



PROFESSOR TOBIAS AWARDED HONORARY DOCTORATE

Honorary doctorate of the Charles University in Prague (Czech Republic) was awarded to Professor Phillip Valentin Tobias, MBBCh, Ph.D., D.Sc., Hon Sc.D. in the Great Hall of the Carolinum on 16th September 1999. He was born in Durban, province of Natal, Republic of South Africa on the 14th October 1925. He graduated at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, in 1950 where he obtained his Ph.D. in 1953 and D.Sc. in 1967. His post-doctoral studies brought him to the Universities of Cambridge, Michigan and Chicago.

Jointly with Louis Leakey and John Napier he described and named *Homo Habilis* as a new species in 1964. His voice is heard every day from the TV-set showing his film on evolution of man in the exhibition hall of the National Geographic Society Building in Washington, D. C. Because of his immense achievements he has been nominated on three occasions for a Nobel Prize. He was the spiritual father and host of the "Dual Congress" (1998) at Sun City, South Africa.

Phillip Tobias manifested his scientific and human dimension by his life-long fight for human rights and racial tolerance in the Republic of South Africa.

Miroslav Prokopec

IVth INTERNATIONAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL CONGRESS OF ALEŠ HRDLIČKA "WORLD ANTHROPOLOGY AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURIES"
(PRAGUE AND HUMPOLEC, CZECH REPUBLIC, 31 AUGUST – 4 SEPTEMBER, 1999)

The president of the Congress was Phillip V. Tobias from South Africa. He was also one of the invited speakers next to L. Aiello (UK), B. Bogin (USA), A. Kuper (UK), G. Romeo (Italy) and P. Rudan (Croatia).

The Congress was organized by the Charles University, Prague, Czech Anthropological Society, town of Humpolec, National Museum, Prague and the Hrdlička Museum of Man, Prague. The president of the Prague Organizing Committee (11 scientific members, 4 ordinary members and 16 staff members) was Pavel Bláha and of the Humpolec Organizing Committee (3 members) it was Jan Koten, the Mayor of Humpolec. The 25 members of the Honorary Committee were from 12 different countries (USA – 9, Czech Republic – 3, United Kingdom, Italy and Poland – 2, Slovakia, Russia, Germany, South Africa, Croatia, Belgium and Canada – 1). The Patrons were: The Parliament of the Czech Republic – the Senate (L. Benešová, President of the Senate, A. Palečková and I. Ondrová, Senators), The Chamber of Deputies (P. Buzková – 1st Vice-President), Charles University, Prague (K. Malý – Rector, P. Čepek – Vice-Rector, K. Štulík – Dean and P. Pikálek, Vice-Dean, both of the Faculty of Science).

The European Anthropological Association Council Meeting, Opening Ceremony and Welcome party took place on Tuesday, August 31 in the historical building of Carolinum in the Old Town, Prague. Plenary sessions, individual sessions, posters, symposia and workshops took place at the Faculty of Physical Education and Sports, Charles University and at the nearby Krystal Hotel in Prague 6 on Wednesday, September 1, Friday, September 3 and on Saturday, September 4. The official language of the Congress was English.

The speakers at the Opening ceremony were: P. Čepek, P. V. Tobias, P. Rudan (President of the European Anthropological Association) and P. Bláha (President of the Czech Anthropological Society).

The scientific program of the congress consisted of 14 sessions, 10 symposia and 4 workshops. Some minor last-minute changes to this list took place mostly in room numbers. All branches of biological anthropology, human genetics, social and cultural anthropology were covered by the program. Posters were installed in two rooms throughout the Congress.

The congress was a good opportunity to hand over a commemorative medal of the great Czech biologist J. E. Purkyně to O. G. Eiben (Hungary) who visited the Czech Republic and Slovakia 16 times since 1985 and took part in all four Hrdlička Congresses.

The participants in the Congress had the great opportunity to visit the town of Mělník (about 50 km north of Prague) where the 1st Memorial Ceremony of Prof. J. Matiegka took place from 1 p.m. on Saturday, September 4. It was organized by B. Škvařilová, Director of Hrdlička Museum of Man in Prague and by the town of Mělník. J. Matiegka was the first Professor of Anthropology at the Charles University, its Rector in 1929–30 and a bearer of the title Chevalier de l'Ordre National de la Légion d'honneur. He passed away in Mělník in 1941 and was buried there. The speakers were P. V. Tobias (South Africa), M. Purš, B. Škvařilová, V. Bezděková (Czech Republic) and A. P. Cheater (Zimbabwe).

The third day of the Congress – Thursday, September 2, was devoted to Aleš Hrdlička in his native town of Humpolec. The participants were brought from Prague to Humpolec and back by buses. Lectures on Hrdlička took place in the local cinema under the chairmanship of V. Přivratský (Czech Republic). The opening speech was given by Town