



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 HRDLÍČKA "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

Mayor J. Koten who invited everybody to a common lunch and to an evening Farewell Party.

The papers were given by D. H. Ubelaker and R. A. Tyson (USA), M. Prokopec, E. Strouhal and M. Dokládál (Czech Republic). Frank Spencer (USA) was expected to attend the Congress and to give a talk on Hrdlička. He passed away on May 30th, 1999 at the age of 58. He was badly missed in Humpolec. The main papers were published in English and Czech in the form of a booklet "Aleš Hrdlička, 130th Anniversary of Birth" and distributed among the listeners.

The festive awarding of Aleš Hrdlička medals took place after the lunch. Five medallists were anthropologists, recommended to Town Council by the Czech Anthropological Society: D. F. Roberts (United Kingdom – in absentia), P. V. Tobias (South Africa), D. H. Ubelaker (U.S.A.), H. Greil (Germany), M. Dobisíková and H. Zlámalová (both from the Czech Republic). Another three were selected by the Town Council: G. Mahler, the world-renowned composer, born in the vicinity of Humpolec (in memoriam), L. Pokorný – professor, head of Department of Germanistics and Bohemistics at the South Bohemian University in České Budějovice and B. Trnka – linguist, professor of Charles University, founder of the scenography system based on phonology.

There was an option to visit the Museum of Aleš Hrdlička, with an exhibition on the development of Man and on the life and work of Aleš Hrdlička and with a hall of Gustav Mahler, or to attend the Choir "Čech and Lech". The Children's Dance Group "Škubánek" performed at lunchtime and a brass band of the pupils of the Music School at the Farewell Party. Each congress member received a token from Humpolec: A solid handbag and a cup, both decorated with a coat of arms of Humpolec.

Social and cultural events were available in Prague (Black Light Theatre, Saxophone Quartet, Evening on the River, etc.). Official closing of the congress took place at 4.30 p.m. on Saturday. Among the speakers were: P. V. Tobias (South Africa), C. Susanne (Belgium), M. Stloukal, General Director of the National Museum (Czech Republic) and P. Bláha (Czech Republic). The Congress enabled personal contacts and exchange of ideas of about 320 participants from 32 countries who carried home a detailed program (36 pages) and book of abstracts (162 pages). It was a privilege for the organizing bodies and for the Czech Republic to host so many outstanding scientists from the all over the world.

SESSIONS, SYMPOSIA AND WORKSHOPS:

Sessions

Variability of human genome
Molecular pathology of human genome
Palaeontology
Primate behaviour, evolution and ecology
Social and cultural anthropology
Human growth and development
Human ecology and palaeoecology
Evolutionary anthropology and palaeoanthropology
Kinaesthetics and functional anthropology
Historical anthropology and palaeodemography
Clinical anthropology
Forensic anthropology and osteology
Methodology and problems of anthropological interpretation
History of anthropology

Symposia

Children, food and growth
The 2nd symposium of clinical anthropology and morphology
Humans place in nature
Human DNA polymorphism
Primate brain evolution
Growth and development in a changing world
The state of social and cultural anthropology in Central and Eastern Europe
Puberty and related problems

European dietary trends from past to present
Bone displasia

Workshops

Palaeoanthropology and genetics
Gravettian human remains in Central Europe
Obesity: measurements, prevalence, genetic and environmental factors
Demographic aspects of human impact in nature
Development anthropology
Primate ontogeny
Anthropology of displacement and rehabilitation in the context of globalization and the new economic order
Ethnic epigenetics
Computer-assisted palaeoanthropology and palaeoprimateology

Miroslav Prokopec

100th ANNIVERSARY OF BIRTH OF PROFESSOR JIŘÍ MALÝ

Jiří Malý was born in Mělník on November 6th, 1899. There he spent his childhood and youth as a pupil of the local Grammar School and met the founder of modern Czech anthropology Professor Jindřich Matiegka, found interest in his work and helped him to arrange the famous Mělník ossuary during several summer vacations. Having finished medical studies at the Charles University in Prague Malý specialised in paediatrics. He became Assistant to Professor Matiegka and since 1924 he helped him to develop a modern Institute of Anthropology in the new building in Albertov Street in Prague and to edit the journal ANTHROPOLOGIE from its very beginning. An acid test of his all-round qualities came when he became secretary of the international Anthropological Congress held in Prague in 1924 of which Matiegka

