Slovak into Croatian Hey, Slovaks! (Hey, Slaveni!), Later he also supported the publication of correspondence between Ljudevit Gaj and Ľudovít Štúr.

From 1847 to 1848, as a parliamentary ambassador, canon Štefan Moyses represented the Zagreb chapter at the last Estates Assembly in Bratislava, where he established personal contacts with Ľudovít Štúr and other Štúr´s and Hurban´s. After the end of the assembly in April 1848, Štefan Moyses became one of the leaders of the Croatian National Party and a member of the first Croatian government led by the legendary ban Josip Jelačić, while belonging to the circle of his closest collaborators.

After the dispersal of the Slavonic Congress in Prague, Ľudovít Štúr and Jozef Miloslav stayed with Štefan Moyses in Zagreb in June and July 1848. Hurban, to whom he granted political asylum and allowed members of the Croatian Parliament to appear, to inform them about the impending Štúr´s Slovak uprising. From 1849 to 1850, the canon of Zagreb, Štefan Moyses, served as imperial confidant for Croatia in Vienna. After arriving in Slovakia, he revived the Cyril and Methodius tradition, inspired by the Cyril and Methodius cult in Croatia and in other Slavic nations in the Balkans. In this spirit, in 1852 he resumed the publication of Cyrill and Method magazine, in 1863 he was the main organizer of the millennial celebrations of Cyril and Methodius' arrival in Slovakia. Thanks to his ecclesiastical authority, in 1864 among our ancestors in the territory of Great Moravia, he transfered celebrations of their arrival to 5th July (originally they were celebrated on different days according to the dates of death, namely the feast of St. Cyril was celebrated on February 14, the feast of St. Methodius on April 6). In the memorandum period, Štefan Moyses wanted to build a new center of the Slovak national movement from his episcopal seat in Banská Bystrica. Štefan Moyses stood at the head of the Slovak nationalists in 1861, when he was directly requested to do so by the memorandum of the Permanent National Committee, headed by its Chairman Ján Francisci. Addressing the interaction of the Slovak nation and its relationship with its representatives, Moyses remarked: *„... to the safe shoulders of his natural leaders, you would rise, willingly open your eyes to the light of truth and useful knowledge that your domestic scholars in your form understandable, in natural way they speak in your core language... "* and continued imperatively: *"work hard on the nation's hereditary role! Fear God ... be obedient to the civil law, and believe me, dear nation, you will live like never before!" Štefan Moyses then, as the uncrowned "Prince of Slovakia"*, led a Slovak delegation to the royal court in Vienna, where in In December 1861, at a special audience, she submitted to František Jozef I. the cultural and political applications of Slovaks known as the Vienna Memorandum.

As a conscious Slovak and Slav, Štefan Moyses was well acquainted with history, activities and was aware of the contemporary cultural, social, scientific and spiritual dimension of the phenomenon of Slavic Maticas in the Austrian Empire. In this context, the first Slavic Matica was Serbian Matica which was established in 1826 in Pest, where it was founded by Serbian nationalists under the patronage of magnate Sava Tekelia. One of the direct witnesses of this important event in the life of the Slavic nations of the Habsburg monarchy and the beginnings of its activities was Štefan Moyses, who worked in the Pest from 1828 to 1829. When Czech Matica in Prague was founded in 1831 on the initiative of František Palacký and Josef Jungmann under the patronage of Prince Rudolf Kinský, these Czech cultural movements even more strongly encouraged similar activity by Slovak national actors Štefan Moyses, Karol Kuzmány, Ján Kollár, Pavel Jozef Šafárik and others. One of them, Karol Kuzmány, did not see the problem in the eventual process of founding the Slovak Matica, lying in the absence of a suitable guarantor, patron or curator of this cultural enterprise from among rich, influential and nationally conscious Slovaks. In the meantime, this issue was resolved by the Croats when, in 1842, under the patronage of Count Janek Drašković, on the initiative of Stanek Vraz, they founded the Illyrian Matica in Zagreb, with Štefan Moyses becoming a co-founder, important member and promoter of this literary and publishing association. After coming to Slovakia, Štefan Moyses negotiated with Karol Kuzmány from 1856 about the need to establish the Slovak Matica. At its inaugural general meeting on August 4, 1863 in Martin, Moyses was unanimously elected Chairman.

