

The Czech Historical Review



Czech Academy
of Sciences



Science 108

Around
Us
Places
of Common
Memory

The Institute of History of the Czech Academy of Sciences (hereinafter IH CAS), with its headquarters in Prague and with branch officers in Brno, České Budějovice and Rome, is one of 54 public research institutions, which comprise the Czech Academy of Sciences, but its establishment and scope predates not only today's Czech Academy of Sciences, but also the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences; it was founded on the basis of a government resolution of 17 February 1920 and began operations in 1921. This non-university institute has developed from the original workplace, intended for the publication of historical sources, into the form of an institution with a universal historiographic mission. Based on Act Nr. 341/2005 Coll. on public research institutions, the IH CAS acquired as of 1 January 2007 the status of a public research institution (in Czech "v.v.i."), conducting research in the field of Czech, Czechoslovak and general history. Current information on the institute can be found at the website <http://www.hiu.cas.cz/en/>.

The priority themes of IH CAS's basic research are internal research programmes that support and complement the topics of selected areas and programmes of the "AV 21 Strategy". The research programmes reflect contemporary theoretical and methodological approaches and international historiographical discourses with an emphasis on the role of the historical sciences in preserving the national memory and forming the national identity and culture in the broadest, multicultural sense. They comprise: ***I. Czech historical space in the European context; II. Selected problems of Czech and Central European historical processes; III. Sources of material and spiritual culture, their accessibility, protection and research.*** The research programmes are continuously refined and supplemented with regard to the development of knowledge in historical sciences at the international level. At the same time, the activities of the IH CAS respect the current needs of Czech society, which include the development of historical awareness in the form of educational processes and the popularization of science. The research programmes build on the results of earlier research programmes from 1999–2004 (*The history of the Czech lands in the international context to 1945*) and 2005–2011 (*Czech historical space in the European context: Diversity, continuity, integration*).

The research programmes and their outputs are partially long-term, continuous (works of encyclopaedic, biographical-lexical and atlas-like nature and editions of historical sources) and partially analytically or synthetically focused programmes of individual research departments, inter-institutional research centres and teams. In this area, the research focuses on deepening the already solved priorities (church history, residential history, modernization of society, society between democracy and totalitarianism, the historical landscape of the Czech lands), their extension by other issues topical in world historiography and opening new topics, including monitoring the continuity of sociocultural and socioeconomic phenomena. The research programmes are developed in a wide range of humanities with an emphasis on interdisciplinary approaches. The most important programmes include trends in contemporary historiography – theory and methodology, continuous

Central historical periodicals play a specific role in the development of historical research and in the cultivation of the historical consciousness of a given society. Since the 19th century, they have had ambitions to create a focus and intersection of research in the historical sciences, they take on an irreplaceable coordinating, informational and ideological role, and they represent the prestige of their field, especially in the country where they are published. On the other hand, these periodicals are closely monitored and they are subject to constant professional and methodological criticism. In countries with a continuously functioning democratic system, they may enter into a sharp controversy over issues of public interest, but they are generally not exposed to pressure and destructive attacks by state power. In contrast, in countries where the government is seized by authoritarian or totalitarian regimes, such magazines are sometimes abused by the ruling ideology or even outright banned. Here we will focus on the vicissitudes in the development of the central body of one of the Central European historiographies – *Český časopis historický* (abbreviated *ČCH*) based on the concurrent English title *The Czech Historical Review* (abbreviated *CHR*). It is a magazine that began publishing in early 1895, coincidentally just a few months before *The American Historical Review*. The ups and downs of the *CHR* are an example of the discontinuity of historiography in countries that fell victim to military interventions, occupations and ideological indoctrinations in the 20th century.

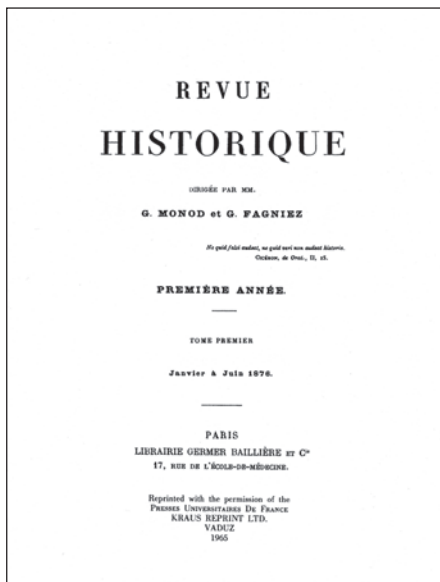
Predecessors

The need for scientific journals has appeared in Central Europe and in the Czech lands since the Enlightenment of the 18th century, but it was only during the 19th century that periodicals devoted to individual fields clearly emerged. In 1827, thanks to the founder of modern Czech historiography, František Palacký (1798–1876), the *Časopis Českého musea* (Magazine of the Czech Museum) was born in Prague (later the *Časopis Musea království Českého* / Magazine of the Museum of the Kingdom of Bohemia) and in 1869 the *Časopis Matice moravské* (Magazine of the Moravian Matrix) in Brno. Both periodicals were initially polythematic, although they gradually turned still more towards humanities. At that time, however, still more importance was gained by specialised periodicals such as *Památky archaeologické a místopisné* (Archaeological and Topographical Monuments, 1854), devoted not only to archaeology and historical topography but also to art history and regional history, and also by the magazine for the history of Czech Germans, *Mittheilungen des Vereines für Geschichte der Deutschen in Böhmen* (1862).

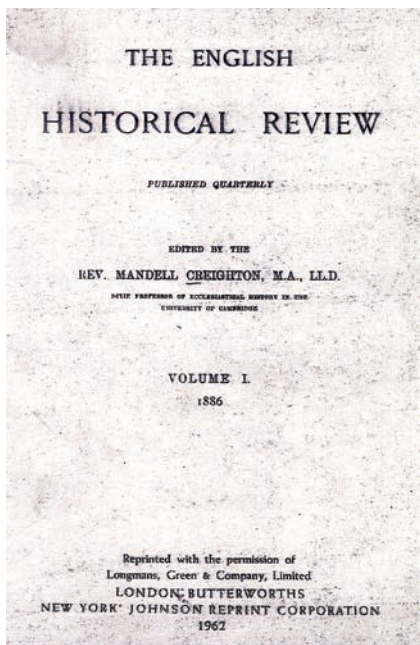
The rise of general education, which could be obtained at grammar schools and, in an elite form, also at the Prague Faculty of Arts, together with the growing importance of historicism in societal development, forced the establishment of such a magazine in which representatives of all historical disciplines at the university met with ambitious students and high school professors. The focus of these efforts became the Historical Club, which in 1872 brought together Prague students of history and which gradually grew into the first professional organisation of Czech historians. One of its members and a short-lived president of the Club Antonín Rezek (1853–1909), a young man with good organisational skill, came up with a proposal to publish a “scientific



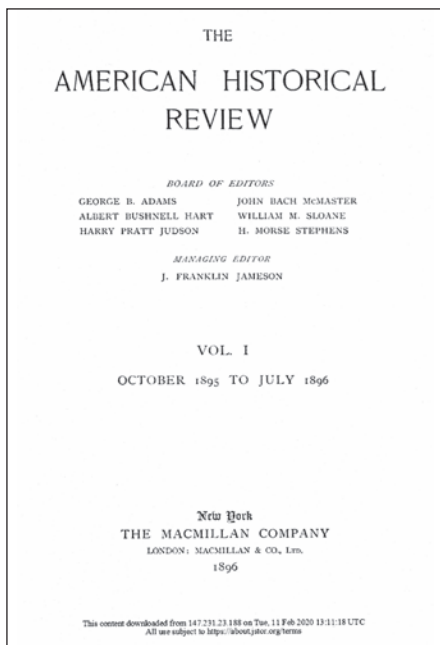
Historische Zeitschrift, vol. 4 (1860)



Revue historique, vol. 1 (1876), re-edition 1965



The English Historical Review, vol. 1 (1886),
re-edition 1962

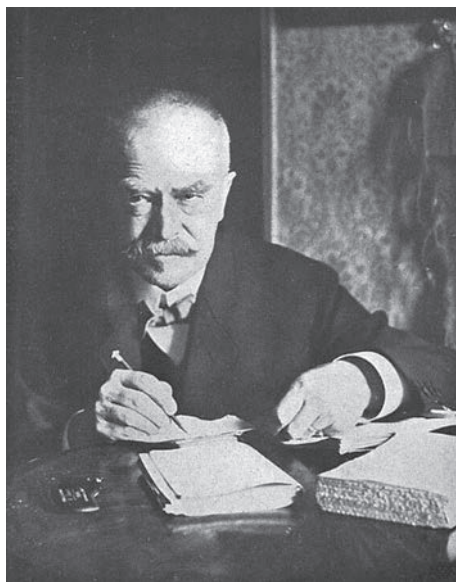


The American Historical Review, vol. 1
(1895-1896)

collection of history and geography” as early as 1874. However, he encountered a lack of funds, as the circle of potential subscribers was still too narrow.

