

**NEWS:****Memory of Professor Jaroslav Vaculík  
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Prof. Jaroslav Vaculík in front of his native house in Nový Malín (2010). Photo J. Mihola

A look back to life and work of Professor Jaroslav Vaculík, who was born on 27.2.1947 in Velké Losiny in the Šumperk region, belongs a special place in this journal.<sup>1</sup> It was him to come with the idea of giving a special frame to cooperation

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1 VACULÍK, J.: *Poznámky k mému původu*. Sborník prací Pedagogické fakulty Masarykovy univerzity, řada společenských věd, roč. 31, 2017, č. 1, s. 146–148.

with the colleagues from Wrocław university more than twenty years before. They began to organize the so-called Czech-Polish Days, thus conferences with the representation of the Czech and Polish explorers, historians, didacticists and educators, to which also students were invited. One year in Brno, another one in Wrocław, and this tradition has remained until these days, with the exception of the COVID 19 pandemic, during which these meetings were impossible. The Czech-Polish co-operation resulted in releasing the journal called Czech – Polish Historical and Pedagogical Journal.<sup>2</sup> From that time, tens of Czech and foreign authors, and also members of the department of history have regularly published in this periodical.

Jaroslav Vaculík was the main editor who looked after the magazine as it was his own child until his death. It was his contribution that the magazine gained a respectable reputation and twice a year offered a sight into a range of specialized historical and pedagogical topics. Vaculík's first-rate edition is then a challenge for all of his followers.

However, the historical and pedagogical work of Jaroslav Vaculík at the Faculty of Education began much earlier. He already gained his inspiration and interest in professional issues, and in pedagogical activity at the places of his childhood. The Šumperk region, disreputably famous for its witch trials, also became one of the sanctuaries where our compatriots from Volhynia returned after World War II. The village where he lived with his parents, originally called Frankštát, was renamed to Nový Malín in 1947, in memory of Český Malín in Volhynia area, which was burned down by fascists in 1943. Jaroslav Vaculík devoted his life to the history of Volhynian Czechs from his young research years and he remained loyal to the theme until his last days. At a time when communistic ideology heavily affected the history, this field remained only minimally hit by the communistic ideology, and it was fertile at the same time. After acquiring pedagogical experience at the basic school in Sobotín, he worked at the Faculty of Education in Brno since 1973.<sup>3</sup> In 1984 Jaroslav Vaculík defended his candidate dissertation *Reemigration and Settlement of Volhynian Czechs 1945–1948* at Palacký university in Olomouc. Still before 1989 he was put on the list as associate professor, out of regard for his expert works he reached habilitation at the Faculty of Arts of Masaryk university without any problem at the beginning of the new millennium. He successfully underwent his professorial procedure at Palacký university in 2008.

I had the opportunity to meet Jaroslav Vaculík first as a student of the Department of History in 1991–1996 and then, since 1999, as a colleague. Among the students, the

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2 VACULÍK, J.: *Czech-polish historical and pedagogical Journal*. Sborník prací Pedagogické fakulty Masarykovy univerzity, řada společenských věd, roč. 33, 2019, č. 2, s. 165–168.

3 VACULÍK, J.: *Dvakrát na katedře dějepisu PdF MU*. Sborník prací Pedagogické fakulty Masarykovy univerzity, řada společenských věd, roč. 31, 2017, č. 1, s. 130–145.

then associate professor, secretary and deputy head of the department, was popular. The forty-five-year-old sympathetic man with his visage reminding of the famous American actor Richard Gere was able to impress with his expertise and manner of presentation, when he represented the communist-displaced giants of Czech historiography, such as Josef Pekař, and he opened and interestingly presented many previously neglected topics. He was delighted by return of freedom and democracy, and if before 1989 the department preparing future teachers undoubtedly had the necessary libations of the regime, Vaculík wanted to set the record straight as much as possible and, unlike some of his colleagues, he certainly did not remain nostalgic. At that time he taught Introduction to the Study of History, world history of the early modern period, especially the 17th and 18th centuries, and also world history of the 19th and 20th centuries. In addition, he and other colleagues also led excursions. His interest in professional literature was also evident from his work in the department library at that time.

