

This dissertation is divided into two parts. The first part (2. VIENNA AND CZECH LITERATURE) is devoted to the interaction between the city of Vienna and modern Czech culture, primarily literature. The second part (3. VIENNA AND CZECH SLAVIC STUDIES) is oriented toward the problematic of the history of Slavic Studies, the area of Slavic philology which, as a meta-discipline, deals with the self-reflection of its own subject. Specifically, both the initiative of the “Jagić concept” of Slavic philology for Czech Slavic Studies as it was eventually reflected in Karásek’s specialized activities and the panoramic outline of the way in which Jagić’s work was perceived and absorbed in the Czech surroundings are the subject of consideration.

However, this study is not a “classic” monograph in the narrow sense of the word. Josef Karásek, who was a literary historian, editor, translator, and promoter of Slavic literatures in the German-speaking world, was not a central personality in the history of Czech Slavic Studies. Yet on the other hand, considering the rather strong echo of his work in Czech, Viennese and other Slavic research communities, and in spite of the partial research eclecticism of his work, it cannot be said that Karásek was a mere journalist and author of compilations.

His extensive estate, which was made accessible only in 1995 (Literary Archive of the National Literature Memorial) reveals very lively specialized correspondence contacts with many of the leading personalities of the research, artistic, and especially literary worlds. This rich heuristic base, in combination with the use of Karásek’s personality as an axis around which a broader substratum could be reconstructed, became the point of departure for more detailed knowledge of Jagić’s Slavic seminary and Czech Vienna (above all in the literary sense). ...