However, Rezek did not give up, and when, eight years later, as an extraordinary professor at the University of Prague, he found the support of the leading Prague publisher Jan Otto, he founded the *Sborník historický* (Historical Almanac). He managed to publish it for four years (1883–1886) as a regular magazine with parts containing articles, reviews and news, bringing texts from political, legal, social, church and cultural history. At a sufficient distance from current politics, the editor managed to keep the periodical, published four to six times a year, out of the then ongoing controversy and to gain contributors from all generations. However, even then it did not reach the desired profitability, so at the end of 1886 he stopped the unprofitable enterprise in agreement with the publisher. However, he did not give up on the basic idea.

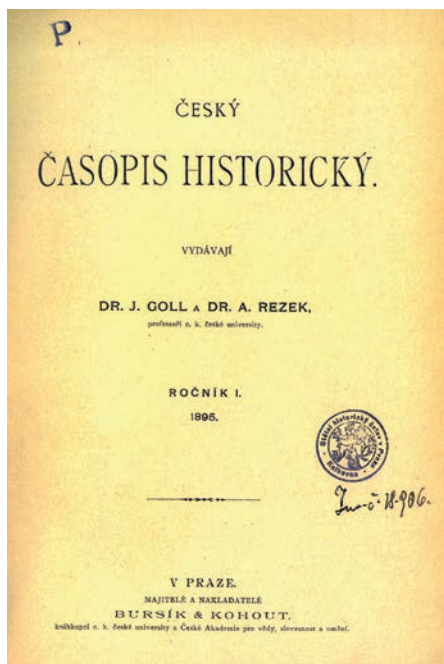
The efforts of Czech historians to achieve having their own journal were also a matter of professional honour – they reflected the competition of the main university disciplines. This was exemplified by the Union of Czech Mathematicians and Physicists (founded in 1862), which has been published since 1872 by the *Časopis pro pěstování matematiky a fysiky* (Journal for the Cultivation of Mathematics and Physics); the Union of Czech Philologists (founded in 1868) was also presented with its *Listy filologické a paedagogické* (Letters of Philology and Pedagogy) starting from 1873. However, the growing associating activity of Czech scholars was not the only external stimulus for Czech historians desiring European recognition. The desire to compete with colleagues abroad was becoming an



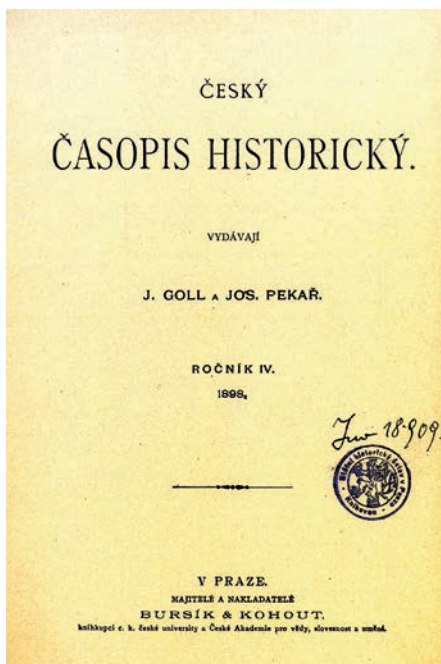
Jaroslav Goll (Photograph Collection, IH CAS)



Antonín Rezek (Photograph Collection, IH CAS)



The Czech Historical Review, vol. 1 (1895) – the first issue of the newly established journal, edited by Jaroslav Goll and Antonín Rezek



The Czech Historical Review, vol. 4 (1898), edited by Jaroslav Goll and Josef Pekař

increasingly serious motive. There already existed a model of a modern magazine created by historians in Germany (*Historische Zeitschrift*, 1859) and then in France (*Revue historique*, 1876). *The English Historical Review* (1886) was soon added to the strong Western European role models, in which the English opted for a name with a closer linguistic-territorial specification. Unlike the Poles, who chose the name “quarterly” (*Kwartalnik Historyczny* 1887), the Czechs went – regarding the title of the magazine – the same way as the English and the Americans – and chose the name *The Czech Historical Review* (1895).

“We consider it more important than writing thick books, that’s why we took on editing”

These programming words were written in January 1895 by Antonín Rezek, a professor at the Faculty of Arts in Prague, who put his organisational skills into the effort to create a periodical for Czech history, corresponding to European standards. He emphasised his interest in the strong rise of Czech historiography through purposeful university teaching to be facilitated by a jointly created journal. Also his editorial colleague, an excellent pedagogue Jaroslav Goll (1846–1929),

when he recapitulated the first decade of the *CHR*, emphasised the importance of the journal as a tool for publishing successful qualification theses based on the faculty seminar. This was understandable, as there was only one Czech university and the Prague Historical Seminary at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries was an unattainable focus of modernisation of Czech historiography. However, Goll and Rezek also consciously chose subdued words so as not to over-provoke conservative opponents, who saw *CHR* also as an unfair competition, especially against the older Magazine of the Museum of the Kingdom of Bohemia.

In a joint statement from November 1894, in which they announced to the Czech public the establishment of the *CHR*, Goll and Rezek expressed much broader ambitions. They did not want to be satisfied with “independent and original works from all fields of historical research” in relation to the past of the Czech lands, but they also thought of history in general; it was not enough for them to register all domestic and foreign productions regarding Czech history, but they wanted to capture “all the most important manifestations of world historical literature”. And they were no longer confined to the environment of one university, but intended to make the *CHR* an “essential body for all researchers in the field of history, a good and reliable guide for all the numerous history lovers in our nation who want to see what is happening in the field worldwide”. Although not explicitly stated, there was a clear ambition to ensure the *CHR*’s position as the main mediator between Czech and world historiography.

The alliance of two leading experts in Czech, Central European (then considered “Austrian”) and general history, people with considerable social authority, was decisive for achieving the goal. While Rezek had the energy of a persistent organiser, seven years older Goll was the most influential figure among historians at the Czech University in Prague, a thinker with a poetic background who deliberately created his own science school on the principles of critical positivism and who had a truly European perspective. As a specialist in medieval history, he had a great counterpart in Rezek, who was interested in modern history up to the contemporary present in the 19th century. Goll’s political restraint was faced with Rezek’s temperament, always ready to engage in public affairs. In addition, there was a certain tension of opinion between the complementary liberal Goll and the conservative Rezek. For the beginning of the magazine, it was then hardly possible to imagine a more convenient constellation, especially since Goll managed to gain pro-bono sponsorship in the Prague publishing house Bursík & Kohout. The common interest of the founders proved itself even later, when Rezek, as the Ministerial Counsellor, joined the civil service in 1896 and used his position in Vienna to obtain a subsidy from the Ministry of Cultus and Education for the *CHR*. The situation was summed up by Josef Pekař’s later words that during the founding of *CHR*, “Rezek’s prompt courage was supported by Goll’s determination”.

Entry of the *CHR* among the journals of European historical science

Already the first year of *CHR* proved that the editorial work was undertaken not only by scholars who were not only generally capable but also ready for creation of a well-prepared journal. With a small number of Czech historians at the time,

the volume (of 426 pages) with nineteen studies, nine shorter articles, more than fifty reports on literature (including reviews) and a number of other small pieces of information testified about a relatively wide range of authors and topics. In addition to the Czech and Czech-German area, the information range also included Austrian, Italian, South Slavonic and Anglo-Saxon topics, and then in subsequent years it expanded – especially in foreign literature – to Polish, Russian, Imperial German, French, Belgian, Scandinavian, Balkan, but also indirectly American and Far Eastern territories. Although it was mostly just a few-lines glosses, it was obvious that especially the efforts of Jaroslav Goll and the first generation of his students are driven by the fundamental effort to bring knowledge about selected topics of world history and their current historiographical rendering to the Czech environment. To expand the geographical horizon, they used a section which briefly commented on the content of not only Czech but also foreign journals, including those such as *Historische Zeitschrift*, *Revue historique* and *The English Historical Review*.