Most of the life and work Jaroslav Vaculík have been connected with the city of Brno, where he first lived in the quarter Komárov, near the oldest preserved church building in Brno, the Church of St. Jiljí, later in the quarter of Řečkovice. In 2000 he became head of the Department of History and led it until 2016.<sup>4</sup> He was also actively involved in the life of the faculty. He was twice elected Chairman of the Academic Senate of the Faculty of Education and he also worked in the Senate of Masaryk University and the Council of Higher Education Institutions. Vaculík devoted himself completely to the Muse Kleiό. He didn't have a family, which became his colleagues and friends who shared similar interests to his. He devoted himself fully to historical work and expected the same devotion to history from others. Except the above-mentioned Czech-Polish Historical and Pedagogical Journal, he also edited the journal Proceedings of the Faculty of Education, Masaryk University, Series of Social Sciences.<sup>5</sup> He actively participated in many conferences, seminars, symposia, and, as the head of the Department of History he organized didactic conferences.<sup>6</sup> He was a member of many scientific societies, sat on several editorial boards of professional journals, was a researcher of grants from the Czech Science Foundation, participated in the research plan of the Faculty of Education MU

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4 O katedře, jejich dějinách, učitelích, studijních programech a publikacích více v: VACULÍK, J. (ed.): *Katedra historie. Informační příručka*. Brno, Masarykova univerzita 2011.

5 VACULÍK, J.: *Za třiceti ročníky společenských věd*. Sborník prací Pedagogické fakulty Masarykovy univerzity, řada společenských věd, roč. 30, 2016, č. 1, s. 164–171; *týž: Šedesát let od vzniku Sborníku prací, řada společenských věd*. Sborník prací Pedagogické fakulty Masarykovy univerzity, řada společenských věd, roč. 33, 2019, č. 1, s. 112.

6 VACULÍK, J.: *Přehled o činnosti katedry historie PdF MU za léta 2000–2015*. Sborník prací Pedagogické fakulty Masarykovy univerzity, řada společenských věd, roč. 29, 2015, č. 1, s. 151–153.

School and Health, and many other professional activities. Jaroslav Vaculík mainly focused on professional and pedagogical work. Vaculík's domain was publishing.<sup>7</sup> He is the author of a long series of monographs, hundreds of domestic and foreign articles, he also wrote news from the scientific world and reviews.<sup>8</sup> Popularization of history was for Vaculík a complement to professional work. In 2009 he published a useful publication *Czech Minorities in Europe and the World* in the prestigious Libri publishing house, he went to lecture to compatriots in Vienna as part of the Academic Association, or to repatriated Volhynian Czechs in our country. He gave an interview to the well-known non-fiction magazine *Živá historie* (Living History) on the topic of Volhynian Czechs.<sup>9</sup> He worked most closely with the Polish colleagues. Together we participated in conferences and seminars in almost all major Polish cities, we also visited compatriots in Daruvar, Volhynia and other places. We regularly visited commemorative acts at the memorial to the victims of Český Malín in Nový Malín. After 2000, Jaroslav Vaculík lectured at the Faculty of Education mainly on world history of the 19th and 20th centuries, and he strengthened modern history with contemporary history. In addition, he offered many optional lectures, e.g. on constitutional history, political parties, the Cold War, etc. He placed great emphasis on context, and on the work with the map. Even today, students greatly appreciate the series of consecutive scripts and readers, covering the general history from the Peace of Westphalia to the present. He devoted himself to students as the head of bachelor's and master's theses. Under his leadership, many of them succeeded in the SVOČ [students' scientific and specialized activity (transl. note)] competition, two of his students even won this competition.<sup>10</sup> Since 2000, Jaroslav Vaculík and I have

7 Srovnej např.: KRATOCHVÍL, L.: *Bibliografie Jaroslava Vaculíka za léta 2012–2016*. Sborník prací Pedagogické fakulty Masarykovy univerzity, řada společenských věd, roč. 31, 2017, č. 1, s. 152–158. Zde je také odkaz na Vaculíkovu bibliografii z let 1975–2012 publikovanou na stránkách tohoto časopisu roč. 26, 2012, č. 2, s. 7–38

