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Martin Bernátek

The Prague Linguistic Circle and the *Prager Presse*

A Remark on the Science in Interwar Czechoslovakia

In last few years understanding of the history of the Prague Linguistic Circle (further referred to as PLC or Circle) – in which we, followers of its legacy, would like to immediately see the foundation of several lines of thought in science – has been essentially enriched. Comprehensive monographs on the PLC, which were focused more on its ‘external’ history of social, political and cultural events than on the ‘internal’ history of ideas, conceptions and texts, have been written. Jindřich Toman’s work *The Magic of a Common Language: Jakobson, Mathesius, Trubetzkoy, and the Prague Linguistic Circle* (TOMAN 1995, 2011), in particular, introduces the perspective through which the Circle can be seen as a setting of relations between scholars from Brno, Bratislava, Vienna, Geneva or Copenhagen and as a framework of action of its members in the field of science and culture.

Thanks to Patrick Sériot’s monograph *Structure and Totality: The intellectual origins of structuralism in Central and Eastern Europe* (SÉRIOT 1999, 2003, 2014) which has just recently been published in English, the image of East European scholars and emigrants affiliated with the Circle was extended beyond the personas of Jakobson and Trubetzkoy. The knowledge of the German scholars in the Circle and the reception of the Prague School in Germany was eminently enriched by Klaas-Hinrich Ehlers (EHLERS 2003, 2005). These monographs, together with new books on Czech(oslovak)–German–Ukraine–Russian relations¹ in Prague in the 1920s and 1930s, present a summarising and exhaustive overview on the history of the Circle and a basis for further exploration of particular issues. They also now allow us to transform texts, linguistic problems and personal stories, usually studied under the term ‘the Prague School’, into the paradigm of relations between modern sci-

1 See the Bibliography in (TOMAN 1995, 2011) and (KONDRÁD 2011).

ence and culture and explore them on the diverse and controversial cultural and political background of interwar Czechoslovakia.

The authors I have just mentioned refer mostly to archival materials stored in the Archive of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. Fundamental sources such as lists and summaries of lectures organised by the PLC including the attendance lists, together with detailed information about the PLC membership, have recently been published in the extensive book *Pražský lingvistický kroužek v dokumentech* (Prague Linguistic Circle in documents) (ČERMÁK, POETA and ČERMÁK 2012). The use of these sources is of course limited to those with a knowledge of the Czech language as well accessibility to on-line volumes of the PLC journal *Slovo a slovesnost* (Word and Verbal Art; cf. *Slovo a slovesnost* 2011).

Due to the PLC becoming the object of such extensive publishing and research activity, less common sources such as articles in the daily press or less canonical texts by PLC members are also worth attention: in addition, the bibliographies of Roman Jakobson, Petr Bogatyrev and others are easily accessible online (*Bibliography* 2012).

When I was browsing through the Circle's Chronicle (*Kronika Pražského lingvistického kroužku* 1938), which includes clippings and materials from the years 1930–1938, I was surprised by the large amount of clippings from the Newspaper the *Prager Presse*. The corpus of more than 120 published articles presents roughly two thirds of all texts included in the Chronicle. Although it is a rich source for those who want to know more about the PLC and practice of science in interwar Europe it is not taken into an account in either the published documentation of the Circle (ČERMÁK, POETA and ČERMÁK 2012), or in any published book. Therefore, in the following paper, I present the digest of articles² on the PLC published in the *Prager Presse* between 1929–1938. I also present the editor of the culture section of the *Prager Presse* Antonín Stanislav Mágr and his ties to the Circle.

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The *Prager Presse*

The German newspaper the *Prager Presse* (1921–1938) was founded in March 1921 by the News section of the Czechoslovak Ministry of foreign affairs. In 1922, the state-owned publishing house Orbis became its publisher (DEJMEK 2012: 37). The *spiritus agens* of the *Prager Presse* was its editor-in-chief Arne Laurin (1889–1945), an energetic journalist who ostensibly “did know almost everyone relevant in Czechoslovakia” (ŠTEFANOVÁ 2009: 65). The Culture section was led by Laurin's assistant Antonín Stanislav Mágr (1887–1960).

