

THE SLOVAK-CROATIAN COMMISSION OF HUMANITIES AT THE FACULTY OF ARTS, COMENIUS UNIVERSITY IN BRATISLAVA

On 18 and 19 June 2019, the first meeting of the Slovak-Croatian Commission of Humanities took place at Comenius University and was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research, and Sport of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Croatia.

The international nature of the commission is reflected in its management body, as it is led by Professor Martin Homza from Comenius University in Bratislava and Professor Željko Holjevac from the University of Zagreb.

Several Slovak and Croatian humanities experts attended a scientific conference on the topic of “Slovaks and Croats on the Road to Independence: History and Perspectives”, which was held in the boardroom of the Scientific Board of Comenius University as part of the commission’s meeting. The conference was followed by a working session of the members of the commission.

State Secretary Oľga Nachtmannová, representing the Ministry of Education, Science, Research, and Sport of the Slovak Republic, addressed the conference delegates and members of the commission, handing over decrees of appointment to six Slovak members. The Republic of Croatia was represented by His Excellency Aleksandar Heina, the Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia in the Slovak Republic. The members and invited guests were welcomed to the university by Jozef Tancer, the Vice-Rector of Comenius University for International Relations, and Marián Zouhar, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts of Comenius University.

The participants enjoyed a performance of the *Čunovský krádel'* children’s folklore ensemble led by Mária Straková, a graduate of ethnology studies at the Faculty of Arts of Comenius University. Under her guidance, the ensemble continues to preserve and cultivate the cultural traditions of Croats in Slovakia.

In addition to approving the statutes of the Slovak-Croatian Commission of Humanities, the members of the commission also addressed the issues of setting medium-term and long-term goals as well as the possibilities of promoting their activities and results. The commission's centres in Slovakia and Croatia were set up at the Faculty of Arts of Comenius University in Bratislava and the Faculty of Arts of the University of Zagreb. The following fields were agreed upon as priority areas for cooperation in the framework of the commission's activities: general history, literary history, art history, neo-Latin studies, archaeology and ethnology.

The members agreed that a meeting in 2020 as well as a conference entitled "Intellectual Connections between Croatia and Slovakia" would take place in Croatia. Unfortunately, due to the ongoing pandemic and the resulting restrictions, this was all postponed to the following calendar year.

Nonetheless, an anthology of articles from the 2019 Bratislava conference was published in Slovak, Croatian, and English in the form of a book in the newly established series *Studia Carpathico-Adriatica Vol. I*. The articles revolved around the topic of "Slovaks and Croats on the Road to Independence: History and Perspectives" (*Slovaci i Hrvati na putu u neovisnost: Povijest i perspektive*). It was edited by Martin Homza and Željko Holjevac (Bratislava 2020).

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