The solid structure of the *CHR* crystallised very quickly. It consisted of standard studies, smaller articles, reviews, and reports ranging in character between a brief biographical or bibliographic record and a brief commentary. At first, *CHR* appeared to be a magazine with wide range of authors, open to all sides. In addition to the medievalist Goll and the modernist researcher Rezek, the magazine was already from the beginning contributed to by pupils and graduates of the Historical Seminar at the Faculty of Arts in Prague, for whom the magazine was to be created. However, members of the older generation and scientifically disposed archivists were also present. An invitation to collaborate was accepted by historians of literature, including the famous poet Jaroslav Vrchlický. The authors were soon joined by scientists – whether they dealt with Czech topics such as the Russian historian Nikolai Vladimirovich Jastrebov, or the topics of general history.

However, the main word was gradually given to recent graduates of the Historical Seminar, some of whom were also sent to study at the Vienna Institute for Austrian History, to more distant foreign universities or to the Vatican archives. They became the rising stars of their fields and thematic directions – art historian Max Dvořák, representative of auxiliary historical sciences Gustav Friedrich, medievalist Václav Novotný, researcher of church and social history Kamil Krofta, expert on Counter-Reformation topics Bohumil Navrátil and historian of the Slavic world Jaroslav Bidlo. They were methodologically better equipped than the generation of the older disciples of the once influential conservative historian Václav Vladivoj Tomek. From their teachers Goll and Rezek they adopted new thematic stimuli and a critical approach to sources, from Goll they adopted especially the idea of searching for the organic genesis of historical phenomena and their causal connections, to some extent positivist distance of history from current political problems and usually also higher demands on literary rendering of historical works.

In the group of talented young historians, born between 1868 and 1876, an exceptional couple stood out, surpassing the others in their abilities, versatility and reach of their own life's work. Both later professors of the University of Prague – Josef Pekař (1870–1937) and Josef Šusta (1874–1945) – researched large topics from



Josef Pekař (Photograph Collection, IH CAS)



Josef Šusta (Photograph Collection, IH CAS)

the Middle Ages to their present and were even personally close to each other, but in their youth they took a different path. While Pekař stayed at home after returning from foreign studies, Šusta was a globetrotter and spent much of his young years as a researcher in Rome. Just because Pekař was four years older, Goll showed a clear preference at a critical moment. When Rezek gave up co-editorial position at the *CHR* in 1897, Goll chose Pekař as his collaborator. However, this disappointed other ambitious students, who also longed for a prestigious position next to their master. In particular, Novotný and Navrátil, later Bidlo and Friedrich turned away from *CHR* and transferred the focus of their publishing activities to other professional magazines, mainly to the *Časopis Matice moravské* in Brno.

The breakup not only had a personal and career background, but also expressed fundamental differences in the approach to history and the relationship between historiography and the present. While Václav Novotný, his pupils and followers sought to make the most of the sources for a detailed factual account of the supposedly reconstructable past, Josef Pekař and historians close to him were aware of the relativity of historical knowledge and the role of its interpretation. Although opinions on philosophy of history and contemporary politics had many variants and changed over time, the first group outlined a position close to the politically active sociologist T. G. Masaryk (1850–1937) and his pragmatic conception of history, while the second group argued with his updated version of history. Thus, two streams of modern

Czech historiography were created, while Pekař's line had its tribune in the *CHR*, where, however, the discussion was not closed to contributions of authors with different opinion.

At the beginning of the 20th century, it was obvious that the *CHR* was ranked among solid European magazines. In a broader comparison, however, its permanent disadvantage remained the fact that it was printed almost exclusively in Czech, and then it was not customary to publish even foreign language summaries. The possibilities of international communication were thus considerably limited, although in one case the editor made an exception as early as 1912. In the hope that "we will achieve the consent of our readers", he published an article in the French original on the controversial topic of the Austro-Hungarian dualism (1867), written by Louis Eisenmann, a professor of Slavic studies in Dijon. Undoubtedly, the aim was to reach all interested readers in the Habsburg monarchy, but from the point of view of editorial practice it was a step many decades ahead of its time.

In the long period from the end of the 19th to the middle of the 20th century, information about events in European historiography flowed mainly in one direction – from abroad to the Czech environment. In this sense, there was an excellent review section of the *CHR*, which submitted several dozen reviews and a number of reports on events in foreign historiographies every year. Analyses of German, Polish, Russian, French, Italian and English works remained at the forefront, but there were also reviews and even summary treatises on the state of smaller historiographies, such as Hungarian and Danish. In particular, Goll, Pekař and Šusta exercised their broad perspective and established the genre of review, which is difficult in terms of selection of reviewed subjects as well as difficult in conception, as a tool of criticism and also the reception of external stimuli. Moreover *CHR* was able to capture many of the most important achievements of contemporary humanities, incorporate them into the process of learning about the past and – as exemplified in the texts of Josef Šusta – render them in a way that brought not only education but also a great literary experience.

CHR and developing the infrastructure of Czech historiography

Although Jaroslav Goll remained in the first place of the *CHR*'s editorial team until the end of the Great War, starting in 1898 the de facto supremacy was gained and strengthened by his pupil and successor Josef Pekař. In contrast to Goll, who published less, Pekař was characterised by plentiful production. He was able to write remarkable studies, and published entire monographs in multiple annual series (on medieval legends, on early modern finance); it gained readers through analytically penetrating polemics and sharp reviews; when he embarked on obituaries, he demonstrated a rare observational talent, psychological immersion, and ability to render deceased historians in unusually vivid colours. Pekař, a man without a family, lived by and for history, but especially for "his" magazine. During his editorial office, which lasted until the mid-1930s, *CHR* gained a high reputation, but it became a publishing base for only one – albeit very important – part of the Czech historical community.

In addition to maintaining a representative circle of authors, the second necessary precondition for the long-term existence of a demanding scientific journal was its financial security. The model journals, which originated in Germany, France, Britain and the USA, had a much more extensive research background and, due to their publication in congress languages, they were based on incomparably more favourable material conditions. Although *CHR* received some support from the Ministry of Education and also from the Czech Academy of Sciences and Arts, it remained permanently in deficit and depended on the willingness of the Bursík & Kohout publishing house to cover this loss from other sources.

Josef Pekař, although otherwise a very impractical man, solved this question in a way corresponding to his extraordinary intellect and work performance. He understood that he had to reorganise the Czech historical community and also to influence the public so that its substantial part would become the necessary background. In his thirties, he was already a scholar and teacher with unquestionable authority, so in May 1904 he easily got himself elected chairman of the Historical Club, until then a community of mostly students and some graduates of history at the Prague Faculty of Arts. Pekař fundamentally reorganised the somewhat unstable association, whose leadership changed at a rate corresponding with changing interests of students, and turned it into a professional association in which the decisive position was taken by university professors and which attracted the interest of experts in archives, libraries and other institutions, but also of relatively numerous high school professors of history (and indirectly their pupils).

Josef Pekař remained in the position of the chairman until his death in 1937 and he became not only the head but also the mover of the Historical Club. As his initial motive was to secure the *CHR*, from the eleventh year, at the beginning of 1905, he transferred the magazine from a private publisher to the property of the club. He made no secret of the fact that he considers publishing of *CHR* to be the most important task of the association and also the organisational focus of scientific activity in the entire Czech historiography. In an effort to ensure a permanent information network, *CHR* decided to supplement the *Bibliografie české historie* (Bibliography of Czech History), registering all (including foreign) literature on the history of the Czech lands, and in 1905 Pekař prepared its first volume. He wisely took advantage of the fact that historians' most widespread and commercially advantageous publications are history textbooks, and he concentrated their publication in the Historical Club. He himself wrote a textbook for Czech grammar schools and high schools, *Dějiny naší říše se zvláštním zřetelem ke královstvím v říšské radě zastoupeným* (History of Our Empire, with special regard to the kingdoms represented in the Imperial Council, 1914), which was later in 1921 transformed into the popular handbook *Dějiny československé pro nejvyšší třídy škol středních* (History of Czechoslovakia for the Upper Classes of Secondary Schools). Together with other textbooks (especially with the collective work *Všeobecný dějepis pro vyšší třídy škol středních* / General History for Upper Classes of Secondary Schools), a profitable publishing activity emerged. It secured the funds for the publication of the *CHR* and even created a reserve for the future.