The original idea behind establishing the *Prager Presse* came from the first Czechoslovak president Tomáš G. Masaryk (MÁGR 1947: 8). The Paper officially advocated ‘The Castle’ policy and also served representation of the Czechoslovak state abroad. It also mediated and strengthened mutual ties, even if in German, mostly between Slavic states in the Cen-

2 The author of this paper has its bibliography.

tral Europe. In March 1937, the *Prager Presse* had 4,426 subscribers from all around the world, of which 2,423 were from Czechoslovakia (*Počet abonentů k 21. 3. 1937*). Compared to other newspapers it was a small publication, but its readers belonged mostly to the cultural and social elite (*Prager Presse – opisy posudků a hodnocení 1927–1937*). The *Prager Presse* was probably available in every good class central European café.³

The *Prager Presse* was dissolved together with the decay of Masaryk's, and the second Czechoslovak president Edvard Beneš's, political conception after the Munich Agreement in 1938. After Laurin, the chief editor, emigrated to the USA, it was Mágr, who administered the newspaper from 15 November 1938 to its final liquidation in January 1939. The last issue of the *Prager Presse* was published on 31 December 1938.

The culture section⁴ of the Paper was edited by Mágr together with the poet and translator Otto Pick. Romanist and theatrologist Václav Tille was responsible for the theatre section and Mágr himself was taking care of Slavic and scientific topics; translator, poet, literary theorist and PLC member Pavel Eisner also collaborated with the culture section as an extern. Members of the PLC such as Roman Jakobson, Petr Bogatyrev, Jindřich Honzl, Petr Savickij, Sergej Karcevskij, Miloš Weingart, Fank Wollman and Otokar Fischer occasionally contributed with articles on Slavic culture. Jan Mukařovský and other PLC members like philosophers Leopold Silberstein and Emil Utitz also published there. In 1936, Mágr listed the philosophers Oskar Kraus and Emanuel Rádl in a summary of the *Prager Presse* culture circle's friends and collaborators. He also considered theatre directors E. F. Burian and Jaroslav Kvapil and the famous authors and actors Jiří Voskovec and Jan Werich to be potential contributors (*Prager Presse – seznam spolupracovníků 1936*).

Public Chronicle of the Circle...

Probably the first record of the PLC's activity in the *Prager Presse* is related to the 1st Congress of Slavic philologists in Prague in autumn 1929. The Newspaper published a report (*Moderne Sprachwissenschaft und Slavistik 1929*: 8) of the fierce show of the Circle in the Linguistic section of the Congress, where they “[i]n its nine Theses presented such rich material for discussion, which demands a special little conference to be talked over”⁵ Along with the Congress' news and reports the translation of Jakobson's article *Romantické všeslovanství – nová slavistika* (Romantic Pan-Slavism – New Slavic Studies), originally published in the *Čin* (The

3 “Unfortunately it is hard to get older issues of the *Prager Presse* in Lviv but new volumes are available in several cafés.” [Niestety we Lwowie trudno dostać “Prager Presse” dawną /bo nowe numery są w kilku kawarniach.] (*Ingarden Roman 1936*).