On September 10, 1863, as Chairman, he headed the Matica embassy to the monarch in Vienna. When asked who should lead the Slovak Matica, its Chairman gave a clear answer: *"But especially for the Slovak Matica have to be full of confidence: Slovak scientists and scholars, then such nationalists, to whom either the wealth or the official position provide a more powerful influence; finally, all the audience of the Slovak nation."* In August 1864, Štefan Moyses chaired the second and then in 1865 the third general meeting of the Slovak Matica in Martin. The speeches he gave at the meetings are considered to be the most important Slovak speeches in the national history of the 19th century, while another great Slovak, Slav and Russophile Svetozár Hurban-Vajanský said on their margins that *„they are the intellectual symphony of the greatest head of the Slovak 19th century, which in the future can be surpassed only by some poet with a colossal work ".*

Štefan Moyses, as Chairman, contributed to the position of the representative building of the Slovak Matica called „Národná Svetlica" in Martin, where he had the Matica collections, which until then were temporarily located in his episcopal residence in Banská Bystrica, transferred. He focused his matica's activities on the development of science, culture, education and enlightenment, librarianship, and supported the publishing and distribution of the press. He was responsible for the preservation of the libraries of Martin Hamuljak and Michal Rešetka, which became the basis of the Slovak Matica Library. Moyses' personal contribution and organizational and representational activities in connection with Slovak Matica soon placed her in one of the leading places among the then numerous Slavic Maticas in all indicators (property, collections, scientific departments, publishing, etc.). Štefan Moyses' literary activity was dominated by religious writing. In the field of enlightenment literature, he presented himself with the publication *Ideas on Horticulture in General and Štepárství in particular*, published in 1865 by Slovak Matica. A selection from Moyses' sermons entitled *At the end of 1897* was prepared for printing by František Richard Osvald.

Anton Augustín Baník published three speeches of Štefan Moyses from the years 1863 to 1865 at the Slovak Matica general meetings of 1947. An expert of Moyses's work and editor of his speeches, Baník considered the second speech from August 1864 to be the most important of these matica´s speeches, stating: *„always remember the sovereign order of the Slovak national, cultural and spiritual unity. After all, he was what in his magnificent presidential speech in Turčiansky Sv. Martin in 1864, he clearly determined the place and mission of Slovak science in the national life of Slovaks and emphatically stated the truth that - the light that the future paths of the Slovak nation should irradiate ... can only come from national scientists and scholars."*

Svetozár Hurban-Vajanský considered Štefan Moyses to be *„the greatest Slovak head in the 19th century".*

The active life, work and legacy of Bishop Štefan Moyses remain permanently in the memory of our nation in Slovakia and beyond its borders among Slavic nations, especially Croats.

A NEW THREE-VOLUME SLAVIC ENCYCLOPEDIA IS RELEASED

Oleg A. Platonov, editor-in-chief of the Slavic Encyclopedia, Russia

Dear friends and co-workers! I present to you a smaller material dedicated to the recently published three-volume Slavic Encyclopedia. I would also like to remind you that the final version of the publication can be found on the website www.rusinst.ru.

IMPORTANT EVENT IN THE SLAVIC WORLD

The Institute of Russian Civilization and the All-Slavic Union announces the publication of the Slavic Encyclopedia in three volumes (872, 864 and 856 pages). More than three thousand illustrations have been used to illustrate the publication.

The impetus for the preparation of the encyclopedia was the All-Slavic Congress in Prague in 1998, at which, after a break of almost a century, they raised the question of the need to compile it as the most important factor for the future unification of Slavic nations and states.

The creation of the encyclopedia was preceded by the publication from the Institute of Russian Civilization, also dozens of monographs and publications by Slavic scientists and researchers of Slavism – V.I. Lamansky, J.I. Venelin, A.S. Budilovich, A.F. Rittich, O.F. Miller, L. Niederle, as well as dozens of volumes of Slavophiles from I.V. Kirejevsky and A.S. Khakov S.F. Sharapova and A.G. Shcherbatova.

