The literature which has thus far appeared on Anton Štefánek is almost insignificant and of little value for specialists and general readers in East and West. The four essays in this volume of the Bohemia-Yearbook are therefore a welcome interdisciplinary effort toward filling a void in modern Slovak history.

THE PEOPLE AND THE NATION IN THE SOCIOLOGY OF ANTON ŠTEFÁNEK

Branislav Štefánek

As a result of personal and political circumstances, Anton Štefánek began his academic career only late in life and at an inopportune time. When he published his first major works in the thirties, his concepts did not meet the approval of Slovak nationalists. Later on the one-sided approach of the communist rulers toward sociological science further contributed to the relative silence around this eminent Slovak scholar. In the first essay one sees that Štefánek was not only a follower of Masaryk, but that he also was and foremost an original thinker who created a sociologically-founded theory of Slovak democratic populism. His studies as an empirical sociologist were influenced by German scholars, particularly Ferdinand Tönnies, but his works clearly established him as the leading Slovak sociologist at the time. His critique of modern society and the nationalist phenomenon, however, transcends the narrow philosophical basis of Czechoslovak stateness and indicates that Štefánek at least anticipated some of the problems affecting European society in the present.

ANTON ŠTEFÁNEK AND R. W. SETON-WATSON

Hugh Seton-Watson

Hugh Seton-Watson’s contribution consists of a number of documents from the archive of his late father Robert W. Seton-Watson, who, through his widely-read publications and contacts, contributed greatly to national emancipation in the Hungarian half of the Austrian monarchy and particularly in Slovakia. Most of the primary sources are published here for the first time. They focus on social and political problems in Hungary and Slovakia before the First World War and indicate the role then played by the young Štefánek in acquainting Robert W. Seton-Watson with the grievances and aspirations of his Slovak countrymen. There are also a few letters between the two political scholars on topical issues during the first Czechoslovak republic, which make this selection of primary sources a valuable commentary on modern Slovak history.