4 Between 1 April 1925 and 1 July 1932 as *Kultur der Gegenwart*, later on as *Kulturchronik* (MÁGR 1946: 8).

5 “Der Zirkel, eine freie Arbeitsgemeinschaft, die es sich zur Aufgabe gemacht hat, die Ergebnisse der neuen Sprachwissenschaft zu verfolgen, aktiv an ihrer Weiterbildung zu arbeiten und sie für die einheimische wissenschaftliche Tätigkeit fruchtbar zu machen, legt in den neun ‘Thesen’ eine solche Fülle von Material vor, daß eigentlich ein kleiner Spezialkongreß vonnöten wäre, um es durchzudebattieren.” (*Moderne Sprachwissenschaft und Slavistik 1929*: 8)

Act) magazine (MÁGR 1929: 6, JAKOBSON 1929: 10-2) has also appeared there. However, in the parts describing the newly proclaimed 'structural linguistics', the term 'structuralism' and PLC were left out. In the following decade the *Prager Presse* published much news from the congresses and events,⁶ that were held at home or abroad and attended by the Circle's members, as well as articles presenting PLC's publications,⁷ and profiles of important linguists and PLC members.⁸

For better understanding of the history of the Circle the most relevant articles are those which summarize the lectures held in the Circle. In fact, they present a public chronicle of the Circle and they are a significant source of knowledge mainly about the years before the *Slovo a slovesnost* journal was established in 1935.⁹ The summaries which were published there were mostly provided by the authors themselves. The lecture reports published in the *Prager Presse* were written by their participants. They not only provide a review of the lecturer's explanation,¹⁰ but also of the discussions that followed. Discussions and their topic are mentioned in most of the articles and not surprisingly Jakobson is the dominant figure there.¹¹ From the *Prager Presse* articles it is also possible to learn more about planned but never realised activities.¹² It is also possible to gain new information about the context of foreign guest lectures held in the Circle, because the guests also lectured in other Prague or Czech institutions and not only in the Circle.¹³

6 E.g. resumé of linguistic congresses in Prague 1930 (MATHESIUS 1930: 8), Geneva 1931 (JAKOBSON 1931a: 8-9) and London (MUKAŘOVSKÝ 1935: 5).

7 E.g. an announcement of the first Volume of the PLC Czech edition *Studie Pražského lingvistického kroužku* (Studies of the PLC), Josef Hrabák's *Staropolský verš ve srovnání se staročeským* (The Old Polish Verse compared to Old Czech Verse) (*Der altpolnische und der altschechische Vers* 1937: 8) or the summary of the article by Ingeborg Seidel-Slotty on the influence of national socialism on German language published in *Slovo a slovesnost* (EISNER 1936: 8).

8 E.g. profiles of Friedrich Slotty (JAKOBSON 1931b: 8), Vilém Mathesius (JAKOBSON 1932b: 6), František Trávníček (JAKOBSON 1938: 8) written by Jakobson, or the necrology of Nikolai Trubetzkoy (*N. S. Trubetzkoy gestorben* 1938: 8).

9 E.g. relatively unknown Roman Jakobson's summaries of the lectures by Alfred Bem (JAKOBSON 1932a: 7) and Viggo Brøndal (JAKOBSON 1935: 6) or the summary of René Wellek's criticism of Viktor Shklovsky's *Theory of Prose* (KOŽEŠNÍK 1934: 6).

10 E.g. Mágr on Jakobson's lecture on the Hussit poetry in the PLC on 29 April 1935: "Für Jakobsons Arbeitsweise ist eine transitorische Haltung kennzeichnend: ihm kommt es nicht so sehr auf fertige Resultate an, aber vielmehr auf den Prozeß der Erkennens [...]" (MÁGR 1935: 7)

11 E.g. Mathesius' lecture "O požadavku stability spisovné češtiny" (On the demand of stability of the standard Czech language) on 12 January 1932 was also attended by then main opponent of the Circle, the editor of *Naše řeč* (Our Speech) journal and the representative of language purism doctrine Jiří Haller. According to Mágr, Haller was unable to defend himself with sufficient arguments (MÁGR 1932a).

12 *Prager Presse* announced the aim to set up the journal *Acta linguistica: Revue internationale de linguistique structurale* which supposedly had to be published by The Copenhagen Linguistic circle in collaboration with the PLC (*Acta linguistica* 1938: 7) and which was later on published without the PLC's direct participation.