“A new era has come for our historiography”

Jaroslav Goll fundamentally tried to keep reserved neutrality of historical science in relation to politics. But it was not easy to run a magazine in this sense, which by its nature necessarily touched on public affairs. For the first time, *CHR* encountered this fact four years after its establishment. The entire Habsburg monarchy lived by celebrating the 50th anniversary of the accession of Francis Joseph I to the throne. Scholars could not remain silent for opportunistic reasons, and in December 1898 they published – with significant Pekař's participation – a magnificent *Památník na oslavu padesátiletého panovnického jubilea Jeho Veličenstva císaře a krále Františka Josefa I. Vědecký a umělecký rozvoj v národě českém 1848–1898* (Memorial to celebrate the 50th anniversary of His Majesty Emperor and King Francis Joseph I. Scientific and artistic development in Czech nation 1848–1898) at the Czech Academy of Emperor Francis Josef for Science, Literature and Art. When Goll and Pekař considered how to commemorate an anniversary in the *CHR* that did not even mention the hard-won democratic revolution or the emperor's lost wars, they focused on this monument and on emphasizing scientific progress over the past half century. The slogans *Science – Progress – Nation* and, in the spirit of celebratory optimism, also the history-conditioned “joyful look into the future” came to the fore. At the same time, they expressed the hope that such an evaluation “would never declare criticism, muffled by the ceremonial mood or later experience to be an illusion”. A critical look at history commanded them to maintain a certain scepticism, but even these two great scholars had no idea how the situation would change in just sixteen years, and with the outbreak of the First World War the celebrated monarch would receive a completely different assessment.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the young generation could no longer maintain a distance from public affairs, and in their interpretation of recent history they necessarily approached politics. The current questions have been brought by the last four centuries of Czech history, as they were connected with the existence of the Habsburg monarchy. The monarchy, which was long divided by the emancipation efforts of the Central European nations, but also by the militant policies of the Viennese government and generality, raised doubts, but required loyalty during wartime. The editors of the *CHR* kept their distance, and when at the end of 1916 they had to take a position regarding the death of Francis Joseph I, they elegantly resolved it with a six-line announcement in which they described the emperor and king as a “powerful supporter of science and art”. It was just a formal favour, nothing more. However, two years later in the fall of 1918, a clear position had to be taken on the new, republican regime and its highest representative.

Although Goll was a comrade-in-arms of T. G. Masaryk in 1886 in a bitter cultural struggle for a true interpretation of supposedly medieval forgeries, the *Královédvorský and Zelenohorský Manuscripts*, he later broke with him and did not share Masaryk's so-called realistic path in practical politics. Some of Goll's pupils, including Pekař, opposed Masaryk's philosophy of Czech history. Before the First World War, the *CHR* could thus appear as one of the focal points of controversy against the views of the next President Liberator. In the precarious situation of the 1918 coup, Goll resigned from (more or less formal) co-editorial activity, while

Pekař was able to cope with the new situation more flexibly. In December 1918, he inserted in the *CHR* a *Greeting* to the age of freedom, which “will give us new history”, because “the struggle for Czech independence was led mainly by Czech history”. Without giving up his views on history, in a ceremonial lecture on the first anniversary of the founding of the Czechoslovak Republic, addressed in ancient Karolinum, the centre of Prague Charles University, on 28 October 1919, he outlined the changes in the European situation and the disintegration of Austria-Hungary, sharply criticised the “immense injustice committed in Czech lands by Vienna and the Habsburgs”, and praised the independent state. Pekař emphasised the importance of patriotism, national ideas and positive nationalism, while defending the rights of national minorities and “tolerable cooperation in the interests of a common homeland”. The historian, who has always researched mainly older history, but was intensely interested in current political developments, provided a proof of his versatile mastery. In the *CHR*, he also opened a study of the most contemporary history, in which the lecture was published in 1919.

The establishment of the Czechoslovak state brought significant changes to the organisation of historical science. New universities were founded in Brno and Bratislava (1919), where Pekař’s pupils got engaged, earlier Viennese studies were replaced by the postgraduate State Archival School in Prague for Czech historians (1919), and the State Historical Institute of Publishing began its publishing activities (1921), and also new magazines began to be published (including periodicals focused on auxiliary historical sciences /*Časopis Archivní školy* – Magazine of the Archival School, 1923/ and on contemporary history /*Naše revoluce* – Our revolution, 1923/), a generous reorganisation of archives was expected. All this offered previously unimaginable employment opportunities for scientists in the field. Under the changed conditions, *CHR* coped with increased competition on the magazine market, and its editor had to accommodate ambitious representatives of the young generation. In 1921, as a separate supplement to the *CHR*, he enabled them to publish a set of articles *Archivnictví a organisace práce historické* (Archives and Organisation of Historical Work), and he had previously offered a share in the editorial office to a number of other historians. After overcoming the post-war unrest, it turned out to be a mere episode, and the current management system of the magazine was soon restored.

However, the shifts occurred in the composition of the author’s circle and partly in the thematic focus. A younger generation of associate professors and professors at Czechoslovak universities emerged, which was to significantly influence the development of the *CHR* in the following decades. Václav Chaloupecký (1882–1951), operating at the Comenius University in Bratislava, said, referring to French historiography, that “each generation should give its own take on history to the nation” and that it is now the turn of historians born in the 1880s. These words from 1922 were connected with the fundamental programmatic intention to create Czechoslovak history on the principle of Czechoslovakism as the history of a nation that fulfilled two of its goals – liberation from the Habsburgs and the unification of Czechs and Slovaks. František Hrubý (1887–1943), an archivist from Brno and a later professor of history at the Masaryk University in Brno, focused on the struggle of the estates against the Habsburg re-Catholicisation and centralisation, opened

new perspectives on economic history and emphasised the role of Moravia. Karel Štloukal (1887–1957), a pupil of Šusta and then his successor at the Prague Faculty of Arts, used his research experience at the newly founded Czechoslovak Historical Institute in Rome and developed critical research in the field of early modern church history. Each of these protagonists of the middle generation brought to the *CHR* conflicting themes that were close to the current tendency of “deaustrisation”, the formation of the nation state and criticism of the Catholic Church.

On the one hand, the magazine fought a long-term struggle for a liberal interpretation of church history and set itself against the clerical current of Czech historiography, on the other hand, he led Pekař’s struggle for the “meaning of Czech history”. The *CHR* remained the basis for discussion, but at the same time it brought exploratory studies on a wide range of topics from the Middle Ages to the present (including the development of Subcarpathian Russia, newly included in “domestic” history). Some of them came from newcomer researchers, including Bedřich Mendl, bringing the suggestions of the French school *Annales*, Josef Matoušek was well versed in Italian historiography, Jan Slavík had an interest in modern Russian history, there was the Baroque historian Zdeněk Kalista and historians of modern history Karel Kazbunda, Jan Opočenský and Jaroslav Werstadt. The overlap into neighbouring fields, especially literary history, has been preserved. On the other hand, there were not many foreign contributors, but in addition to texts from the Slavic environment (with constant attention to Polish, Yugoslav and Russian topics), articles by British historians Robert Fitzgibbon Young (1928) and Robert William Seton-Watson (1929) appeared in Czech translation. The European outlook was constantly ensured by a good review section.

But even that was not enough now, as previously unsuspected pressures arose that did not bode well. Thirty-two-year-old associate professor Josef Matoušek, one of the first victims of the murder of the Czech intelligentsia on 17 November 1939, shortly before dealt in the *CHR* with the topic of *Fascism and Italian historiography* (Fašismus a italské dějepisectví, 1938). He traced the methods by which the totalitarian regime seeks to control the historical consciousness of the population – by completely subordinating research institutions to the fascist state and promoting fascist concepts and ideological guidelines in interpreting history: somewhat more freely in scholarship, but strictly in popularizing and teaching history. Josef Pekař, who was following German historiography closely all his life, made his comments on the changes in the European take on historiography in one of his last reflections entitled *O nový dějepis v Třetí říši* (A New History in the Third Reich, 1935). He revealed in it the ominous changes that had taken place since the Nazis came to power, and he foresaw a warning of the dangers of interpreting history if it was controlled by Goebbels propaganda. He did not reject engaged historiography, but insisted that “in all this the historian should pay particular attention to the truths, i.e. knowledge reliably examined, to which the path leads mainly... by expertise, hard work and determination to work and judge in a spirit of objectivity”. Two historians, representatives of the older and younger generations, sensed an impending storm and both left the credo at the end of their lives, which adorned *The Czech Historical Review* at the time of the onset of Fascism and Nazism.

