

It is with great pleasure, but also with certain anguish, that we would like to inaugurate the new visual design of the journal *STUDIA HERCYNIA*, a peer-reviewed professional journal focusing on the study of the material culture of Antiquity, the relations between the Mediterranean and Central Europe, the traditions of ancient art in European culture, and other related phenomena. This XIXth number, even though not round, does not only have a new layout, but it truly brings a cycle in the history of the journal to an end, and at same time opens a new chapter in its life.

In 1995, a group of colleagues and students around prof. Jan Bouzek prepared an unofficial Festschrift for his 60th birthday. Being very much touched by this action and taking it as a *bona fortuna* sign, Jan Bouzek decided to fulfil his long lasting wish to establish a scientific journal that would represent our Institute of Classical Archaeology both at home and abroad. The first volume was published two years later, in 1997, centring around the papers of the above mentioned Festschrift. For the next 18 years, Jan Bouzek acribiously edited one volume after another, organised several conferences, which were published later on as thematic numbers of the journal (Celtic numismatics [2001], Celts and the Mediterranean [2002], Celtic art [2007], Classical reception [1999, 2004, 2009]), not to mention the fact that over the years he contributed a considerable number of articles himself. As of 2011, the journal started appearing twice a year, with one of the issues usually being of a more monographic character (Thracians and Their Neighbours [2005], Prehistory of Europe as Seen from its Centre [2011], Knovíz Culture Cemeteries [2012], Pistiros V – Supplementum [2013]).

Last year, Jan Bouzek turned 80 years of age, which was a reason deserving of a grand celebration. We intended to celebrate not only at our favourite vinery, but also in a scientific way. However, it became soon clear that to organise a conference covering all of his interests was a task not easy to accomplish. In the end, we decided to organize two conferences. An international one in May 2015, named *Contacts, Migrations and Climate Change*, and a Czech one in February 2015, closer to his actual birthday. It is this latter colloquium, *Jan Bouzek and the Czech Lands*, which we wish to present here to the readers.

STUDIA HERCYNIA has always been meant to be an exclusively foreign language journal. The present volume represents a small departure from this norm, since it contains articles pertaining to Czech prehistory, which address either issues originally targeted by Jan Bouzek's own research or otherwise dear to his heart. It made, therefore, more sense to publish in Czech and Slovak with supplementary comprehensive résumés in English or German. In the future, the journal will continue to be foreign language only, primarily in English, but also accepting contributions in German, French and Italian. It will likewise continue to be published twice a year.

Finally, I would like to use the opportunity to thank Ondřej Pittauer, the head of the publishing house of the Faculty of Arts, Charles University in Prague, for his good will to include *STUDIA HERCYNIA* in the faculty publication programme, and prof. Mirjam Fried, the Dean of the Faculty, for supporting this decision.

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