13 E.g. Olaf Broch, besides the PLC on 31 May 1938, had lectured also at the Faculty of Arts at the Charles University in Prague and Masaryk University in Brno (*Zum Ostnordwegischen* 1938: 8). Louis Hjelmslev lectured (in French) for the PLC in Zlatá husa café on 25 October 1937 and also (in Czech) for the Institute of Scandinavia and the Netherlands in Společenský klub at Na příkopě street three days earlier (JAKOBSON 1937a: 8). Gustav Becking's lecture "Das Musikwerk als Zeichen" (Music artwork as a sign) took place at the Department of Music at the Faculty of Arts at the German university in Prague (HEXTER 1935: 7).

I will briefly present just few interesting findings: Lectures in the Circle were, in several cases, not limited to scholar explanation only, but were also accompanied by practical illustrations. An example of which is in the psychologist Mihajlo Rostohar's lecture on relations between structural linguistic and psychological acoustic experiments on 14 March 1932 (*Die Sprachlaute im Lichte der Psychologie* 1932: 10). A recital of Hálek's poems performed by the National Theatre actor Zdeněk Štěpánek closed the ceremonial session of the Circle dedicated to the anniversary of Czech poet Vítězslav Hálek and accompanying lecture on Hálek by Mukařovský's on 8 April 1935. The plan of activities of The Circle for the year 1932/1933 (*Der 'Pražský lingvistický kroužek'* 1932: 8) contains a remark about Jakobson's planned lecture on hit songs by actors Voskovec and Werich from the Avant-Garde theatre Osvobozené divadlo, which never happened. In 1932, Jakobson also wanted to write a book on this topic, which he never did and only remarks on the topic were published (JAKOBSON 1933). According to this information, I suppose that Jakobson's interest in Voskovec and Werich's poetics, which is primarily known from his letter about poetics and semantics of fun from 1937 (JAKOBSON 1937), started earlier and could be dated back to 1932.

According to the summary of František Trávníček's lecture on Czech pronunciation in the PLC on 13 May 1937, I consider this event the first methodological treatise on the theatre theme in the frame of the Circle. Trávníček spoke about his book *Správná česká výslovnost* (Proper Czech Pronunciation) which was published by the Provincial Theatre in Brno. Contrary to this purely linguistic book (TRÁVNÍČEK 1935), during the lecture Trávníček got into the problems of the Czech stage speech and treated the pronunciation on stage from the perspective of its functional characteristic of the figure. Trávníček also mentioned pronunciation in cinema and broadcasting and also touched upon the topic of standardisation of pronunciation and its systematic research in the field of theatre, cinema and broadcasting.

...and its editor

The number of articles in the *Prager Presse* visibly exceeds the press coverage of the PLC in other media. This extensive publicity was essentially enabled by the editor of the culture section of the newspaper. Mágr's affiliation with the Circle was certainly going beyond the limits of a journalist's common proximity to his subject of interest. Mágr was a regular guest visitor of the PLC's events and his presence for the first time is documented in Otokar Fischers talk on the "Konrad Wallenrod" on 4 May 1931 (ČERMÁK, POĚTA and ČERMÁK 2012: 116). Mágr's interest in the activities of the Circle is also evident in his correspondence with top members of the Circle Bohumil Trnka (*Korespondence se členy a spolupracovníky*, undat.) and Bohuslav Havránek (*Havránek Bohuslav* 1937, 1939) and also with Frank Wollman (*Wollman Frank* 1937).

Mágr actively participated in the PLC sessions only once. On 27 January 1936, together with Paul Eisner, he evaluated the first volume of *Slovo a slovesnost*. Mágr himself expresses his relation to the Circle with the following: "I stand aside the Pr. Ling. Circle, I am not an expert

neither in linguistics, nor in literary studies and I can observe your literary work [*Slovo a slovesnost*, MB] only as a regular reader and of course as a journalist who follows contemporary streams and courses of cultural events and who strives for its general critical evaluation.”¹⁴ (*A. St. Mágr* 1936: 132) When Mágr was asked by Vilém Mathesius to write a paper on the Polish reception of Russian Formalism for *Slovo a slovesnost*, he was probably too occupied to write it as well as to contribute with something new (*Mathesius Vilém* 1935).