8 K nejdůležitějším Vaculíkovým dílům náleží *Dějiny Volyňských Čechů I.–III.* (Brno, Masarykova univerzita 1997–2001); *Reemigrace a repatriace Čechů a Slováků po první světové válce* (Brno, Masarykova univerzita 2014); *Nástin českých a slovenských přeshraničních migrací v meziválečném období* (Brno, Masarykova univerzita 2010); *Češi v cizině. 1850–1938* (Brno, Masarykova univerzita 2009); *Začleňování reemigrantů do hospodářského života v letech 1945–1950*. Studie Národohospodářského ústavu Josefa Hlávky 2/2001; *Poválečná reemigrace a usídlování zahraničních krajanů* (Brno, Masarykova univerzita 2002).

9 KAŠKA, V.: *Na Volyň a zase zpět. Rozhovor s Jaroslavem Vaculíkem*. *Živá historie*, červenec – srpen 2020, s. 24–27.

10 V roce 2019 to byl Bc. Jan Kopecký s prací *Typový projekt vlna a ochrana vysílání v době tzv. normalizace*. Za svoji práci následně obdržel ještě Cenu Edvarda Beneše. Srovnej: JIREČEK, M.: *Celostátní vědecká konference Historie 2019; Cena Edvarda Beneše v rukou Jana Kopeckého*. Sborník prací Pedagogické fakulty Masarykovy univerzity, řada společenských věd, roč. 34, 2020, č. 1, s. 97–98. V roce 2010 zvítězil Libor Bílek. Srovnej: BÍLEK, L.: *Vratislav*

sat on the jury of the national round of SOČ, specializing in history.<sup>11</sup> . He played a decisive role in the creation and successful accreditation of the field of Christian Education, which enriched the study offer of the Faculty of Education within the Department of History in 2008–2018.

For his work and for his writings he has received many important awards: Dean's Award of the Faculty of Education, the Rector's Award of Masaryk University, the Prize of the Chairman of the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic, the Commemorative Medal of the Czechoslovak Legionary Community, the Rudolf Medek Award. In 2019, he received the South Moravian Region Award for his lifelong work and contribution to science.<sup>12</sup>

In the personality of Professor Vaculík went away not only an expert, a favourite teacher and colleague, but also a sociable, friendly, always elegantly dressed person, who liked to go with students or colleagues for a beer, a ball, an exhibition or a meeting of graduates. His creative performance is a challenge for all colleagues and his research results deserve to be continued. He was not allowed to live to defend the dissertation of his ward, the chairwoman of the Union of Volhynian Czechs Dagmar Martinková. However, her successful defense and published book seemed to be a symbolic thank you to Jaroslav Vaculík at the gates of heaven and a promise that the history of foreign Czechs will attract the interest of historians even further.<sup>13</sup>

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*Hladiš – odpůrce, pomahač i oběť komunistického režimu. Sonda do agenturní práce Státní bezpečnosti v prvních letech po Únoru.* In: *Historie 2009. Sborník prací z 15. celostátní studentské vědecké konference konané 8. a 9. dubna 2010 v Ústí nad Labem.* Ústí nad Labem, UJEP 2010, s. 231–258.

- 11 MIHOLA, J.: *Malé nahlédnutí do Středoškolské odborné činnosti – obor historie.* Sborník prací Pedagogické fakulty Masarykovy univerzity, řada společenských věd, č. 21, 2006, s. 144; *týž: Celostátní kolo Středoškolské odborné činnosti (SOČ), obor historie 2006–2010.* Sborník prací Pedagogické fakulty Masarykovy univerzity, řada společenských věd, roč. 24, 2010, č. 1, s. 188–190; *týž: Celostátní kolo středoškolské odborné činnosti (SOČ), obor historie v letech 2011–2020.* Sborník prací Pedagogické fakulty Masarykovy univerzity, řada společenských věd, roč. 34, 2020, č. 2, s. 152–155.
- 12 KRATOCHVÍL, L.: *Laureáti Ceny Jihomoravského kraje.* Sborník prací Pedagogické fakulty Masarykovy univerzity v Brně, řada společenských věd, roč. 33, 2019, č. 2, s. 169.
- 13 MARTINKOVÁ, D.: *Na pozvání cara.* Praha, Sdružení Čechů z Volyně a jejich přátel 2021.