

THE CZECH AND SLOVAK EMIGRATION TO ARGENTINA IN THE ARCHIVE OF THE NÁPRSTEK MUSEUM IN PRAGUE

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Abstract

This article aims to provide information about archive sources relating to the Czech emigration to Argentina held in the Náprstek Museum in Prague. The study provides a detailed inventory of the material found in the Náprstek emigrants' records. The material documents the activities of the Czechs and Slovak emigrants and their organization in Argentina, as well as the agenda of the Czechoslovak institutions dealing with the emigration issue. This material includes compatriot newspapers, correspondence and manuscripts of compatriot organizations, written and oral memories of the emigrants and their descendants. The unique material includes chronicles of several compatriots associations in Buenos Aires, travel memoirs of the Czech traveler Čech-Vyšata and the writings of Jan Purkrábek and Juan Jetmar. The Museum also preserves an extensive photographic record of Czech and Slovak emigration centers in Argentina covering the period from 1907 to 2014.

Keywords: Czech Emigration; Argentina; Archive of the Náprstek Museum; Compatriots associations; Czech Compatriot newspapers; Photography collection of Argentina; correspondence; emigrants memoirs; Jan Purkrábek; František Čech-Vyšata; Juan Jetmar

The Czechoslovak emigration to South America became a research subject of interest in Czech Latin-American studies in the 1960s. Over twenty research studies and a similar number of student theses and dissertations were written primarily by Czech and Slovak scholars about this topic. These studies address fundamental questions about emigration to Argentina, as well as several case studies which describe emigration centers and compatriot institutions. It is clear from examining the existing studies that the research papers used sources from the Czech, Slovak and Argentine archives in a limited way. One of the challenges of this research topic is to map and analyze the archive sources and records (see partial results in Hingarová 2014a). The aim of this article is to provide information on archive sources deposited at the Náprstek Museum in Prague, one of the key institutions for the study of emigration to South America.

The sources related to the emigration can be divided into two groups: 1) Sources resulting from the activities of Czechoslovak and Argentine authorities in relation to the Czechoslovak compatriots. These can be found at several archives in the Czech Republic such as the Archive of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Archive of Náprstek Museum, the National Archive in Prague; and in Argentina in the Historical Archive of Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Buenos Aires; 2) Sources resulting from the activities of Czechs and Slovaks emigrants who settled in Argentina. There is problem with sources from group 2 in that they have not yet been systematically archived and described (with the exception of some compatriots' journals stored in the National Library in Buenos Aires and in the library of the Náprstek Museum). Part of the sources can be found fragmented in the above mentioned archives, in some

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compatriot associations in Argentina and in family archives mostly in the Czech Republic and Argentina. The material on emigration to Argentina in the Náprstek Museum constitutes one of the largest collections of documents on Czech and Slovak compatriots in the Czech Republic, and probably also in the whole world.

1. Archive sources in the Náprstek Museum in Prague

The Náprstek Museum was founded by Vojta Náprstek (1826-1894) in order to house a library of publications dealing with Czechoslovak emigration. The Museum was systematically extended by purchases and donations by Czech compatriots living abroad. The library was built up by followers of V. Náprstek and to a limited extent today it has developed into a specialized library dealing with non-European cultures.

The material related to the Czech and Slovak emigration can be found in separate collections in two departments: at the Náprstek Library (NL to continue) and at the Archive of Náprstek Museum (ANM to continue). The Library maintains printed material: scholarly, belletristic, travel and memoirs, periodicals and other printed documents relating to emigration of the Czechoslovaks abroad.² The Library stores a unique collection of twenty compatriot periodicals from the period 1907-1961 and a smaller collection of scholarly and compatriot associations' publications. The Archive of the Náprstek Museum stores printed and handwritten material on the emigration of Czechs and Slovaks abroad, as well as archives inherited by Czech and Slovak individuals living abroad, and Czech scholars who conducted ethnographic research abroad. The collection of compatriots' documents in the ANM includes mainly material made by Czech compatriots in Argentina such as association prints, chronicles, correspondence and to a lesser extent written memoirs, diaries and personal documents. The archive also includes a rich collection of photographs of Czechoslovak compatriots and of the activities that took place in compatriot centers.

² See the collection's description at: Vladimír ZÁHRADNÍČEK & Marcela LINKOVÁ, *Krajanská sbírka knihovny Náprstkovy muzea: soupis českých a slovenských krajanských tisků zahraničních a literatury o českém a slovenském vystěhovalectví*, Praha 1994, vol. 4.

