



## INTRODUCTION TO THE 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY ISSUE OF THE JOURNAL *ANTHROPOLOGIE*

The journal *Anthropologie* has, for half a century, been one of the scientific periodicals charting the outputs of the Anthropos Institute of the Moravian Museum; and also more generally significant and important work in the field of anthropology, particularly where it involves Central Europe, but also further afield. It came about from a need to present scientific knowledge and the debates around it; and it soon developed into a respected professional periodical.

The development of the journal *Anthropologie* went hand in hand with the expansion of the Anthropos Institute and its presentation and education centre – The Anthropos Pavilion – in Brno's Pisárky district. It grew, happily, even during times when the discipline was not held in high regard and research had to go on under the shadow of the totalitarian cultural politics of Czechoslovakia, from the 1960s to the 1980s. In hindsight, this growth process is just as heroic as it is impressive.

The undisputed guiding force behind the Anthropos Institute for decades was Jan Jelínek, head of the Institute and also director of the whole Moravian Museum for years, of which the Anthropos Institute is an integral part. Jan Jelínek was very enthusiastic and had a real ability to put his finger on the scientific core and set attractive long-term research goals. Moreover, he was able to get along with the leaders of the totalitarian regime well enough to be able to carry out significant and important research in areas, which were mostly banned to residents of the Socialist Eastern bloc, even taboo. It really is astonishing that this native of Kroměříž, Central Moravia, was able to achieve so much, and he will always be credited for such achievements.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Issue of the journal *Anthropologie* offers a partial overview of Jelínek's oeuvre, a cross-section of his work from a territorial, temporal and thematic perspective. The reader has the opportunity to cast an eye over the diversity and interdisciplinary nature of his work, but also through this, the entire Anthropos Institute before the end of the last century.

The following texts should serve to bring joy and instruction to all those who knew Jan Jelínek, either personally or through his works – and for those who have only come across his work briefly or in a partial manner, then the following should serve as an encounter of introduction and discovery.

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