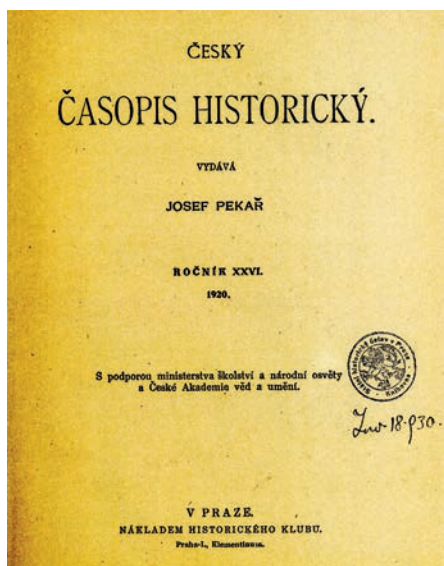
The magazine's first ban

In the last years of his life, Josef Pekař became ill and he no longer had the strength to independently manage the *CHR*. From 1935, its co-editors became his lifelong friend Josef Šusta, Pekař's pupil František Hrubý and a long-time devoted collaborator Josef Klik. The content of the magazine and its author's circle did not change fundamentally, but when Pekař died on 23 January 1937, it was clear that it was an end of an unrepeatable forty years with an exceptional personality for whom *CHR* was not only a public service but also a full-fledged part of private life. Josef Šusta, who took over after Pekař, did not lag behind Pekař intellectually or artistically, but was already in a completely different life situation; while Pekař began alongside Goll at the age of twenty-eight, Šusta was over sixty and was a living classic, burdened with many other organisational responsibilities. However, he was all the more able to appreciate his congenial predecessor: "It was above all the artist Pekař, who found his way to souls with that special gift of plastic shaping of everything he grasped... At the same time, he was an exponent of a truly great spirit, which permeated all his works, and our environment, albeit subconsciously, desires such greatness. Because we encounter a good average everywhere in our country, but the supreme phenomena, saturated with what is more than talent, have always been so rare in our nation..."

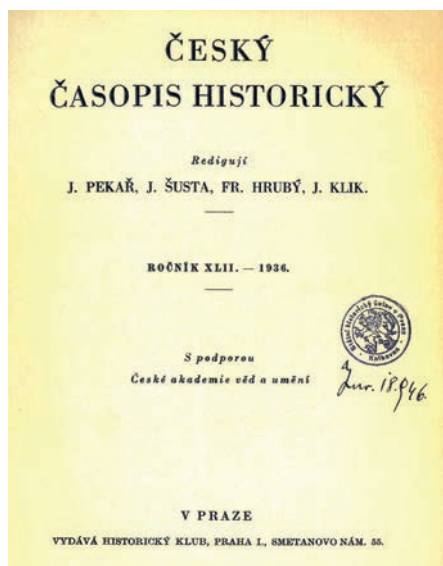
Šusta wrote these words at a time when the clouds of dictatorial regimes were gathering over Czechoslovakia and when he himself watched the growing global crisis with apprehension. He clearly formulated the adoption of Pekař's legacy: "To continue in his light footpath, as far as he can go, and to pass on as his legacy to another line of younger collaborators the strong will for truth and love for the nation that formed the essence of Josef Pekař's being together with the most valuable core of true humanity..."

Under normal circumstances, the forces of the editorial trio would undoubtedly be enough to form a high-quality magazine. Šusta's view of European historiography supported the expansion of the panorama of topics in the article and review sections. The share of topics from the Polish, South Slavic, Ukrainian and Russian history as well as Italian and French was increasing. The sympathetic aspect of the year 1938 was the fact that two articles by female historians appeared in the dominantly masculine environment – an article by Milada Paulová about the work of Slavist Jaroslav Bidlo and an article by Jiřina Joachimová-Votočková about the relationship of Agnes of Bohemia to St. Clare. In the following year, 1939, Jiřina Popelová published a study titled *Filosofie dějin, její úkoly a rozdělení* (Philosophy of History, its tasks and structure), which was arranged already as an introductory article, thus establishing permanent future participation of Czech female scientists on the seminal historical journal.

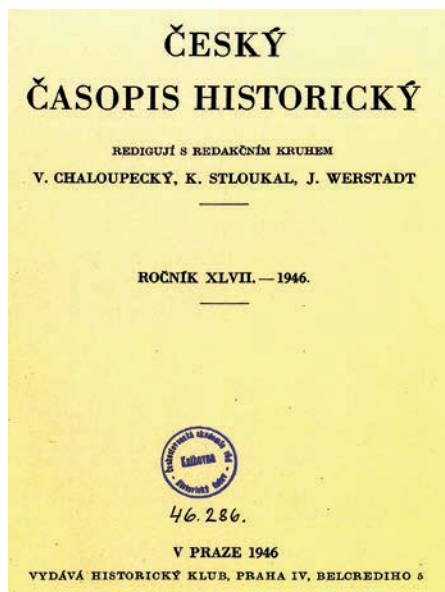
The Nazi occupation and the outbreak of World War II marked a sharp cut in the development of the *CHR*. The scope decreased, only three studies were published in 1940, including an essay by Edgar Stanislav Hauner, a young scientist who was shot dead by the Germans for resistance activities two years later, dealing with the explosive topic of *Rovnováha velmocí a rozdělení zájmových sfér* (Balance of powers and the division of spheres of interest). Among the authors of smaller texts – no doubt thanks to Šusta's position as the president of the Czech Academy of Sciences and Arts – there was an extraordinarily wide range of excellent experts from related disciplines – archaeology



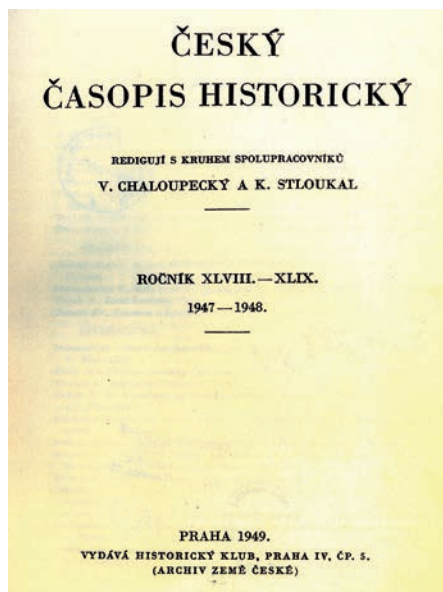
The Czech Historical Review, vol. 26 (1920),
edited by Josef Pekař



The Czech Historical Review, vol. 42 (1936),
edited by Josef Pekař, Josef Šusta, František
Hrubý and Josef Klik



The Czech Historical Review, vol. 47 (1946),
edited by Václav Chaloupecký, Karel Stloukal
and Jaroslav Werstadt



The Czech Historical Review, vol. 48-49
(1947-1948), edited by Václav Chaloupecký and
Karel Stloukal

(Jan Filip), numismatics (Gustav Skalský, Emanuela Nohejlová-Prátová), art history (Oldřich J. Blažíček), classical philology (Bohumil Ryba), linguistics (Vladimír Šmilauer), literary studies (Antonín Škarka) and Slavonic studies (Julius Heidenreich-Dolanský). Šusta's editorial activity was clearly directed towards a magazine that would cover historical sciences in a breath that had been unattainable until then. However, it was only a generously conceived swan song, as the German occupation administration banned further publishing of *CHR* in May 1941.

The path to the second ban

The *CHR* entered the first post-war years tragically weakened. The Moravian historian František Hrubý died prematurely already in February 1943, Josef Šusta took his own life in May 1945 under the pressure of an unjust accusation of collaboration. The magazine was taken over by two of the most important interwar contributors – Václav Chaloupecký and Karel Stloukal – and together with them (only in 1946) also the historian Jaroslav Werstadt (1888–1970) specialised on modern history, who was then the mayor of the Historical Club. In addition, a twenty-member editorial circle was to be formally established, including two women – the philosopher Jiřina Popelová-Otáhalová and the historian Milada Paulová.

As an introduction to the renewed annual edition of 1946, Chaloupecký wrote the *Greeting to the New Freedom*. It was an expression of the joy of liberation and also an embarrassment about the future, the painful knowledge that an independent state lasted only twenty years. It resounded with the trauma of Munich in 1938, when the Czechs were handed over to the enemy by their allies as an “almost unknown nation”. In the author's opinion, in order not to repeat such a catastrophe in the future, Czech historians are obliged to “show Europe and the world that our history was not an insignificant element in European life and that we were not and are not foreigners in the history of cultural humanity”. Lost illusions about the Western Allies were to be replaced by a hope in protection from the East: “After a thousand years, we are returning to an immediate proximity to the Russian people and the Russian state... After centuries of our often unwilling association with Western Europe and especially with German West, we are coming back to the family of Slavic nations... the Slavic idea in the new Russian version then represents our guarantee, that our homeland will never become part of Greater Germany again and that we will be able to enjoy our sincere Europeanism while maintaining our national identity.”