The scientists mentioned above believed that all Slavic peoples were united by belonging to the Old Slavic civilization and that they were all a single nation, which subsequently disintegrated into parts, and each of them walked its own way. But the unified spiritual roots of Slavic unity have been preserved, as well as the deep genetic and mystical connection that unites the various branches of Slavism.

According to various estimates, today there are about 320-350 million Slavs in the world. Such a huge number of related tribes and nations, of course, requires the compilation of a special Slavic encyclopedia reflecting all aspects of the life of once a single civilizational, ethnographic and cultural monolith.

Our encyclopedia is the first of its kind, but the question of the need to create a Slavic encyclopedia began to arise from the end of the 19th century. The beginning was laid at the Congress of Russian Slavists in 1903 by Academician V. I. Lamansky. The form of a future encyclopedia considered the congress of Slavists to be a complex of monographs on individual branches of Slavic studies. This project remained unfulfilled, but nine books published from 1908 to 1921 became a peculiar monument to this project and to the Congress of 1903.

Subsequent events from 1917 for many years removed the idea of creating a Slavic encyclopedia from the program of the scientific community.

However, Slavic studies continued to develop and XX. the century was a good time for the creation of many excellent works, so that practically everything was ready to create an encyclopedia. However, there was no state and political will for that. The forces under the influence of the Slavic states since 1945, especially after the death of J. V. Stalin, feared the creation of such an encyclopedia as a powerful factor in the unification of the Slavs, the strengthening of Slavic unity. The leaders of the socialist countries considered the idea of the unification of the Slavs as a danger to the development of the communist movement.

The question of the need for the Slavic Encyclopedia was raised at almost all international conventions of Slavists, but only as a personal initiative of individual scientists. At the Slavic Congress in Prague in 1998, this issue was discussed at the sideline with the participation of Professor Chval and sculptor V. M. Klykov. It was then set up at Slavic conventions in Minsk, Moscow and Kiev. The decision to create a Slavic encyclopedia at the Institute of Russian Civilization was made in early 2014. Professor S. V. Lebedev compiled the original dictionary of the encyclopedia

New three-volume Slavic encyclopedia, under the editorial pen of Oleg A. Platonov. Photo: rusinst.ru

and increased several times during the work. The preparatory issues were discussed in more detail at the Jubilee All-Slavic Congress in 2017, which was organized by the All-Slavic Association. The historical and ideological basis of the Slavic Encyclopedia became the ideas and thoughts of Russian Slavophiles, as well as participants in the Congress of 1903, especially V. I. Lamanský, A. N. Jasinský, A. S. Lappo-Danilevský; the ethnographic basis was formed by the works of Slavic scientists. The new encyclopedia systematizes hundreds of ethnographic sources, uses materials about folk life, collected by the best ethnographers and experts on folk life, such as: F. Buslaev, M. Gromyko, V. Daľ, N. Jermolov, I. Zabelin, D. Zelenin, A Korinfsky, I. Kalinsky, N. Kostomarov, S. Maksimov, I. Snegirev, I. Sakharov, N. Stepanov, A. Tereshchenko, N. Tolstoy, V. Chistov, I. Shanginova and others, as well as Czech scientists P. Šafárik and L. Niederle.

In the encyclopedia, they used the first ethnolinguistic dictionary in Slavic studies, edited by N. I. Tolstoy, prepared by a large team of Russian scientists at the Institute of Slavic and Balkan Studies. In the part of the encyclopedia devoted to Russian ethnography, the work of D.K. Zelenina is based on Russian Ethnography (Russische / Ostslavische / Volkskunde), which was published in Leipzig in 1927 and in which the ethnography of the Russian people is considered a unity of not even three - Great Russians, Belarusians, Little Russians, but four branches North Russia, South Russia, Small Russia and Belarus.

The monography by D.K. Zelenina largely closed, completed and summarized a long and very full period in the history of Russian ethnography, dating from the 1930s to 1940s. century to 1917. In the new encyclopedia, the Slavic world is presented as a unified civilization, which evolves according to its own scale of coordinates. The spiritual foundations of Slavism are especially considered - as the main connecting link of all Slavic nations, determining their common features.

At the same time, the encyclopedia shows that the development of Slavic civilization took place in conditions of a continuous struggle with Roman-German-Western civilization.