Among members of the Circle it was Roman Jakobson who maintained the closest tie with Mágr. This was due to their collaboration in editing the journal *Slavische Rundschau*. Several letters from Mágr’s correspondence illustrate Jakobson’s function as a messenger and contact person between Mágr and the PLC (*Trnka Bohumil* 1932; *Wollman Frank* 1937).

Relatively intensive systematic promotion of the Circle’s activities resulted from Mágr’s interest in Slavic studies and his sensitivity to then current problems of science and culture. According to his colleague Eisner, Mágr was “a beautiful dumb dog and a menace of chivalrous visits in the office, but impersonated tranquillity, order, discipline and punctuality.”¹⁵ (*EISNER* 1937:16) In his culture section of the *Prager Presse*, he created a collection of texts “which has obtained through scientific precision, deep insight and stimulating spirit of the editor a permanent value.”¹⁶ (*HORÁK* 1937: 5)

Mágr was not the journalist who was used to open up crucial perspectives in understanding of certain artworks or problems by their analysis and new interpretation. His aim was to mediate and share the best and the most important from (not only) the Czechoslovak culture. He was its devoted propagator with the ability to appreciate what was worth appreciating and to ignore what was uninteresting.

Mágr’s 50th jubilee on 6 April 1937 and the following Festschrift happened to be an opportunity for an appreciation of the importance of culture section of the *Prager Presse* and for reflection on the stance of science journalism, particularly for the members of the Circle. According to Havránek, “there was not any newspaper with such a culture section that could by far come up to the *Prager Presse* culture section.”¹⁷ (*Havráněk Bohuslav* 1937) Mukařovský in his contribution criticised the lack of academic interest in popularising science which is, according to him, caused by the search for its own identity and push to succeed at the international academic forum: “For scholars, it is more urgent to create scientific values rather than to make that which was originally created or accepted from abroad understandable to general public.”¹⁸ (*MUKAŘOVSKÝ* 1937: 23)

14 “Stojím mimo Pr. Ling. Kroužek, nejsem odborníkem ani v lingvistice ani v literární vědě a mohu se dívat na vaši literární práci jen jako obyčejný čtenář a ovšem jako novinář, který sleduje proudy a směry současného dění kulturního a pokouší se o kritické zhodnocení jaksi všeobecné.”

15 “[N]ádherný nemluva a neruda, postrach galantních návštěv redakčních, ale vtělený klid, řád, kázeň, dochvilnost.”

16 “[J]imž vědecká přesnost, rozhled a podnětný duch redaktorův dodává ceny trvalé.”

17 “[N]ebylo u nás dosud listu, jehož kulturní rubrika by se dala zdaleka srovnávat s kulturní částí Prager Presse.”

18 “Učencům se zdá naléhavější vědecké hodnoty tvořit, než vytvořeně, po případě přejaté, činit stravitelnějšími laickému publiku.”

Mukařovský has also pointed out that “on the contrary, scholarship and the public [in 1937, *MB*] are getting closer. It is irrelevant to explain generally accepted facts but to zoom into the fight for new facts and values and follow scholarship in the process of their emergence.”¹⁹ (MUKAŘOVSKÝ 1937: 23)

From Mukařovský’s perspective, the public “[d]oes not demand that the science will descend to the public but demand that the public themselves will reach the level of the scholarship”²⁰ (MUKAŘOVSKÝ 1937: 23) so “[t]he task of the journalist in the field of science is double-sided: from one side, he guides the public through the labyrinth of scientific research, and from the other side, he raises support of the public opinion for vivid and actual scientific tasks.”²¹ (MUKAŘOVSKÝ 1937: 24) Consequently, for Mukařovský, Mágř represents a classical type or almost perfect image of scientific journalism (MUKAŘOVSKÝ 1937: 24).

Jakobson went even further in his article in *Lidové noviny* (The People’s Newspaper) (JAKOBSON 1937c: 9), which was originally supposed to be included in the *Festschrift*:²² The Press does not have to only promote science, but also provide a platform for the discussion of its current issues: “Where there is a need for a strong pointing of a question, settling of slogans, vigorous warning of a cultural threat, and a union between theory and practice, specific qualities of newspapers become useful.”²³ (JAKOBSON 1937c: 9) Instead of academic ignorance in promotion of scholarship, Jakobson criticised the danger of their separation and warned against academic ignorance. Newspapers’ diverse focus could counterpoise the narrow specialisation of science. Jakobson also emphasised the idea that the present and current scholarship also includes the relationship between the past and the present. Therefore our relationship to current matters is actually relevant as it is our relationship to the past: “The engagement of science in current issues is the same as the engagement of politics and this actuality inadvertently appears in the focalisation and selection of topics.”²⁴ (JAKOBSON 1937c: 9) Hence journalism need to also have the same requirements as science. According to Jakobson, Mágř is one of the few who understand and fulfil it all.

The reflection of Jakobson and Mukařovský could be also understood as a generalisation of the practice of the *Slovo a slovesnost* journal which was the vehicle for the interconnection of linguistic and literary studies with other disciplines and with cultural life.²⁵ As

19 “[N]aopak, věda a široká veřejnost se přibližují, Nejde přitom o výklad obecně uznaných pravd, ale o přiblížení boje o nové pravdy a hodnoty a sledování vědecké práce v samém zrodu.”

20 “Nežádá si, aby věda sestupovala k němu, ale žádá si vzestoupit samo k vědě.”

21 “Úkol vědeckého žurnalisty je dvojstranný, orientuje publikum v bludišti vědeckého zkoumání a získává, z druhé strany, oporu veřejného mínění tomu, co je ve vědě živé.”

22 The article was returned to Jakobson “with indeed weird and embarrassing commentary” (*Jakobson Roman* 1937).

23 “Kde jde o důrazné zahrocení otázky, o vymezení hesel, o rázné upozornění na aktuální kulturní nebezpečí, o sepětí teorie s praxí, tam se právě uplatňují specifické vlastnosti novin.”

24 “Věda je stejně časově zapojena jako politika a tato časovost se bezděky jeví ve volbě a filtraci témat a především v zorném úhlu [...]”

25 See the leaflet *Slovo a slovesnost* (1935?). This effort was not respected by all members of the Circle. E.g. Trubetzkoy criticised Jakobson for his engagement with ‘journalism’ (JAKOBSON 1975: 313, 327).

Jakobson remarked: “Only a few people had understood and appreciated so early and so fully as you [Mágr, MB] our efforts, plans, fights and difficulties and only a few people had walked such a common path with us.”²⁶ (*Jakobson Roman* 1937)

The Circle had good reason to be grateful to Mágr. Its members had a relatively unique opportunity to form their own ‘PR’ and also to support the position of the Circle in public, for example, by mutual reviewing of their own publications.²⁷ During the fight against language purism of the *Naše řeč* journal in 1932 several articles were published in the *Prager Presse* that explained and supported the line of the Circle.²⁸ It was also possible that via the *Prager Presse* and its chief editors the top members of the Circle, as well as other individuals and groups in Czechoslovak culture, could keep their ties with ‘The Castle’ wing of Czech politics and also with affiliated sponsors. That was the case of Avant-Garde director Jiří Frejka and the editor-in-chief Arne Laurin. It was convenient to hold on to the *Prager Presse* (RAUCHOVÁ 2009: 214–5).