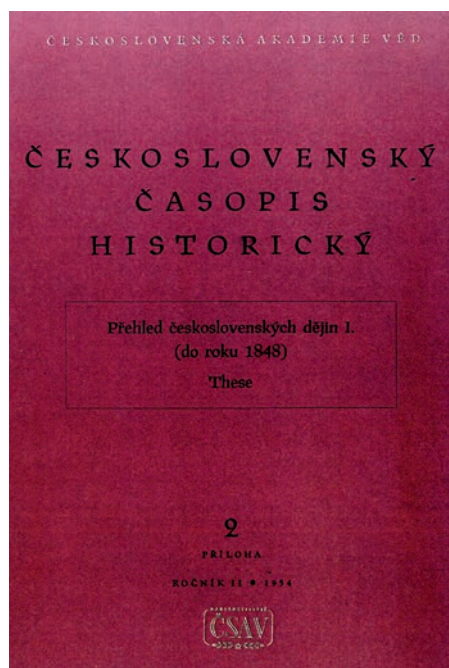
The editorial office of *CHR* entered the post-war years with the motto of truth, freedom, humanity and peace in the community of Slavic nations. It was to learn shortly, how misplaced were such hopes. However, it first paid tribute to deceased historians by publishing their unpublished works, and it also published the Werstadt's analysis of distorted views on Czech history, an evaluation of English and American works on Slavic history by Otakar Odložilík, and information on Polish and Soviet literature. Based on the need for international communication about Czech history, the real innovation was represented by the Russian and English summaries, which finally introduced the essential practice of foreign language summaries.

In the years 1947–1949, two volumes were published in which the editors tried in vain to meet the new era of articles on the workers' movement, emphasis on

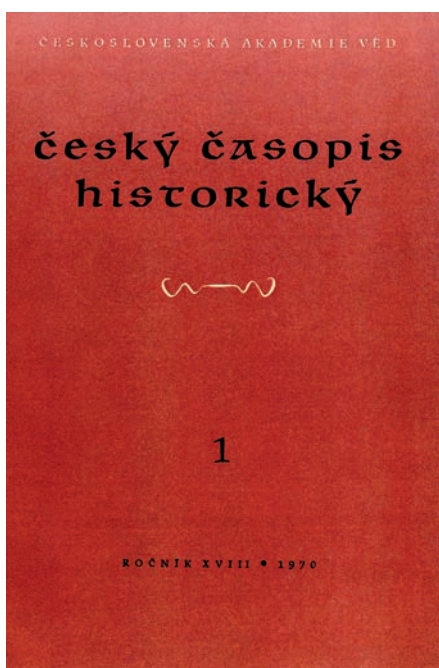
Slavic themes, reporting on Soviet literature and drawing attention to the writings of communist leaders Klement Gottwald and Zdeněk Nejedlý. This deficit could not be made up even by an article by the Dutch Marxist historian Jan Romein titled *Dialektika pokroku* (The Dialectic of Progress, 1949), which was readily translated by Josef Polišenský. The Marxist members of the editorial board Václav Čejchan and Jaroslav Charvát, who controlled the editorial board from the inside, were not satisfied with the “insufficiently progressive” tendency of the magazine and after February 1948 they contributed to its demise. After unsuccessful negotiations for rescue, the Historical Club was officially deprived of the right to publish in January 1951, and *The Czech Historical Review* was officially closed already for the second time.

The Czechoslovak Historical Review

Although the *CHR* was destroyed by the communist regime, its position in historiography remained so firmly entrenched that the new regime accepted it. Without an explicit reference to continuity, it was replaced by the *Československý časopis historický* – *The Czechoslovak Historical Review* (ČsČH/CsHR), which was



The Czechoslovak Historical Review, vol. 2 (1954) – Supplement: Outline of the Czechoslovak History, vol. 1, edited by František Graus; an attempt at a Marx-Leninist-Stalinist interpretation of the Czech and Slovak history



The Czech Historical Review, vol. 18 (1970), No 1 – the only issue of the journal published under this title in the period 1953–1989

published in years 1953–1989 as the central body of the Czechoslovak historiography. Its name was as paradoxical as the designation of the umbrella publishing institution – the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences established in 1952. Slovak historiography never merged with the Czech one into one unit, so a parallel *Historický časopis* (*Historical Review*) was founded in Bratislava also in 1953. Although some Slovak historians were formally invited to the editorial board of the *CsHR* and occasionally published Slovak articles, in fact it was still a Czech periodical, published under the auspices of the Institute of History (in the 1970s and 1980s then under the Institute of Czechoslovak and World History of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences).

Thirty-seven annual editions of *CsHR* became a reflection of the times. On the one hand, this academic journal somewhat opened up strictly limited international communication at the Soviet bloc level by means of summaries published mostly in Russian and German (sometimes also in English and French), but on the other hand it was bound by at least pretended mandatory affiliation to the doctrine of Marxism-Leninism and historical materialism. What the original *CHR* defended itself against, namely partisan politicisation, became a characteristic feature of especially the first years of the *CsHR* and also manifested in monstrous editorials from the period of neo-Stalinist “normalisation” of the 1970s and 1980s. While *CHR* maintained its distance from the Habsburg monarchy and dared to disagree with the philosophical views of the Czechoslovak president, the *CsHR* came to life with an ode to “our greatest contemporary historian” and President of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, the Communist Minister of Education Zdeněk Nejedlý, and to the famous Soviet historical science”. To this prospect of the sovietisation of Czech historiography, the editors added a programme called *For Marxist Historical Science* and an ode by the medievalist František Graus on Stalin’s work *Economic Problems of Socialism in the USSR*; in it, the author condemned older historical science and emphasised that “it was only the teachings of the classics of Marxism-Leninism that finally enabled a scientific study of the past and made it possible to examine its principles.”

Two historians later also recognised in the West – the editor-in-chief František Graus (1921–1989) and director of the Institute of History Josef Macek (1922–1991) – they met the trend of dogmatic Stalinism and the Sovietisation of Czech science, and this also shaped the *CsHR*. It was no exception in the Soviet bloc, but a comparison with the pre-war *CHR* provided evidence of a deep decline. Not only the strong pressure of the Communist Party and its ideology and the termination of contacts with Western science, but also the choice of topics and their propaganda elaboration meant an interruption of continuity with Czech historiography. Class struggles and their economic preconditions emerged, the so-called progressive tendencies of the past, the history of the workers’ and communist movements and of the Soviet Union, always at the expense of general history, cultural and older political history, not to mention church history. History, especially modern history, has been given the task to serve as an instrument of militant propaganda and legitimisation of the communist regime as a legitimate outcome of all previous development of humanity.

Official historiography became a servant of the regime and remained in this undignified position – especially when writing about modern history – throughout the 1950s and later it returned again in a “normalisation” period after the defeat of



František Graus (Photograph Collection, IH CAS)

the Prague Spring in 1968. In this situation, *CsHR* seized the power and the right to determine the guidelines (previously approved by the Communist Party) for the development of the field, including the preparation of future syntheses. It has become the “fighting body of our historical science”. It gradually focused against the historiography of Western “capitalist” states, against churches, against cosmopolitanism as an instrument of imperialism, revisionism, and all non-Marxist doctrines.

In the 1960s, there was a gradual release from dogmatic shackles, and the results of standard scientific work and elaborations on European historiography returned to pages of *CsHR*. Articles by important Western historians were printed and a discussion about the ambitious intention to process world history developed. The temporary return to free research was paradoxical. As written by Jaroslav Marek, a witness and thoughtful commenter of this event, “the gradual regeneration and renewal of the connection with the *CHR* was inaugurated by the most receptive, educated and honest of those who were at its embarrassing beginnings [i.e. at the beginning of *CsHR*]“. It was the medievalists Macek and Graus who enabled the studies and reviews of outstanding historians from the then younger generation to appear on pages of *CsHR* – Josef Janáček, Jan Křen, Robert Kvaček, Bedřich Loewenstein, Jaroslav Mezník, Josef Petráň, František Šmahel and several others.

The occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1968 brought a heavy blow. Three days after the invasion of foreign troops, on August 24, a special issue of *CsHR* was published, in which the editor-in-chief František Graus and other historians protested against this injustice. The reproduced double page, written in haste and obvious excitement,

suggested that in a moment of historic upheaval, even magazine authors could speak for themselves and according to their conscience. The search for a new path in the occupied country led them to another remarkable act – they openly subscribed to the tradition from the times before the communist coup and published one issue (the first in the 1970 annual edition) under the eloquent title *Český časopis historický*, i.e. *The Czech Historical Review*. By choosing topics and scientific level, it really came close to the ancient predecessor. However, it was the last desperate cry of the liberated magazine, as the publisher – the Institute of History – was immediately replaced by the Institute of Czechoslovak and World History of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences and handed over to hard “normalisers”. The double issue 2–3/1970 was again called *CsHR* and the editor-in-chief, the Stalinist-oriented historian of the 19th and 20th centuries Oldřich Říha (1911–1974) became the editor-in-chief for the next four years. The condemnation of the “liberalisation and anarchy” of the Prague Spring on the pages of the magazine and the humiliating statements of several historians who withdrew their protests from August 1968 has become a sad testimony to the changing times on the pages of the magazine.