At the same time, in Slavic civilization, communal principles initially prevailed over personal ones, spiritual principles prevailed over material ones, and in the West individualism and rationalism ruled, material principles prevailed over spiritual ones.
Conquest is the main vector of relations between the West and other nations, while the main task of the Slavic tribe was the economic and cultural development of the country and its inhabitants.

The new Slavic Encyclopedia deals with the main ideological issues of Slavic unity and reciprocity. The creators of the publication believe that the publication of this encyclopedia will become an important factor in bringing Slavic nations and states closer together.

Only together with Russia can the Slavic nations overcome the world crisis, the main cause of which was the Western, Roman-Germanic civilization, which led humanity into a deep impasse.

KULTÚRA SLOVA (CULTURE OF THE WORD)

Iveta Vančová, , Executive Editor of Kultúra slova, Slovakia

Kultúra slova is a scientific-popularization journal for language culture and terminology, published in cooperation with the Ľudovít Štúr Institute of Linguistics of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS) and the Linguistic Department of Slovak Matica, with the financial support of the Open Academy. The publisher of the magazine is Slovak Matica.

The aim of the journal is to popularize the results of basic and applied linguistic research, as well as to contribute to increasing the language culture of users of standard Slovak. The journal focuses mainly on the current language, but does not overlook other departments of the national language. He also deals with Slovak dialects, the history of the Slovak language and onomastics. In the structure of the journal, the basic, main part is the section Studies and Articles bringing contributions focused on vocabulary, morphology, syntax, stylistics, spelling and pronunciation. Attention is also paid to domestic and translated art literature and popularization, professional and educational writing in terms of language and the use of language resources.

The occasional section *Terminological Inventories* deals with the establishment of professional terminology from various fields and publishes articles and terminological inventories as the results of the work of terminological commissions. The magazine also has an occasional section Discussions, among the permanent sections is the section *From the well of native language*, in which readers have access to the richness of Slovak vocabulary in terms of historical development and the richness of Slovak dialects vocabulary, in the section *Differences* are shorter articles, *News and reviews* brings current news about linguistic events, analyzes of the language level of linguistic publications, reviews and reviews of various book publications, as well as medallions about personalities of Slovak linguistics, in the section *You asked linguists* answer specific questions meet in the language counseling center of the Institute of Linguistics of Ľ. Štúr of SAS.

In the section *From the Manuscript of the Prepared Dictionary of Contemporary Slovak Language*, employees of the lexicographic department of the institute present passwords prepared in the *Dictionary of Contemporary Slovak Language* and the section *Web counseling* contained the database of the electronic language counseling center, which was created in cooperation with JÚĽŠ SAV and the Sme.sk portal, are published in the form of short contributions. In the section *We Rember*, there are brief medallions of important current anniversaries of linguists.

The main editor of the magazine at present is PhDr. Sibyla Mislovičová, executive editor Mgr. Iveta Vančová (both from the L. Štúr Institute of Linguistics of the Slovak Academy of Sciences). The magazine is published six times a year.

Covers of the periodical ***Kultúra slova***. Photo: author's archive

MATICA´S MAGAZINE „SLOVAKIA“ WITH THE NEW DESIGNAND NAME – „SLOVAKIA - NATIONAL SPECTRUM“ (Slovensko – Národné spektrum)

Zuzana Pavelcová, director of the Compatriot Museum of the Slovak Matica, Slovakia

Covers of the modern professional magazine Slovakia - National Spectrum.
Photo: matica.sk

The magazine *Slovakia* has never had to be presented separately to our compatriots. Several decades of publishing quality content, in the past supplemented by a compatriot supplement, which was honestly prepared by the matica´s editorial office in cooperation with the wider Slovak world, appealed to and inspired several generations of Slovaks living abroad.

Developments in society, competition and efforts to improve, connected with the presentation and promotion of the outputs of Slovak Matica science, determined the trend of transformation of the magazine Slovensko into a professional journal Slovensko with the subtitle National Spectrum.

