

## HISTORICKÁ OLOMOUČ XI.

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.

The themes of the symposium were discussed in two sections held simultaneously. Section I. was titled *Dějiny univerzity v Olomouci 1573–1946–1996*. Twenty-two papers were presented. Selected papers are given as follows with their Czech titles rendered into English. They included Ivana Čornejová (Prague), "The Jesuit university in Olomouc in times of prosperity and fading glory"; Miloš Kouřil (Olomouc), "The Jesuit period of Olomouc University"; László Szögi (Budapest), "Students from Hungary of Olomouc University"; Richard Apfelbauer (Salzburg), "Die Universitäten Olmütz und Salzburg – ein Vergleich Ihrer Geschichte"; Vladimír Malíšek (Olomouc), "Cultivation of the exact sciences at the first Moravian university"; Dobroslav Líbal (Prague), "The fundamental significance of the symposium *Historická Olomouc* for deepening knowledge of its past"; Václav Pumpřla (Olomouc), "Efforts toward the establishment of a Czech university in Moravia in the 19th century"; Jana Burešová (Olomouc), "Attempts to revive the university in Olomouc at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries"; Wanda Baczkowska (Cracow), "Germanisierung der Krakauer Universität im 19. Jahrhundert im Vergleich zu den anderen Hochschulen in der Donaumonarchie"; Karel Konečný (Olomouc), "Foreign relations of the renewed university 1946–1990"; František Mezihořák (Olomouc), "Several aspects of the so-called normalization and rehabilitation at the Palacký University."

The title of Section II. had two sub-topics: "*Societas incognitorum*. The development of scientific societies of an extra-university character in the European context." Twenty-one papers were scheduled but several listed presenters sent their regrets. Among the papers delivered were Antonín Kostlán (AAV ČR), "Early modern learned societies and the *Societas incognitorum*"; Jiří Kroupa (Brno), "Muratori und Gianini – from cultural history of the idea of the history of art"; Miloslav Krbec (Olomouc), "Dobrovský's stay in Olomouc"; Petr Pavlovský (Prague), "*Societas incognitorum* 'secunda' (1976–1989)"; Libuše Hrabová (Olomouc), "Forerunners of scientific societies"; Jiří Majer, "Kašpar Sternberk and European natural science" read by Jan

Janko; Zdeněk Hojda (Prague), "The Society of Patriotic Friends of Art in Bohemia as a scientific institution"; Jan Janko (AAV ČR), "Jan Evangelista Purkyně and the scientific institutions of his time"; Ivo Barteček (Olomouc), "The Moravian-Silesian Society for the Cultivation of Ploughing, Knowledge of Nature and the History and Geography of the Homeland, and Christian d'Elvert"; Václav Podaný (AAV ČR), "The organization of Czech science in the 1920s and 1930s"; Magdalena Pokorná (AAV ČR), "Changes in scientific institutions after the Second World War"; Stanley B. Winters (NJIT, USA), "The period of transition from the ČAVU to the ČSAV"; Hana Barvíková (AAV ČR), "The Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences during the so-called normalization"; Zdeněk Slouka (SVU, USA), "The Czech-American Society of Sciences and Arts."

Discussion of the papers dealt, among other points, with the questions of whether the *Societas incognitorum* 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 incognitorum. 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 shown by the faculty, students, and administration of the Palacký University bode well for the city's future.