Material on emigration to Argentina can be found in seven archive collections. These are: 1) two thematic collections of Krajanský archiv (Expatriate archive): K1 – Argentina; K2 – South America; 2) four private collections: Juan Jetmar's collection, Jan Purkrábek's collection, František Čech-Vyšata's collection, and Jarmila Novotna's collection; and 3) collection of the Československý ústav zahraničí (Czechoslovak Foreign Institute).

The expatriate archives K1 and K2 contain an extensive material on Czechoslovak compatriot centers abroad stored inside 18 boxes. These contain primarily scrapbooks of Czech and Argentine compatriots newspapers, association records such as anniversary brochures and invitations to the activities, information about individuals in the compatriot community, as well as Czechoslovak employers working in Argentina (Czech teachers, missionaries, diplomats), historical photographs, lists of compatriot institutions and periodicals, as well as donations such as bound books of the associations' work, photo album and certificates.

These records mainly cover the period from the World War I. to the 1960s. Recently in January 2015 unique material was donated to the Museum relating to 2010 and includes biographies and memoirs from the oldest living generation of compatriots and descendants of Czech and Slovak origin. The recent revival of interest in the Czech and Slovak heritage in Argentina is recorded in numerous documents printed in Spanish, compatriot newspapers and material from compatriot associations and Czech teachers. Exceptional material has been found in four private collections belonging to individuals who settled in Argentina. The collection belonging to journalist and chronicler Juan Jetmar (1882-1926) contains manuscripts about compatriot movement in Argentina during the World War I. to 1923. This material is crucial for the study of the establishment of the first compatriot institutions in Argentina and the Czech community, as well as the colony's involvement in the struggle for Czechoslovakian independence. The collection belonging to Jan Purkrábek (1856-1935) includes his personal archive. Jan Purkrábek was an active administrator of the main Buenos Aires compatriot organizations. This collection consists of three boxes. It includes extensive personal correspondence, correspondence from the associations, personal documents, manuscripts and scrapbooks as well as compatriot prints. All this material serves to paint

a vivid picture of the private life and interests of Jan Purkrábek and his family during their stay in Argentina between 1914-1932. This archive material accurately records the development, organization and character of compatriot centers in Buenos Aires during the 1920s. The private collection of the traveler and adventurer František Čech-Vyšata (1881-1942) includes two comprehensive written memoirs from his three journeys around South America. These provide a description and insight into compatriot life in Argentina and other South American countries between 1910 and 1920. Parts of these memoirs were published during his lifetime. The fourth collection belonging to the opera singer Jarmila Novotná (1907-1994) consists of one folder which relates to her artistic tour of South America.

The Archive collection of the Československý ústav zahraničí (CUZ – Czechoslovak Foreign Institute) relates to the work of the institution from its establishment in 1928 to ca. 1950. The CUZ was an important state institution which focused on relations with Czech and Slovak compatriots abroad and recorded their cultural and social needs. Most of the material originated from the documentation work carried out by the CUZ. It includes inventories of expatriate associations and periodicals, emigration statistics, annual reports, information about individual expatriates and scrapbooks about Argentinian issues in the Czech and Slovak press, reports from expatriate centers, as well as correspondence with those mainly interested in emigration to Argentina. A rich photographic collection illustrates the compatriot life style in Argentina in the first half of the 20th century.

2. Inventory of sources relating to the Czech and Slovak emigration to Argentina in the Archives of Náprstek Museum

The archive records relating to the emigration to Argentina have been located in seven collections and are stored in a total of 60 archive boxes. I have examined the material contained in these boxes and have drawn up an inventory of all the major sources on compatriot life in Argentina. Although the Archive of Náprstek museum has created its own inventory with regards to most of the records it is not sufficient for our purposes due to its brevity.

When compiling the inventory I questioned whether I should catalogue the archive records orderly by the collections or by relevant topics or

events. The information about compatriot events, individuals and institutions is in fact fragmented in most of the aforementioned collections. In addition, material on a particular topic is not usually duplicated in the other collections and thus provides new information. In the end I decided to create the archive inventory according to the collections, in the same way as it was done for the inventory of the Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.³

The following inventory includes a brief description of each archive collection followed by a list describing the physical documents stored there. Each document is given a brief description (more detailed than in the inventory list of the Náprstek Museum), including a description of the event or institution, location, participants, number of pages and date. The Archive inventory is sorted chronologically. If a date is not indicated, it means that it was not possible to determine it. The same applies to biographical data.