The modernized magazine has moved mainly in terms of content. It is aimed at those who are looking for knowledge of the history of Slovakia, Slovak literature, ethnography and social sciences. It brings exceptional studies, popularization articles and materials focused on matica´s and national topics processed in an attractive form. The editor-in-chief of the periodical is the young historian Peter Sokolovič: *"Just at a time when words like nation or national pride are associated with negative content in many, Slovak Matica is given the opportunity to lead national defense. It is through the transformation of the long-running periodical Slovakia that the oldest scientific and cultural institution wants to create a modern professional journal and at the same time express a wish that it will attract readers and remain faithful to it."*

The idea of modernizing the periodical was supported by the Chairman of the Slovak Matica Marián Gešper: *"Since in the past matica´s science shaped not only matica´s but also national or civic ideas, it is still necessary to build on a successful past in terms of the development of contemporary Slovak society. Unfortunately, today seems to have forgotten about important Slovak personalities and national events, important historical crossroads and the overall rational lessons from historical practice, both positive and negative. Many important historical factors and movements seem to have disappeared from the collective memory of Slovaks. The combination of research and popularization activities is therefore very important, and the new modern professional journal wants to actively contribute to this."*

The ambition of the editorial office is to publish the magazine twice a year, on eighty pages, supplemented by rich photo documentation and modern graphics. Currently, Slovak Matica has published the first two issues of the magazine, which is meeting with award and success.

Slovakia-The national spectrum has certainly not lost its attractiveness. We believe that it will attract new customers to regular customers who like its modern content.

You can send subscription orders from Slovakia and abroad via the order form, by e-mail, post or report by phone.

All necessary information can be found on the official website of Slovak Matica, www.matica.sk.

WE REMEMBER

Janko Drasković
165th anniversary of death

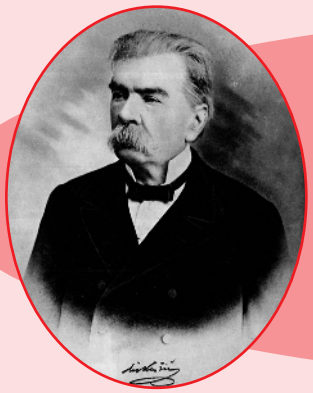
October 20, 1770, Zagreb, today's Croatia - January 14, 1856, Radgona, today's Slovenia

The politician, writer, participant in the Croatian national revival, published a political book, which was the first complete and advanced national program of Croatian cultural and political history, promoted the idea of uniting all Croatian countries into one unit, initiated the „Illyrian reading room", was its first president. Illyrian Matica was formed from that association.
Photo: Janko Drasković
Photo: wikimedia.org

Jan Arnošt Smoler
205th birth anniversary

March 3, 1816 in the village of Łućo, today's Germany - June 13, 1884 in Bautzen, today's Germany, buried in the cemetery Hrodźiško in Bautzen

Leading figure of the Lusatian-Serbian national cultural movement of the 19th century, publisher, protector of contacts with Czechs, Slovaks, Poles, Russians and with Yugoslav nations.
Photo: Jan Arnošt Smoler
Photo: Archive of the Serbian Matica



Franc Miklošič
130th anniversary of death

November 20, 1813, Radomerščak, today's Slovenia - March 7, 1891 Vienna, today's Austria

Slovenian philologist, linguist and slavist, researcher of Slavic and other languages, first Chairman of Slavic philology at the University of Vienna (founded in 1849).
Photo: Franc Miklošič
Photo: wikimedia.org

Bogo Grafenauer
105th birth anniversary

March 16, 1916 Ljubljana, today's Slovenia - May 12, 1995, Ljubljana, today's Slovenia

A Slovenian historian, university professor of the Middle Ages, author of monumental books on Slovenian history (in five volumes, 1954 - 1962 and many others), Chairman of the Slovenian Matica (1978 - 1988), published many books by „unwanted" authors.
Photo: Bogo Grafenauer
Photo: sazu.si

Taras Hryhorovyč Ševčenko
160th death anniversary

March 9, 1814 Morynci, today's Ukraine - March 10, 1861, St. Petersburg, today's Russia

Ukrainian poet, visual artist, founder of modern national literature, a symbol of the country and Ukrainian culture. In 1846 he joined the secret society of the Cyril and Methodius Brotherhood, which wanted to build a Slavic federation. After the revelation of his membership, he was in exile for ten years.
Photo: Taras Hryhorovych Shevchenko
Photo: wikimedia.org