Two themes featured the symposium *Historická Olomouc XI*. that was held at the Palacký University in Olomouc on 2-3 October 1996. One was the origin and development of the university, the other was the history of scientific institutions in Bohemia and Moravia. The symposium was one of several events that commemorated the renewal of the university in 1946, after it had been canceled by an Imperial Decree of 1860. A visit to the city by President Václav Havel, meetings of educational and cultural organizations, and concerts and exhibitions also took place during the commemoration.

*Historická Olomouc XI.* was cosponsored by Josef Jařab, rector of the university, and Rudolf Zahradník, president of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (AV ČR). The cooperating agencies were the university's Philosophical Faculty, the Archive of the AV ČR (AAV ČR), the Nadace Patriae, and the Czech Society for the History of Science and Technology. The assembled scholars and guests were welcomed in the morning of 2 October by Rector Jařab, Vilém Herold, a member of the Presidium of the Academic Council of the AV ČR representing Ing. Zahradník, and Eduard Petrů of the Philosophical Faculty.


Discussion of the papers dealt, among other points, with the questions of whether the Societas incognito was a “private” society or a “secret” society, whether factors internal to science or external were instrumental in bringing about significant organizational change, and the extent to which continuity or discontinuity predominated in each change. Antonín Kostlán delivered a skillful summary of the major ideas in the papers and of the issues still remaining to be clarified, in concluding the proceedings.

Most of the papers are being prepared for publication. They should add considerably to our knowledge of the Palacký University – with which Palacký had only the frailest of connections – and of the process by which learned and scientific organizations developed in the Bohemian Lands. Several useful publications that were prepared especially for the university’s jubilee and symposium are: Univerzita Palackého v Olomouci, an attractive illustrated booklet with concise information on the university’s history, faculties (Theology, Medicine, Philosophy, Natural Sciences, Pedagogy, Physical Education, and Law), teaching departments, and student housing; Padesát let. Z dějin obnovené univerzity (355 pp.), which gives the history of the individual faculties, their members past and present, and their specialties and years of service; a handsome, oversized illustrated volume, Universitas Olomucensis 1573-1946-1996 (123 pp.), jointly sponsored by the university and the Olomouc Museum of Art in connection with a commemorative exhibition at the museum. This volume contains Czech and English versions of essays by Josef Jařab and Miloš Kouřil on the symbols and legal authority of the university and one by Milan Togner on the graphic art produced as theses by university graduates in Baroque times. The essays are complemented by full-page plates of the theses with an account of the artistic techniques involved in drafting and printing them and of their influence on the art of early modern Moravia. An essay by Ivo Hloubil discusses the university’s scepter, chains, medals, and standard. The originals of these treasures were displayed at the museum’s exhibition.

The Archive of the Academy of Sciences ČR published for the occasion a valuable booklet that traces the development of early scientific societies in Bohemia and the Habsburg monarchy with respect to the larger European-wide phenomenon up to the mid-nineteenth century. Titled Societas incognito. První učená společnost v českých zemích (74 pp.), it was written and edited by Antonín Kostlán, director of the archive, with the assistance of Emilie Těšínská and Zdeněk Hojda.
At a festive reception in the Museum of Art, Ferdinand Seibt read a chapter from *Německo a Češi – dějiny sousedství uprostřed Evropy* (Academia, 1996), the Czech edition of his *Deutschland und die Tschechen*, to an audience of about 200 persons. This was followed by an instrumental concert of early chamber music. Some participants in the next days visited Svatý Kopeček, a monumental Baroque church built on a height 10 km northeast of Olomouc and commanding a panoramic view of central Moravia to the south. The symposium's sessions were graced by the presence of Prof. Dr. Josef Polišenský of Charles University, a native of the neighboring city of Prostějov and at age 81 the dean of active Czech historians. Arrangements for the participants at *Historická Olomouc XI.* were thoughtfully handled by Roman Zaoral and Libuše Hrabová, head of the history department in the university's Philosophical Faculty.

Olomouc is an old city undergoing much needed reconstruction and modernization. The enthusiasm and commitment show by the faculty, students, and administration of the Palacký University bode well for the city's future.

Port Charlotte, Florida

Stanley B. Winters

**GALA RECEPTIONS FOR BOOK OF SETON-WATSON DOCUMENTS**

Rarely has a book on the Czechs and Slovaks received a multinational welcome comparable to that accorded *R. W. Seton-Watson and His Relations with the Czechs and Slovaks. Documents/Dokumenty 1906–1951* between September 1996 and January 1997. Its publication was celebrated at festive meetings in Prague, Bratislava, Martin, and London attended by Seton-Watson's surviving son Christopher, the editors of its two volumes and well-wishers and dignitaries. This wide acclaim was primarily due to the long and trustworthy relationship between R. W. Seton-Watson (1879–1951), the Scottish historian, publicist, editor, and educator, and leading founders and officials of interwar Czechoslovakia such as T. G. Masaryk, Edvard Beneš, Milan Hodža, and Anton Štefánek. Then there is the book's high quality. Its 228 carefully edited letters and other documents in volume I and the informative indexes of names and places in volume II show Seton-Watson's intimate involvement with the political and nationality problems of the Czechs and Slovaks from their rule by Austria-Hungary until the communist takeover in 1948.

The book was the product of an impressive institutional and personal collaboration. It was jointly published by the Ústav T. G. Masaryk in Prague and the Matica slovenská in Martin, with financial support from the Czech Komerční banka and the French *Fondation pour le progres de l'homme*. Thomas D. Marzik of St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia and Jan Rychlík of the Ústav TGM were its editors, assisted by Miroslav Bielik of the *Matica slovenská*. Christopher Seton-Watson provided many of his father's personal papers and wrote an introductory essay on his career.

The first of the four receptions or “launches” was held on 17 September at the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic in downtown Prague. It was cosponsored by