



Lubomíra Havlíková sexagenarian

Sixty years have passed this year since the birth of Czech historian, Byzantologist and Balkanist Lubomíra Havlíková. Born in Moravia, ever since her childhood she has been interested in ancient history, so at a time when it was not customary she studied at a classical grammar school in Brno with extended Latin and Greek tuition. As she could not continue in the family tradition and study law, she decided to study history and archival science at Masaryk University Faculty of Arts in Brno, where she graduated with distinction (*summa cum laude*). Here she also studied Arabic and Sanskrit several semesters, and at Charles University she broadened her grammar school knowledge with her Greek studies.

While still at grammar school, where her Latin and Greek teacher was F. Češková, she became interested in classical antiquity, its history and law. During her studies at university, where she was impressed by the lectures of Professor J. Češka, ancient history specialist, like lawyer S. Balík, now a Constitutional Court judge, she attended seminars on papyrology given by the legal historian and specialist in Roman law, Brno Faculty of Law Professor J. Cvetler.¹ And because her father, Professor L. E. Havlík, was a reader in Byzantology at Brno University and a specialist of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in the early medieval history of Great Moravia and the Slavonic peoples, lecturing for many years on their history, another of Lubomíra Havlíková's future specializations was already settled. Her interest focused primarily on the medieval history of the Slavs and Byzantine-Slavonic relations

¹ J. CVETLER, *Papyrology in Czechoslovakia*, in: Proceedings of the XVIth International Congress of Papyrology (= American Studies in Papyrology 23), Chicago 1981, 683-684.

and her master's thesis (1977) at the end of her university studies also involved Byzantine-Slavonic relations, as did her doctoral thesis (1977) and dissertation (1983), which she wrote at the Masaryk University Faculty of Arts in Brno and Institute of Greek, Roman and Latin Studies at the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Prague, which she joined after her studies in 1977 on a research assistantship and fellowship. Here she was taken on by historian and Byzantologist B. Zástěrová, who for many years had been the Editor-in-Chief of the *Byzantinoslavica* journal. Lubomíra often recalls how together with B. Zástěrová and under the guidance of philologist, Byzantine and Modern Greek literature and language specialist Professor R. Dostálová they read, translated and interpreted passages on Byzantine-Slavonic relations from Theophanes' *Chronographia*. After defending her dissertation „Reports on the history of the Bulgarians in the Bulgarian version of the Manasses Chronicle“, L. Havlíková worked as a scientific researcher at the Academy of Sciences, ultimately becoming the Head of the Department of Byzantine Studies at the Institute. After the specialist orientation and direction at the Institute (later the Institute for Classical Studies) changed, she moved over with the Department of Byzantine Studies and the journal *Byzantinoslavica* in 1992 to the ASCR Institute of Slavonic Studies, where she now works at the Department of Paleoslovenic and Byzantine Studies.

After her arrival at the Institute of Greek, Roman and Latin Studies in 1977 she became involved as a trainee first in proofreading and later in editorial work at the Editorial Board of the international journal *Byzantinoslavica*, with which she cast in her lot, subsequently devoting 35 years of her life to it. In 1986 she became a member of the *Byzantinoslavica* Editorial Board. She rose through all the levels of its management to become its Managing Editor and Deputy Editor-in-Chief and after many twists and turns, during which she was compelled to also work outside her scientific field at the Libraries of the Institute of Greek, Roman and Latin Studies and the Institute of Slavonic Studies, she became its Editor-in-Chief. For several years she also worked as the editor of an international annotated *Byzantinoslavica* journal bibliography, to which she also contributed as an author before it came to an end in 1994. She always stood modestly on the sidelines. However, it is to her endless credit that publication of *Byzantinoslavica*, which was suspended between 2000 and 2002, resumed in 2003, and she was able to celebrate the anniversary of its establishment with an exhibition: „Eighty years of the international journal *Byzantinoslavica* (1929-2009)“, which she organized at the Slavonic Library – National Library of the Czech Republic in Prague in 2009.

In her specialist activities, Lubomíra Havlíková focuses particularly on the issues surrounding Byzantine-Slavonic relations, the history of the Slavonic Balkan countries in medieval times and the history of Czech Byzantology and Slavonic studies. Over the last few years she has also been involved in medieval gender studies and has written several extensive studies on the legal status of women, children and the family in Great Moravian society, whose legal system

was influenced not only by customary law, but also by Western European and Byzantine (Roman) law. She was drawn to legal history by the memory of her great-uncle G. Havlík, Imperial and Royal Court Counsellor to the Supreme Court in Vienna and Senate President at the Czechoslovak Republic Supreme Court in Brno. As co-author she participated and worked on such grant-aided projects as *History of Paleoslavonic and Byzantine Studies in the Czech Lands* (2000-2002), in collaboration with the Historical Institute of ASCR on *Balkan Studies (South-Eastern European Studies) in the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic* (2001-2003) and *History of the Balkans* (2008-2011), and in collaboration with the University of Nitra in Slovakia on the project *After the Steps of Ss Cyril and Methodius in Slovak and Czech Bibliography* (2010-2011), which is to continue for the next two years.