In the stifling atmosphere of “normalisation” – after a short episode of Říha – *CsHR* started to be lead by Jurij Křížek (1919–2015), a second-rate historian of modern history, a man of aggressive dogmatic nature, who tried to shape *CsHR* during 1975–1989 in his image. A return to the 1950s was no longer possible in a changed world, and the contemporary modification corresponded to this. On the one hand, the journal was to serve the ruling regime, but on the other hand it was to become a kind of domestic scientific counterweight to exile and dissident historiography. Externally, he had to deny that occupied Czechoslovakia was “Biafra [i.e. wasteland] of the spirit”, and to prove that even here free historical research is carried out. This created a contradictory situation in which *CsHR* found itself until the Velvet Revolution. Because the front pages of individual issues were filled with soulless political editorials or pro-regime articles and some reviews contained “class hatred” towards uncomfortable authors, while some articles, especially on older history, and many literature reports maintained a solid professional level.

However, the overall balance of 1953–1989 is deplorable and highly contradictory. The magazine became a testimony of the time to an even greater extent than its editors intended. It reflected the suppression of elementary freedoms and the freedom of research in particular, as well as repeatedly stifled attempts to expand the space for independent interpretation of history. It provided a reflection on the communist experiment in its crushing onset, in repeated crises and in its final disintegration, and it captured how the emerging generations reacted to this movement and what stances were taken in their field by the individual historians. At the same time, it testified that no political regime can give any magazine a central position in the field. The rise of such periodicals as *Husitský Tábor* (Hussite Tábor, with the decisive contribution of František Šmahel), *Studia Comeniana et historica* (with the support of Josef Válka) and *Sborník vlastivědných prací z Podblanicka* (Nature and History of the Podblanicko Region, edited by Josef Petráň) proved that higher formal authority than the central academic body can be acquired by formally regional magazines, sometimes even petty anthologies, if directed by scientists, not politicians of dubious level.

Rebirth

Restoring prestige to the central scientific journal was one of the main tasks of the outstanding medievalist and Hussitologist František Šmahel, who took over the management of the academic Institute of History and, at the beginning of 1990, became the editor of its most important periodical. Even in the new conditions, he decided to respect the continuity of the development of historical sciences, including their shadows, returned to the original title of the *Český časopis historický* – *The Czech Historical Review* and included all 37 years of the *Czechoslovak Historical Review* in the numbering of the volumes. In the turbulent atmosphere after the Velvet Revolution, it was far from a matter of course, for everything connected with the previous regime seemed deplorable. However, the new editor promoted the continuity as “a show of respect for professional revue, which from 1895 to the end of the 1940s shaped the development of domestic critical historiography, broadened its horizons and co-created Czech historical consciousness”.

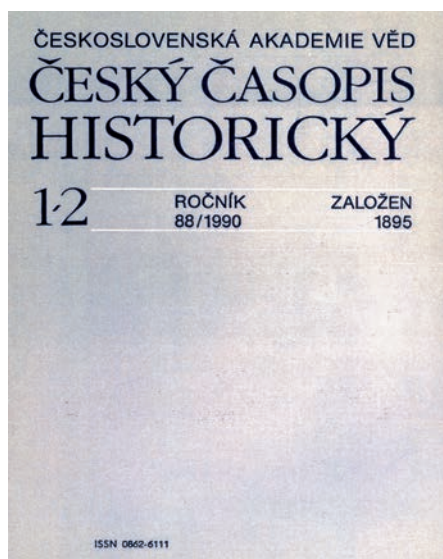
The awareness of timeless responsibility for the development of the field was gradually adopted by the professional public. This was also backed by a newly established editorial board, to which F. Šmahel selected twelve important historians from the older generation, as well as several members of the then middle generation. In the first years, Robert Kvaček, a leading expert on modern history, Jaroslav Marek, a historian of historiography and Dušan Třeštík, a medievalist, gradually joined Šmahel's side. However, it was important that the editor-in-chief managed to create a network of people and relationships between the current “official” historiography and dissent, collaborating interest between academic institutions and universities and also between Prague, Brno and Ostrava, which was extremely important during the short time the rise of Moravian separatism, which was based on interpretation of history.

From the point of view of conception, the renewed *CHR* became the perfect opposite of the ideologically bound *CsHR*. František Šmahel opened the journal “to a wide range of historical worldview concepts, methodological schools and individual approaches – provided that the scientific level, contribution to knowledge and ethical purity of published texts remains undisputed”. Under his leadership, the *CHR* editorial office refused to “take arbiter positions in scientific disputes”, but did not waive the right to apply and defend their own positions. It was a return to the roots of *CHR*, but it was a return educated and enriched by bitter experiences from the twentieth century, which was full of controversies.

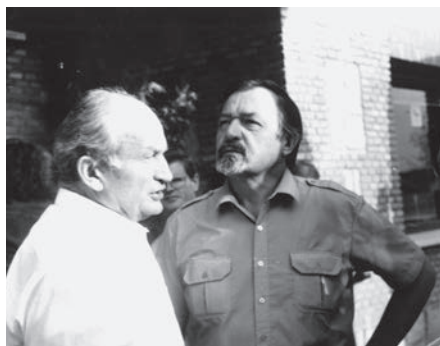
Right at the beginning, the editorial board managed to form the basic sections of *CHR* – Studies and Materials, Reflections, Horizons of Literature (literature overviews, reviews and reports on new publications) and the Chronicle of Scientific Life (obituaries, conferences and other communications). The interest of connecting domestic historical workplaces and periodicals lead to the creation of the sections Excerpts from Czech magazines and anthologies, while the supply of information from abroad was provided by the section Selection from foreign magazines. These sections were followed by the inspirations from Goll's and Pekař's times, and although they partially changed in the following years, they essentially formed a link between the *CHR* from the end of the 19th century and the version from the beginning of the 21st century.

The renewal of the *CHR* took place at a time which, together with freedom of expression, brought a number of serious problems. The Institute of History and the entire Academy of Sciences were undergoing a tumultuous reconstruction, they were unsure of their own survival, there was a lack of money for science, and longer-term research projects were complicated by intense fluctuation of academic staff. In the new economic conditions, the production of the magazine became significantly more expensive, its price rose sharply and, as a result, the number of subscribers decreased. The hectic 1990s were not very conducive to concentrated research, as many historians were busy writing new history textbooks and popularizing and organizing responsibilities. The multiplying historical workplaces on newly established universities founded their own magazines, which offered fast publication of new texts, often with lower requirements as to their level of quality. All this greatly complicated the creation of a stable authorship background.

The scientific and human authority of the *CHR* editor-in-chief was able, even under difficult conditions, to obtain the cooperation of most Czech historians who dealt with a broader – supra-regional – topic. The authors of the studies also included foreign historians, especially from Germany, Austria, France and the USA, who were related to Czech and Central European topics. The result of thirteen years of organisational and editorial efforts has resulted in 311 studies and articles, 328 reviews and 3163 reports on literature and conferences. Even more important than this respectable number was the creation of a stable authorship background and the enforcement of a European standard both internally and externally (the *CHR* anchored abroad under its concurrent English name, *The Czech Historical Review*).



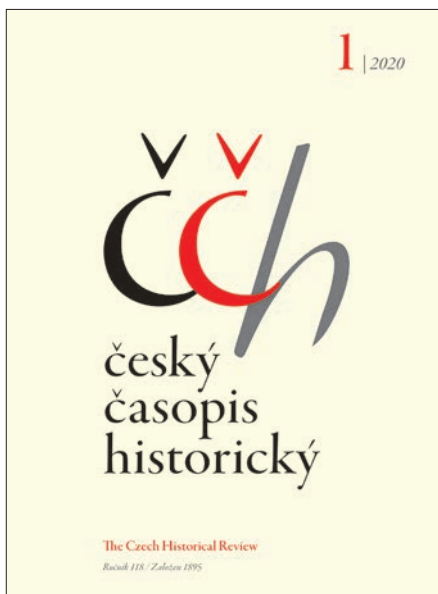
The Czech Historical Review, vol. 88 (1990),
edited by František Šmahel



František Šmahel (on the right) and Josef
Macek at the 17th International Congress of
Historical Sciences in Madrid, August 1990
(Photo Jaroslav Pánek)



František Šmahel (2004) (Photograph Collection, IH CAS)



The Czech Historical Review, vol. 118 (2020),
edited by Jaroslav Pánek and Jiří Pešek

In its thematic spectrum, the magazine included the history of the Czech lands and selected topics of general history from the Middle Ages to the middle of the 20th century (the magazine *Contemporary History* was founded in 1993 for research of the history of the last few decades), but over time it naturally expanded its interest towards the present. The *CHR* paid considerable attention to the history of historiography and methods of historical work. In the review part, it established contact with European historiography, especially German, later English, while the themes of Eastern Europe (published mainly in the *Slovanský přehled – Slavonic Review*) and other areas remained rather marginalised. In this respect, *CHR* reflected the new orientation of Czech research, but at the same time it created the preconditions to gradually expand the horizon defined by geography and linguistic ethnicity. By methodically, thematically and bibliographically cultivating the content of the journal, establishing clear criteria for publishing texts and creating an author's background, F. Šmahel informally renewed the position of *CHR* as the most prestigious professional journal in the Czech Republic and gained international recognition.