I presume that the alliance with the *Prager Presse* belonged to an important set of strategies for advocating ideas and members of the Circle in the field of interwar Czechoslovakia. Likewise, was the case with the importance of publishing *Slovo a slovesnost* collective appearance, and the collaboration with other scholarly associations. The *Prager Presse* is the paradigm of vigorous promotion of the ideas of modern scholarship and in the case of the Circle the structural linguistic in public life. On this basis it is possible to realise how important the connection between science and current problems of society was for the PLC. Therefore the activity of the Circle could be also appreciated in the field of popularising knowledge and linking scholarship with public life. As for the rest, that was exactly the intention on which the *Slovo a slovesnost* was based. Besides the archival materials themselves, I do not know a richer and more important source for describing PLC in cultural and social context than the *Prager Presse*.

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26 “Málokdo pochopil a zhodnotil tak záhy a tak plně jako Vy naše úsilí, plány, boj a nesháze a málokdo šel s námi tak společnou cestu.”

27 E.g. Karcevskij’s review of Jakobson’s *Remarques sur l’évolution phonologique du russe comparée à celle des autres langues slaves* (KARCEVSKIJ 1930: 8) or Jakobson’s review of Trávníček’s *Historická mluvnice československá* (Historical Czechoslovak grammar) (JAKOBSON 1936: 10).

28 E.g. Mágr’s detailed summary of Mukařovský’s lecture *Básnictví a spisovný jazyk* [Poetry and the standard language] 8. 2. 1932 (MÁGR 1932b: 8) or Mágr’s own article on relation of current discussion on language purism and the conception of spiritual crisis of the society by Karl Jaspers (MÁGR 1932c: 8).

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Attachment

Antonín Stanislav Mágr (1887–1960)

He was born on 6 April 1887 in Prague in the family of the sculptor Josef Mágr, who has moved to Leipzig in 1890. Here Mágr served out as bookseller and started to be deeply interested in Slavic culture. His interest has grown during his stay in Poznań (formerly Posen) in 1911–1913. After the WWI he was enrolled at the Leipzig university and started to collaborate with the Prague German language newspaper the *Prager Presse*. He became the editor of the paper on 1 March 1923 and stayed there till its very end in the January 1939. Mágr was also in years 1931–1939 the technical editor of the *Prager Rundschau*, which was the revival supplement of the *Prager Presse* (*Materiál k životopisu*, undat.).

On 28 March 1929, Mágr was appointed as an active member of the first (culture) section of the Slavic Institute in Prague (*Jmenování* 1929) and also participated in the press sec-

tion of the 1st Congress of Slavic philology in Prague in 1929 (*I. Sjezd Slovanských filologů v Praze 1929?*). Since 1928 Mágr planned the foundation of German language journal on Slavic culture (MÁGR 1959: 18-9) and therefore he addressed Slavists and linguists Miloš Weingart from the Charles University and Gerhard Gesemann, Edmud Schneeweis, Franz Spina and also Roman Jakobson from German University in Prague (*Havránek Bohuslav 1927*). As a result of their joint effort, the *Slavische Rundschau* journal was established. Its first issue was released in February 1929 (KONRÁD 2011: 185) – and Mágr was in charge of the Polish section (*Slavische Rundschau undat.*) – The other important result of this collaboration was the *Germanoslavica*, a quarterly for the research of German and Slavic cultural relations, which was established in 1931.

From 1939 to 1947, Mágr was employed in the press agency Centropres, in 1946-1947 he was an editor of the *Slovanský přehled [Slavic bulletin]* magazine and in 1947-1950 an editor of the Orgis publishing house. While he was employed in the bibliographic section of the Slavic Institute in Prague in 1950-1959, he collected catalogues of excerpts, e. g. from the *Prager Presse*, the *Prager Rundschau* or the *Slavische Rundschau*. Besides his editorial work, he translated several older (Petr Chelčický) and modern pieces of Czech literature (F. X. Šalda, Antonín Sova, Otokar Březina).

