



EDITORIAL

On the 6th of February, we celebrate what would have been the 90th birthday of Prof. Jan Jelínek, reviver of the *Anthropologie* journal and also its chief editor from 1962–1995.

The young Jan Jelínek started working at the Moravian Museum (as the institute was known from 1948–1999), in the Department of Ethnography while he was still studying at university in 1948. Two years later he transferred to the then *Diluvium Department* (today the Anthropos Institute), where he soon became the head. In this position he followed and developed the ideas of Karel Absolon – to build an institution researching the origin and development of man, but which would also be in the form of a museum. The new institute should contain basic disciplines related to the Pleistocene, Anthropology, Palaeolithic Archaeology and Quaternary Paleontology. An integral part of the operation of the department should be specific scientific research programs and professional museum exhibitions. Significant staffing support for this came from Karel Valoch and soon after Rudolf Musil, thanks to whom the first real, large-scale field research would be carried out to provide material for the institute's collection.

In 1958, Jan Jelínek became the director of the Moravian Museum, which allowed him to push through the building of the Anthropos Pavilion in Brno. The pavilion began to be constructed in 1959 and prior to the completion of the construction on the ground floor, there was an exhibition "*Rock Art*" (1961). Three years later, the Pavilion put on a groundbreaking and extensive exhibition, "*The origin and development of man and the infancy of culture.*"

About the same time as Jelínek became director of the museum, he also sought to gain support, understanding and most importantly, permission to resume publishing a journal called, *Anthropologie*, aborted during WW2. He got permission in 1961, and the next year the first issue of the renewed periodical "*Anthropologie*" was published. The journal, which published articles in many world languages significantly raised the profile of the new institute and helped foster valuable contacts on a global scale. It also provided a vital exchange of information, for example in the acquisition of new titles for the library.

Jelínek was the chief editor of the journal until 1995, and contributed 114 times to the journal, including the republishing of his most important article after his passing in 2012. The quantity and extent of his scientific activity over the course of his life, goes way beyond the scope of this short introduction (more details Pospíšilová 2006). I would therefore like to highlight one major event: his great achievement in organising the 2nd Congress of the European Anthropological Association held in Brno (Czechoslovakia) August 26–31, 1980. Prior to this he publicised and professionally promoted the discovery of a piece of the upper jaw of a neanderthal discovered in 1965 by K. Valoch, during exploration of the Kůlna Cave (Jelínek 1967). Jelínek presided in Brno over the 8th Congress of Czechoslovak Anthropologists (with international participants) and used this meeting not only to promote the exhibition in the Anthropos Pavilion, but also the visit of anthropologists to the site at the Kůlna Cave (Stloukal 1965; Valoch *et al.* 2011).

The activities and breadth of Professor Jelínek were incredible and won him a number of awards (Oliva 2004). He was able to infuse his audience with unbelievable enthusiasm, leading them to immediately go out and do something useful (study languages, textbooks, write...). As a first-year student of archeology, I had the opportunity

in 1990 to be in several of his lectures. I eventually began to meet Prof. Jelínek in the corridors of the Anthropos Institute, or at the institute's social events. He was a charismatic guy with an imposing stature and sonorous voice, who had a rich knowledge and a gift for explanation.

I'm honoured, not only that I could attend some of his lectures, that we became colleagues of the same institute, but that destiny wanted me to take over the journal, *Anthropologie, International Journal of Human Diversity and Evolution*, which will in 2017 celebrate its 55th anniversary from its restoration.

On the 1st of January 2016 was established the MZM *Centre for Cultural Anthropology*, which aims to build on the work of prof. Jan Jelínek and develop his activities, which were made under the auspices of MZM in Africa, Asia and Australia. As well as the prepared professionally evaluated research into the Art of Hunter – Gatherer Cultures by Jelínek in Libya and the collection of stone tools obtained in the Arnhem Land, the Centre for Cultural Anthropology will in cooperation with the Anthropos Institute help to provide editing of the *Anthropologie* journal.

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