



PERSONAL ANNIVERSARY

OF Prof. RNDr. CHRUDOS TRONICEK, CSc.

The head of the Department of Anthropology of the Faculty of Natural Sciences of Charles University in Prague and an active collaborator of this periodical celebrated, full of vigour, the sixtieth anniversary of his birth on June 26, 1982.



In the post-WW2 years as a student of the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the Charles University he was enraptured by the lectures of the late Professor Jiří Malý and by his views that anthropology had unique chances of application exactly in the socialist society. It is symptomatic of Prof. Troníček that he chose for the period rather unusual but remarkably practical topic for his doctor's thesis. He studied the cause of the palsy of upper limbs in glass workers, examining a large number of glass industry workers in a number of Czech town. This thesis earned him the degree of the Doctor of Natural Sciences in 1953.

There are two basic lines marking his activities. On the one hand he concentrated on the development of man and on all problems connected with phylogenesis, in which he was lecturing at the faculty in the nineteen-fifties. In line with his steadily widening field of interest and with the rapidly growing practical application of anthropology he dealt with a wide scope of topics in his lectures, the most outstanding being ergonomical anthropology, variability of body characters, ethnic anthropology and ecology of man.

On the other hand he paid great attention also to various practically oriented research tasks, although most of them ensuing from the tradition of the department, but clearly reflecting his orientation, his specific approach to the development of science. One of Prof. Troníček's most important contributions to the development of anthropology is his work aimed at making easier the production process, increasing the productivity of labour, preserving at the same time optimum health conditions for man. Here we could

mention his research into the variability of body characters of the population, into the geographical differences in body characteristics at present and in the past human population, the relation between body build and alimentation of the population (within the framework of a biological programme launched by the UNESCO), the design of respirators for miners from the anthropological viewpoint, protective helmets against noise nuisance and vibration (for the civil aviation personnel), the relation between bodily and mental development of the children (a complex research programme organized by the Czechoslovak Ministry of Education), etc. He continues also in his anthropologic-ergonomical studies started on the initiative of the Scientific Council of the Ministry of Health in 1970 and he co-operates in this field with colleagues within the framework of the Council of Mutual Economic Aid, with special emphasis on the optimum working movements and their limits. He realized also a number of important researches for the Czechoslovak Army and for the organs of the Ministry of Interior.

He educated a number of students, some of them taking active part in his research and others in important positions in various industries. Many post-graduates worked out their doctor's theses under his guidance and in the capacity of Chairman of the Federal Committee for awarding the title of doctoral candidate of biological sciences in anthropology and as tutor of doctoral candidates has contributed a great deal towards building a wide scientific basis of anthropology in Czechoslovakia.

He has been paying great attention to the popularization of science too. He was one of the first lecturers, and in fact one of the founding members of the present Socialist Academy, and association for the dissemination of science. He was also one of the founders of the Czechoslovak-Soviet Institute and of Lidé a země (People and the Earth — a geographical magazine), for many years he acted as one of its editors.

Since the death of Professor V. Fetter in late 1971 the Department of Anthropology of the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the Charles University is headed by Prof. Troníček. He held and has been holding a number of political and academic functions. He is member of the faculty's Scientific Council since 1960. In the 1973—1976 he acted as vice-dean of the faculty and Chairman of the Biological Section of the Scientific Council.

He is a member of a number of international scientific societies, e.g. of the European Anthropological Association, of the Union of the Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences and he co-operates also with the periodical Current Anthropology.

For his activities he received a number of awards and diplomas, the Medal for Bravery, Hrdlička's Medal, medals for co-operations with various universities and to mark his 60th birthday he received Gold Emblem of the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the Charles University.

He held important functions also in the Anthropological Society of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, he is acting Vice-chairman of the society. He is also member of the Scientific Council for awarding Hrdlička's Prize to young anthropologists.

Prof. Troníček's birthday anniversary was commemorated by a number of institutions, by his former students colleagues and friends.

*The Prague Branch of the Czechoslovak Anthropological Society of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences*