



EDITORIAL

Dear colleagues,

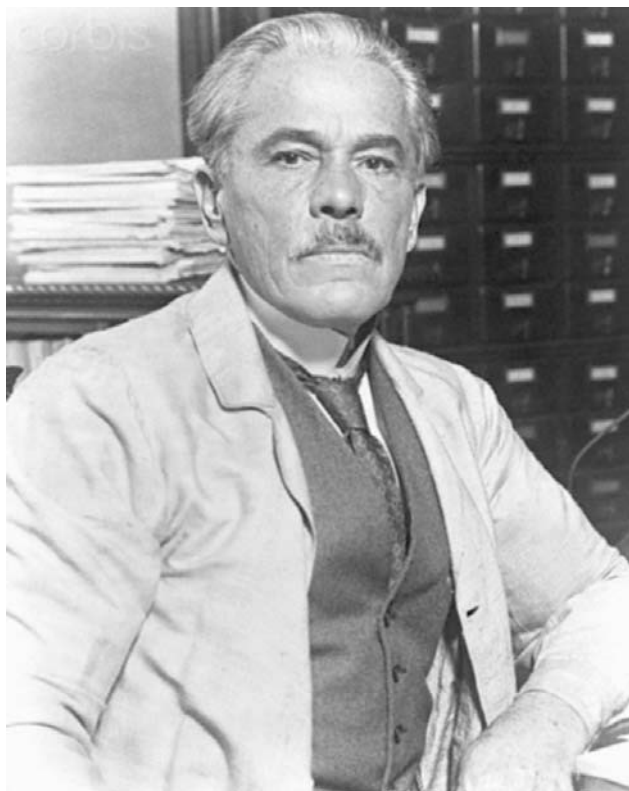
This year we are celebrating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Dr. Aleš Hrdlička, world famous American anthropologist who significantly influenced the development of biological anthropology in North America as well as pre-war Czechoslovakia.

He was a real explorer. He dedicated his work to both branches of physical anthropology - laboratory and field work - as it used to be common in the pre-war period. He always prepared thoroughly for his research and devoted all his energies to his work, which can't be said about very many researchers nowadays. He created a lot of new theories and is the author of a lot of thoughts, some of them are still applicable today and current anthropologists, his successors continue in his work. Some of his results and scientific works are the products of its time. It all seems to be normal as science and man's view of the world are in constant progress. This especially applies to anthropology that has changed completely in the last 30 years. Using new methods we are able to discover more information about a man than Dr. Hrdlička and his contemporaries could ever dream of. We must admit though that the development and application of laboratory methods and genetical processes to explore variability of human population started in Hrdlička's era. I think he would like the current state of anthropology with all its changes and development.

Dr. Hrdlička was not only an outstanding scientist. He was also capable of making young people enthusiastic about scientific work and anthropology as such, he knew how to give advice, direct or recommend when necessary. This ability is quite rare even today.



Aleš Hrdlička during a visit the Palaeolithic site of Předmostí near Přerov (northern Moravia, Czech Republic) as the excursion leader for the American School of Prehistoric Research, October 1922. Archive of the Anthropos Institute.



Aleš Hrdlička in his office. Undated. With permission of the Municipality of Humpolec.



Aleš Hrdlička with his niece. Undated. With permission of the Municipality of Humpolec.

Dr. Hrdlička promoted the theory that all men evolved from the same origin, which he transformed into a famous motto - 'All mankind is of one origin'. At present, when we witness the growth of racism around us, this motto is especially important. Hatred and placing one nation above others have never brought mankind any good and the history of anthropology is its example.

The Czech Anthropological Society are very proud of the fact that Dr. Hrdlička never forgot about his colleagues from his native country and supported them all through his career. It is to his credit that my editorial can be published in journal *Anthropology*. During his lifetime, Dr. Hrdlička was held in high esteem and gratitude by the Czech anthropology community that awarded him with honourable doctorates of Charles University in Prague and Masaryk University in Brno. On the occasions of Dr. Hrdlička's birthdays, his Czech contemporaries used to publish almanacs in which they praised his work.

Current Czech Anthropology can only congratulate Dr. Hrdlička on his 150th birthday symbolically by holding an anthropological congress, the tradition of which goes back to the year 1958.

Dear colleagues, let me invite you to the 6th International Anthropological Congress of Dr. Aleš Hrdlička, which takes place in his hometown Humpolec, Czech Republic. Apart from scientific debates you will get to know the place and background where Dr. Hrdlička was born and grew up.

See you in Humpolec!

Yours faithfully

Eva Drozdová
The President of the Czech Anthropological Society
The Head of the Congress Organization Committee