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**THE FORMER STAFF  
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ETHNOLOGY  
AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY**

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## Professor Karel CHOTEK

\*1881 – †1967



He was a significant ethnographer, researcher, professor of general ethnography, a founder of ethnography branch of study at the Faculty of Philosophy of Comenius University in Bratislava, the first university in Slovakia. Professor Chotek represented a man of wide knowledge, which he gained first at the Faculty of Philosophy of Charles University in Prague and then at universities in Leiden, Zürich and Berlin. During his pedagogical activities at the Faculty of Philosophy of Comenius University (1921 – 1931) he influenced the development of the study of ethnography, at first as part of geography studies and since 1922 ethnography was studied within “The Seminar of general ethnography” and since 1924 within “the Seminar of Czechoslovak ethnography”. In 1931, after he had finished his activities in Slovakia, he left for Prague, where he held an important position of the chairman of the Czechoslovak Ethnographic Society. Later he became a member of prestigious scientific societies at home and abroad as well.

In his scholarly and research activities he focused on the issue of habitation, dwellings and agriculture. He analyzed the issues of general ethnography and anthropology. Majority of his publications comprise of monographs and synthesizing texts on material culture, periodization of the Czech culture development in which he emphasized the study and publications of research results from some Slovak regions (*Cerovo, Národopisná studie*, In: *Národopisný věstník československý*, 1906), *Pletené stavby na Slovensku* (*Slovenský národopis*, 1954), *Príspevek k dejinám slovenského domu* (*Národopisný věstník československý*, 1926), *Ethnické rozdíly v anthropologii dítěte se zřetelem ku Slovensku* (*Sborník Filozofické fakulty Univerzity Komenského v Bratislave*, 1922/23). His effort to contribute to the development of ethnography and the museology concept in Slovakia was manifested especially in his work *Program slovenského národopisného súpisu* (1924).

During his activities at Comenius University besides giving lectures, he supervised students in field trips and engaged them in ongoing research activities he participated in. Through his varied activities and as an enthusiastic researcher himself, he contributed to the education of the first representatives of Slovak experts in ethnography, who later influenced the ethnographic studies not only at the Faculty of Philosophy (R. Bednárik, J. Mjartan) but also in other scientific institutions. Professor Karel Chotek justly remains in the memory of many generations as a doyen of Slovak ethnography.

Magdaléna Paríková