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Chronicle of Scholarly Events in Legal History and Roman Law in the Slovak Republic and Czech Republic in 2020

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The Department of the History of the State and Law (Faculty of Law, Masaryk University in Brno) co-organised the workshop “Nationalism and International Law” (*Nationalsozialismus und Völkerrecht*) between 13th January and 14th January 2020. It was a joint project between the Head of the Department, Assistant Professor Jaromír Tauchen, and Professor Miloš Vec, Head of the Department for Legal and Constitutional History, Law Faculty, University of Vienna. A similar workshop took place in Znojmo in 2019. In both cases, the principle purpose was to provide space for the students from these partner faculties to present their works.

“The Czechoslovak Meeting of Doctoral and Postdoctoral Students” took place on 16th September 2020. These annual meetings are the idea that of a group of teachers from Brno conceived in 2013. The meeting held in 2020 at which doctoral and postdoctoral students presented their research, was the eighth convening of this event. Fortunately, even despite the COVID-19 restrictions, it was possible to organise an offline conference. However, only a few participants from Slovakia travelled to Brno, since, at the scheduled time of the conference, travel restrictions had once again been tightened. The Department has already published the contributions in a printed volume of conference proceedings. The electronic version is available online at the MUNI webpage.

Concerning developments among staff: Assistant Professors Karel Schelle and Michaela Židlická retired.

The Department of Legal History (Faculty of Law, University of West Bohemia in Plzeň) organised the online event, “Hope for Jurisprudence”, on 27th November 2020. Department personnel and invited participants discussed the topic “Jurisprudence in Practice”. Department members also gave speeches at the international event “Confidential Israeli – Czechoslovak Military Help Aide to Israel”, which took place at the Faculty on 15th July 2020.

The Department of Legal History and Comparative Law (Faculty of Law, Comenius University in Bratislava) organised several activities last year. The annual international legal conference “Bratislava Legal Forum” had two sections, one focused on public law and one focused on private law. It took place between 6th and 7th February in cooperation with the Slovak Bar Association. Hence, the main idea was to discuss the role of attorneys as protectors of the legal state. Along with invited participants, the Department of Roman law, Canon law, and Church Law, discussed the topic “History, Status, and Importance of Lawyers in Roman and Canon Law” at the Bratislava Legal Forum.

Beyond these, there were two online events that took place through MS Teams.

The first event was the traditional annual conference, “The Milestones of Law in the Area of Central Europe”, on the topic of “The Development of the Rights in Rem.” Experts on legal history, Roman law, Canon law, and Church law convened for discussions between June 23rd and 24th. A workshop on a similar topic, “The Development of the Rights in Rem in Slovakia”, took place on 23rd October 2020.

The Department of History of the State and Law (Faculty of Law, Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica) organised the sixth volume of “The Banská Bystrica School of Law” on March 26th and 27th. The event was held online this year and its topic was “The Constitutions in History.” The organisers always address those significant events in history that shaped law and the state in those areas long-inhabited by the Slovaks and that emerge as especially important at the current time. The year 2020 marks the hundred-year anniversary of the adoption of the Czechoslovak Constitution of 1920, hence the topic. More precisely, the Constitution was adopted as Law no. 121 of 1920 Coll. on 29th February 1920. Participants’ contributions will soon be published by the Wolters Kluwer publishing house in the peer-reviewed conference proceedings.

The Department of Legal History (Faculty of Law, Trnava University in Trnava) organised the online conference “The 70th Anniversary of the Civil Code of 1950 and Legal Politics in the 20th Century”. It was part of the traditional international academic congress “Trnava Days of Law” between September 24th and 25th. The Department has already published participants’ contributions in the peer-reviewed conference proceedings that are traditionally issued under the name *The Legal-Historical Trends and Perspectives*. It is the fifth volume published at the Trnava University publishing house, and is called *Typi universitatis tyrnaviensis*. The electronic version is available on the Faculty webpage. Along with invited participants, the Department of Roman Law and Church Law discussed the topic: “Roman-Canon Resources of Slovak and European Public Law” at the Trnava Days of Law Congress.

In 2020, the Faculty and the Department of Legal History focused mainly on students. They organised many supplementary online workshops and lectures to attract and

help students in the difficult circumstances of the learning process due to the COVID-19 restrictions. The Department organised an online workshop, “Live from the European Court of Human Rights”, on 24th November. A Court lawyer discussed the Court’s history and presence with those students who participated.