The years 1990–2002 are of fundamental importance in the history of *CHR*, fully comparable to the founding act of Goll and Rezek and to the boom during the times of Pekař and Šusta. But with one major difference. While the predecessors came from the gradual rise of Czech historiography in the 19th and the first half of the 20th century, František Šmahel had to overcome a deep decline in the field and distrust towards the central magazine. He succeeded admirably in the free but often chaotic and financially distressing situation at the turn of the millennium. If he himself stated that managing

CHR was one of the most honest tasks of his scientific career, then it should be added that it was also one of the most successful periods in the history of this magazine.

On the threshold of the third millennium

In January 2003, the activities of František Šmahel were smoothly followed by the early modernist Jaroslav Pánek (he has been a co-editor since 2000) and Jiří Pešek, who at that time, in addition to researching early modern culture, shifted his focus to history of the 20th century. The following period was quite favourable for the development of historical magazines – with the exception of the financial crisis after 2008, which saw, among other things, the termination of the yearbook *Historica. Historical Sciences in the Czech Republic*, intended primarily for foreign professionals, after which *CHR* took over into its program the widely expanded publication of articles in foreign languages. Although this has not been positively received by some of his traditional domestic subscribers, it has been in line with the general trend in the development of European scientific journals, especially those published in less used languages. With the editing and clarification of articles (English abstract, key words, summary) *CHR* adapted to European standards and, in addition to Czech and Slovak, or Polish, also publishes texts in major congress languages. After all, this multilateral openness helped the *CHR* to be accepted into the international databases ERIH (European Reference Index for the Humanities), namely into the highest category of periodicals with a global reach (Category A – International 1), SCOPUS and others. It also became one of the arguments in the heated controversies over the scientific contribution and financial support of journals in the humanities.

Published in four issues and exceeding a thousand pages of text each year, *CHR* has gradually expanded in scope and subject matter. It also included in its scope Czech, Czechoslovak, Central European and general history in rendering of domestic authors and, in addition to the topic of Czech history in the conception of foreign authors, it also included elaborations, reviews and reports from the field of global history and inter-civilisation relations, Far East, India, Latin America and other macro-regions. It also publishes works on the history of international relations, based also on research at the Czech Historical Institute in Rome. Since 1990, the once one-sided flow of information from abroad to the Czech environment has been supplemented by the “export” of knowledge created by the work of domestic researchers and their cooperation with foreign contributors.

At the end of the 20th century, Jaroslav Marek (1926–2011), a historian with philosophical erudition and at the same time an active collaborator of the renewed *CHR*, cautiously expressed the following sceptical idea: “The renewal of scientific discourse, not only of parallel monologues, has not been completed. It is not guaranteed to take place based on a century-old magazine. It can be and will be different when there are historians for whom the renewed *Czech Historical Review* will be only a historical interlude before entering into the science of a new discourse in the new millennium.” This scepticism did not materialise, although at the turn of the 20th and 21st centuries the number of professional institutions and professional historians sharply increased and a flood of new historical magazines also arose.

Paradoxically, a number of periodicals, leading to almost confusion and unmanageability, required the strengthening of the base on which the essential

aspects of developing historiography could be observed across boundaries of academic institutes and universities, across a multitude of specific fields and sub-directions and their subordinate grant assignments. In the past twenty years, *CHR* has not made any foolish claim to any leadership position, and yet more and more experts from all four currently active generations have been applying and are applying for the opportunity to publish in it. Despite the creation of periodicals with a more specific profile and lower demands, younger historians from the Czech lands and from abroad and even from related disciplines ranging from archaeology to sinology still try to apply in *CHR*. Those who want to present their knowledge outside the scope of their own competence, or outside their own field and those who want to overcome harmful atomisation, are applying at *CHR*. In the review and discussion section, some of them work on reviews of historiographical works and establish the essential dialogue.

The Czech Historical Review, backed by 125 years of complex history of its own and also by the history of Czech lands, is not and does not want to be the publication base of just one institution or one group with a radical opinion. It remains an open journal for high quality scientific work of all Czech historians as well as those foreign experts who offer studies and reviews on the essential aspects of the history of Central Europe, their pan-European and worldwide context, as well as key topics of general history. In the European and worldwide evaluation, *CHR* was accepted among highly prestigious journals in the humanities, but more important than this formal recognition is the journal's ability to consistently serve the historical sciences and the international cooperation of historians.

Meeting of the Scientific Board of *The Czech Historical Review* (7 June 2016); from the left Václav Bůžek, Václav Ledvinka, Martin Holý, Svatava Raková, Jaroslav Pánek, Jiří Pešek, Sixtus Bolom-Kotari, Miroslav Sedivý, Eva Semotanová, Milan Hlavačka (Photo Jaroslav Novotný)



multi-volume works, the history of the Czech lands in the light of the sources of the Vatican and Roman archives and libraries, the landscape as a space of Central European historical processes and editions as a tool for making historical sources accessible. Numerous topics are addressed in cooperation with other institutes of the CAS, higher educational institutes and other institutions, at home and abroad, and supported by grants of various types. The basic feature of research programmes is their interdisciplinarity and mutual overlap across the boundaries of individual academic institutes and universities.

The extensive library fonds, map and other documentary collections of the Institute of History of the CAS are extremely valuable documents of national and world memory and culture; as a whole, they provide support for basic and applied research of Czech and foreign researchers. A significant part of the resolution of research programmes is the provision of the professional infrastructure of the field, implemented through the publication of six peer-reviewed field periodicals and one international periodical anthology. They are the *Český časopis historický* – *The Czech Historical Review*, *Slovanský přehled* (*Slavonic Review*), *Mediaevalia Historica Bohemica*, *Folia Historica Bohemica*, *Moderní dějiny* (*Modern History*), *Historická geografie* (*Historical Geography*) and *Bolletino dell'Istituto Storico Ceco di Roma*.

Editors-in-chief of The Czech Historical Review

Period I (the original *Český časopis historický* /*The Czech Historical Review*/, 1895–1949):
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vols. 4 (1898) to 24 (1918) – Jaroslav Goll and Josef Pekař
vols. 25 (1919) to 40 (1934) – Josef Pekař
vols. 41 (1935) to 42 (1936) – Josef Pekař, Josef Šusta, František Hrubý and Josef Klik
vols. 43 (1937) to 46 (1940) – Josef Šusta, František Hrubý and Josef Klik
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Period III (the renewed *Český časopis historický* /*The Czech Historical Review*/, 1990–):
vols. 88 (1990) to 97 (1999) – František Šmahel
vols. 98 (2000) to 100 (2002) – František Šmahel and Jaroslav Pánek
vols. 101 (2003) till now – Jaroslav Pánek and Jiří Pešek.

The Czech Historical Review is an example of a scientific periodical, which has always had the ambition to play a coordinating role in the historical sciences in the Czech lands. Thanks to the exceptional personalities who stood at its birth in 1895 (Jaroslav Goll and Antonín Rezek, later Josef Pekař) and in 1990 at its rebirth (František Šmahel), the acronym “ČČH” has become a good brand. The journal withstood the difficulties brought about by the changing political situation and sometimes the unsatisfactory financial possibilities of the publisher. It closed twice under the pressure of dictatorship – first the Nazi (1941), then the Communist (1950/1951) – and in the period of obligatory Marxist-Leninist ideology it experienced (under the name *The Czechoslovak Historical Review*, 1953–1989) a deep decline in which the results of standard scientific work were difficult to push through next to the dogmatically conceived texts. The rising from the ashes in the 1990s proved that *The Czech Historical Review* has its place in Czech and international historiography and that its service to the field is both possible and necessary.

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