During her scholarly career L. Havlíková has taken part in several international and domestic congresses, conferences, symposia and colloquia. She has published her studies, articles, reviews and notices in numerous domestic and foreign specialist collections of papers and Byzantology, Balkan and Slavonic studies journals, and also on the different websites. She has also written a number of articles popularizing the field of Byzantine and Balkan studies, and encyclopedic lemmas published in encyclopedic and lexicographic works. Her scholarly bibliography contains over two hundred items and her primary works include *Byzantská historiografie a malá bulharská kronika* [The Byzantine Historiography and the Bulgarian Short Chronicle, Brno 1992], which marked the culmination of her interest in this issue from her student years, and co-authorship of such publications as *Počátky dějepisectví východní a jihovýchodní Evropy* [The Beginnings of the Historiography of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, Prague 1990], *Dějiny střední, jihovýchodní a východní Evropy. I. Středověk* [The History of Central, South-Eastern and Eastern Europe. I. Middle Ages, Brno 1995], *Dějiny jihoslovanských zemí* [The History of the South Slav Countries, Praha 1998, 2009²], *České a slovenské odborné práce o jihovýchodní Evropě. Bibliografie za léta 1991-2000* [Czech and Slovak Scholarly Works on South-Eastern Europe. Bibliography for 1991-2000, Prague – Brno 2003], *Dějiny české paleoslovenistiky a byzantologie* [The History of Paleoslavonic and Byzantine Studies in the Czech Lands, Prague 2003] and *Dějiny*

² She has also participated as co-author of the publications as *Česká slavistika 2003* (Prague 2003), *Od Moravy k Moravě / Od Morave do Morave I-II* (Brno – Novi Sad 2005, 2011), *Byzantium and New Countries – New Peoples on the Frontier of Byzantino-Slavonic Area* (Kraków 2007), *Byzantina Europaea. Księga jubileuszowa ofiarowana Profesorowi Waldemarowi Ceranowi* (Łódź 2007), *Historik v proměnách doby a prostředí* (Brno 2007), *Poznávanie kultúrneho dedičstva sv. Cyrila a Metoda* (Nitra 2007), *Pulchritudo et sapientia. Ad honorem Pavel Spunar* (Prague 2008), *Pohľady do vývinu slovenského jazyka a ľudovej kultúry* (Bratislava 2008), *Význam kultúrneho dedičstva sv. Cyrila a Metoda pre Európu* (Nitra 2008), *Česká slavistika 2008* (Prague 2008), *Epea pteorenta. Růženě Dostálové k narozeninám* (Brno 2009), *Stříbrný oltář v bazilice Nanebevzetí na Starém Brně / Der Silberne Altar in der Basilika Mariä Himmelfahrt in Alt Brunn* (Brno 2011), *Bulgarian Middle Ages. Festschrift devoted to M. Kajmakamova*, Sofia 2011 (forthcoming), *The Reception of Byzantium in European Culture 1500-2000*, London 2012 (forthcoming), etc.

Srbska [The History of Serbia, Prague 2004].² She also prepared and in 2009 published a critical edition of the memoirs of the leading Czech historian and Byzantologist M. Paulová, the first female Dozent and Professor at Charles University Faculty of Arts, which she supplemented with an extensive biographical exposition („*První žena na Univerzitě Karlově*“ . *Paměti Milady Paulové* [„First woman at Charles University“ – The memoirs of Milada Paulová, Prague 2009 (= SHS 34)]. Her life story was then commemorated in an exhibition entitled “My life belonged to science”, marking the 120th anniversary of her birth, which took place at the turn of 2011-2012 again in the Slavonic Library.

As part of her specialization L. Havlíková lectured from 1993 to 2008 at Charles University in Prague (Faculty of Arts, Institute of Basic Education and Faculty of Humanities) and at Masaryk University in Brno (Natural Science Faculty and Faculty of Arts) on the issues surrounding Byzantine-Slavonic relations in such subject areas as „Byzantium and the Slavs in the 12th-15th centuries“, „The Byzantine Legacy among the Slavs“, „The History of the Balkan Countries in the Middle Ages“, „The Balkans and the Southern Slavs in the Middle Ages“, „Byzantium and the Slav States in the Balkans in the 13th-15th centuries“, Balkanistics“ and „The Ethnogenesis of the Slavs“. She provides students with her specialist experience during consultations over their bachelor and masters dissertations and theses.

During 1986 L. Havlíková became a member of the Czech (previously Czechoslovak) National Committee of Byzantine Studies, a section of Association Internationale des Études Byzantines, in which she has filled all posts. She worked as its Deputy Chairwoman and Secretary, and because she has played a large role in the revival of its activities and its resuscitation since 2003, she was elected Committee Chairwoman in early 2011. She has also been invited on study trips to Bulgaria, the Soviet Union (nowadays Ukraine and Russia), Germany and France. She has worked and is still working on the specialist committees and editorial boards of domestic and foreign journals. She was a member of the History Council at the ASCR Grant Agency (2007-2010) and works as an external opponent for the Slovak VEGA and KEGA grant agencies. Since 2006 she has been a member of the Editorial Board of the Slovak Byzantological almanac *Byzantinoslovaca* and the Czech journal on Byzantology and philosophy *Synergie*. Since 2007 she has been also a member of the Editorial Board of the Serbian historical journal *Istorijski časopis* and the Editorial Board of the Historical Institute of the SASA in Belgrade, a secretary of the Advisory Board of the Slavonic Institute of the ASCR, and in 2011 she was appointed a member of the International Advisory Board of the Polish *Ceraneum* (Waldemar Ceran Research Centre for the History and Culture of the Mediterranean Basin and South-East Europe) in Łódź.

Ad multos annos! – Χρόνια πολλά! – Многая лета!