A workshop on the history and presence of the “Prison and Court Guard Service” took place on 25th November.

To motivate our students, Anton Popovič, the student leader of the 1989 “Velvet Revolution”, recorded a podcast and wrote a letter to our students titled *A Few Words about Freedom*.

Some colleagues from legal-historical and Roman-law departments successfully defended their habilitations, i.e., they were awarded the title “docent”.

Martin Skaloš, J.D. PhD (from the Department of History of State and Law, Banská Bystrica) successfully defended his thesis about the legal norms which regulated rights *in rem* throughout Slovak history. In his work, he focused mainly on the 20th century. The defence took place at the Bratislava Faculty of Law on 23rd March 2020.

Zuzana Mlkva Illyova, J.D. PhD (the Department of Legal History and Comparative Law, Bratislava) successfully defended her thesis about the legal and legal-historical polemics prevailing at the time of the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic in 1918. The defence took place at the Bratislava Faculty of Law on 12th May 2020.

Miroslav Fico, J.D. PhD (from the Department of History of the State and Law, Košice) successfully defended his thesis about criminal liability in interwar Czechoslovak criminal law. The defence took place at the Košice Faculty of Law on 30th September 2020.

Mgr Ondřej Horak, J.D. PhD (from the Department of the History of the State and Law, Brno) successfully defended his thesis about K.A. Martini and the related first modern codification of private law. The defence began at the Brno Faculty of Law on 16th September 2020, and ended in February 2021.

Doc. Robert Brtko, JCDr. DPed. CSc. (from the Department of Roman law, Canon law and Church Law, Bratislava) successfully defended his second thesis about marriage law in both classical Roman law and the Law of Justinian. It focused on respect and mindfulness in marriage. The defence took place at the Bratislava Faculty of Law on 11th May 2020.

Veronika Kleňova, J.D. PhD. (from the Department of Roman Law and Church Law, Trnava), one of the leading Slovak experts on Roman Law, successfully defended her thesis about the *donatio sub modo* in Roman law. The defence took place at the Trnava Faculty of Law on 8th September 2020.

Doc. Mgr Miroslav Lysy, PhD is being inaugurated as a Professor.

Doc. Mgr Miroslav Lysy, PhD (The Department of Legal History and Comparative Law, Bratislava), who is the Head of the Department, gave a speech via MS Teams at the Bratislava Faculty of Law on 10th September 2020. The speech was directed to the Inauguration Committee, opponents, academicians, and the general public. The Head of the Inauguration Committee was Professor Jozef Klimko. The speech was of a multidisciplinary and multidimensional character. The main focus, though, was on the Hungarian Kingdom and its ethnicity. Doc. Lysy concluded his speech with his research findings

on multiethnicity. He claimed that the Hungarian Kingdom was already multi-ethnic in medieval times, i.e., from the time of the establishment of the Kingdom, and not from the time of the modern period as claimed by many authors (especially by the Hungarian historian János Karácsonyi). He backed up his research with both legal and non-legal sources. Beyond this, he pointed out the link between ethnicity and feudal social classes in the Kingdom of Hungary.

The Inauguration Committee and opponents praised Lysý's role in establishing the Department of Legal History at the Slovak Historical Association of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. It provides an inspiring academic forum for historians, as well as for researchers in related fields. One of the opponents, doc. Ladislav Vojáček, spoke about the beginnings of Lysý's career. He complimented his personal and professional qualities and highlighted his university degrees in both law and history. Lysý is due to be inaugurated by the President of the Slovak Republic in 2021.

Doc. et doc. Róbert Brtko, JCDr. PaedDr. CSc. is being inaugurated as a Professor. Assistant Professor Brtko, an expert in Church law and Roman law, gave a speech at the same Faculty on 1st July. He presented part of the results of his thorough research on the topic of "The Effectiveness of the Civil Roman Procedure." The Scientific Committee of the Comenius University accepted the recommendation of the Faculty of Law to inaugurate doc. Brtko as a Professor on 8th December 2020. Just as with doc. Lysý, Brtko is due to be inaugurated by the President of the Slovak Republic in 2021.

To sum up, we hope that the circumstances surrounding the epidemic and the consequent economic situation will start to improve, and that the next year will be richer in academic and expert dialogue. Last but not least, we express our gratitude for the good relations between the Slovak, Czech, and foreign legal-historical departments, and we hope to restore our fruitful meetings soon.