



PERSONALIA

IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR MUDr. MILAN DOKLÁDAL, CSc.

(1. 9. 1928 - 30. 9. 2004)

Professor MUDr. Milan Dokládál, CSc., was born on 1 September 1928 in Brno where he also completed all grades of his education. In 1947, after obtaining his General Certificate of Secondary Education at a grammar school, he enrolled at the Faculty of Medicine of Masaryk University. Still during his medicine studies, he also enrolled at the Faculty of Science of Masaryk University for the study of anthropology in 1950. In the course of this study he handed in his dissertation entitled “*Antropometrie Hlučíňanů*” [Anthropometry of the Hlučín Population]. Its defence and award of the doctoral degree of RNDr. could, however, not take place owing to the unfortunate reform of university studies at that time.

Having graduated from the Faculty of Medicine, MUDr. Milan Dokládál began, in 1953, working as an assistant lecturer at the Department of Anatomy headed by Professor MUDr. et RNDr. Karel Žlábek. During his employment at the Department, he gradually went through all positions of a teacher. Professor Žlábek encouraged his assistant’s orientation to physical anthropology. In 1959, at the Faculty of Science of Comenius University in Bratislava, he defended his Candidate of Science thesis entitled “*Antropologie Hlučíňanů*” [Anthropology of the Hlučín Population]. In 1970, at the Faculty of Science in Bratislava, he also habilitated in Anthropology and was, in the same year, appointed as associate professor at the Department of

Anatomy of the Faculty of Medicine of Masaryk University. His professional career had for long years been suppressed for political reasons, and it was not until 1990 that he was named a university professor in Anatomy.

Professor Dokládál took a significant part in the education of the students of the Faculty of Medicine. He wrote the necessary teaching texts for stomatology students “*Systematická anatomie pro stomatologii I. - IV.*” [Systematic Anatomy for Stomatologists, Parts I to IV]. Among other things, he was also co-author of a nationwide textbook entitled “*Topografická anatomie pro stomatologii*” [Topographic Anatomy for Stomatologists] and a co-author of a teaching text in three parts entitled “*Anatomie člověka I. - III.*” [The Anatomy of Man, Parts I to III]. He took an important role in translating the textual part of *Sinelnikov's Atlas of Anatomy* into Czech. After his retirement he continued to work at the Department of Anatomy in the role of an Emeritus Professor, taking an active part in the instruction of anatomy to foreign students.

Professor Dokládál managed to combine harmoniously the activities of an anatomy teacher with his hobby. In 1969 a many years' plan of Professor Žlábek was achieved: to establish a Section of Medical Anthropology at the Department of Anatomy. Professor Dokládál became its founder and first head; he remained in this function until 1995.

Professor Dokládál also worked as a teacher at the Faculties of Science and Arts of Masaryk University, and at the Faculty of Science of Comenius University in Bratislava (teaching Anthropology to students of the science faculties and Fundamentals of Anthropology to archaeology students at the Faculty of Arts).

The study of the bodily development of newborn infants and children in Brno became a highly important topic for Professor Dokládál. The results of his researches markedly contributed to the morphological normology of neonatology. His further research activity concerned osteology. He described, for example, a rare case of extreme microcephaly, performed experiments on rats and dogs, and evaluated changes in the shape of the skull depending on the masticatory apparatus, described the skeletal remains of the Moravian giant Josef Drásal. An important part of his research involved studies of cremated human bones, which, in 1999, resulted in a highly appraised monograph entitled “*Morfologie spálených kostí. Význam pro identifikaci osob*” [Morphology of Cremated Bones. Importance for Identification of Persons]. The book received the Award of the Rector of Masaryk University in 2000.

In the eighties of the last century, Professor Dokládál focused on the study of problems concerning the bodily development of Gypsies - Romanies, especially on their postnatal growth. His studies devoted to the eruption of permanent teeth are also very interesting and valuable.

As a visiting professor, he gave lectures, for example, at eight American universities; in 1968 he was, for half a year, a visiting professor of anthropological anatomy at the Sorbonne in Paris. It is no exaggeration to say that Professor Dokládál ranks among the best known Czech anthropologists. In the years 1955 and 1969, he was

the first to issue “Československá antropologická bibliografie” [Czechoslovak Anthropological Bibliography], which has so far served as an important source of anthropological literature for further generations of anthropologists.

The total number of Professor Dokládál’s publications comprises more than 400 items.

In 1970, Professor Dokládál was entrusted with an important function of the editor-in-chief of the scientific journal of the Faculty of Medicine, *Scripta medica*, and a monograph series of *Acta Facultatis Medicae Universitatis Brunensis*. He took over this function from his predecessor, Professor Kruta, and fulfilled the editor’s commitments for over 30 years.

In 1950, the Anthropological Society was established in Brno. Milan Dokládál became its member as early as in the year of its foundation, and took an active part in its work. He put his organisational skills to full use also in this society and, in 1953, took over from Professor Valšík the publication of *Zprávy Antropologické společnosti* [Newsletter of the Anthropological Society]. He remained in this function for forty-five years. He is the author of several volumes of “*Bibliografie československé antropologie*” [Bibliography of Czechoslovak Anthropology].

Professor Dokládál was a many years’ holder of Aleš Hrdlička Medal, Paul Broca Medal from the Société d’Anthropologie in Paris, Silver Medal of Masaryk University, Memorial Medal of the Faculty of Medicine of Masaryk University, Award of the Minister of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic for his lifelong paedagogical and scientific research activities, and other appreciations and honours. Apart from Czechoslovak Society of Anthropology he was a member of Czech Society of Anatomy, Czech Society of Anthropology, Czech Medical Association J. E. Purkyně, Czechoslovak Society of Biology, the Anthropology Section of the Society of Friends of the National Museum in Prague, and the Natural Science Club in Brno. The foreign societies whose member he was include Current Anthropology in Chicago, Société d’Anthropologie and Association des Anatomistes and Association des Anthropobiologistes in Paris, Dental Anthropology Association, Anthropologische Gesellschaft, European Association of Social Anthropologists, Towarzystwo anatomiczne, Towarzystwo antropologiczne, and others.

Professor MUDr. Milan Dokládál, CSc., died after a serious illness on 30 September 2004 in Brno.

Libor Páč