The vast majority of the archive material is written in the Czech language. A small part, mainly from the past two decades is written in Spanish. Since the language of this paper is English, it is necessary to solve the issue of the translation of associations, periodicals and other specific archive material. Since the names of associations occur in the documents only in Czech and Spanish, I decided to provide the Czech name and the English translation in parentheses. The names of book titles and other documents in Czech are also translated into English.

2.1 Expatriate Archive K I (Fond Krajanský archiv I) Collection

This collection is part of the main compatriot collection in the Náprstek Museum. The topic of emigration to South America contains material related to the activities of the Czech and Slovak community in Argentina. It includes newspapers, separately numbered, brochures, annual reports and official correspondence of compatriot associations, as well as invitations to various activities organized by the associations.

³ See Vendula HINGAROVÁ, “La emigración checoslovaca a Argentina en el Archivo de la Cancillería Checa – estudio de fuentes”, in: Josef Opatrný (Coord.), *Las relaciones checo-argentinas* (= Ibero-Americana Pragensia Supplementum 37), Praha 2014a, pp. 241-263.

Inventory of the archive records of this collection:

- Newspaper *Slavia*, published in Buenos Aires in the Czech language – separate numbers (No. 1, 2) 1907;
- Scrapbook Argentina – newspaper cuttings about emigration to Argentina from the Czech press, ca. 150 pcs., 1930–1939, 1945–1948;
- Association *Sokol in Buenos Aires* – organization’s chronicle, annual reports, 150 pages 1914–1928;
- Bound book “Památník k příležitosti VII. sletu Sokolského v Praze” (Memorial of the VII. Sokol Assembly in Prague) – scrapbook, invitation to the Sokol performances and cultural activities, photographs of public performance in Buenos Aires, membership card, 130 pages 1915–1930;
- Association *České národní sdružení* in Buenos Aires (Czech National Association in Buenos Aires) – circular in Spanish about the organization’s mission (around 1917);
- Association *České národní sdružení* – report on the mission after the establishment of the Czechoslovak consulate in 1920;
- Association *Sokol* in Buenos Aires – invitations and programs of cultural activities 1921–1923, 1928;
- Antonia Frey’s travel diary, 12 pages, in Czech with Spanish translation, photocopy 1925;
- Association *Československý klub* in Buenos Aires – membership card with statutes 1926;
- Association *Sokol* in Buenos Aires “Památné album” (Album of memoirs) – scrapbook from Argentinian newspapers 1928–1930;
- Invitation to the establishment of the Československý dům (Czechoslovak house) in Buenos Aires in 1931;
- Association *Komenský* in Buenos Aires – invitations to activities, membership card with the statutes, brochure in Czech “Inauguration of the first Czechoslovak school in Buenos Aires” 1932;
- Association *Slovenský spolok* (Slovak Association) in Comodoro Rivadavia – invitation to the association’s celebrations 1934;
- Czechoslovak associations in Buenos Aires – celebration of the anniversary of Czechoslovak independence 1922–1928, 1935;
- Association *Slovenský spolok* in Buenos Aires – invitations to the cultural activities 1933, 1935–1937;

- *Výstěhovalecká porada pro Slovensko* (Slovak Advice Office for Emigration) – annual report with information about Argentina 1936;
- Association *Sokol* in Presidencia Roque Sáenz Peña v Chaco – memorable album 1938;
- File of Martin Kukučín (1860 – Buenos Aires 1928), Slovak poet – notification of death in Argentina 1928;
- File of Jáchym Procházka (1902 – Montevideo 1985), Czech catholic priest – annual reports of the mission among Czech and Slovak compatriots in Argentina in 1934, 1935;
- File of Miloš Suchan (1888–?) Czech business man – correspondence, cuttings of newspaper articles 1932, 1937;
- File of Richard Lehký (1869 – Buenos Aires 1945), Czech business man – correspondence about financial collection 1923;
- File of Sýkora, Gustav (1889 – Prague 1966), Czech painter – work for Czech association 1922 – 1923;
- File of František Zelenka (1884–?), Czech emigrant – report on the situation in the colony and activities of Jáchym Procházka 1933, 1935;
- File of Jan Purkrábek (1856 – Prague 1936), Czech emigrant, teacher – correspondence, speeches, reports about Czech emigrant community in Buenos Aires 1921–1922, 1931.

2.2 Expatriate archive 2

(Fond *Krajanský archiv 2*) Collection

This collection includes rich material covering one hundred years of the Czech and Slovak emigrant colony from the 1920s to the second decade of 21st century. A part of the collection also includes valuable photographic records documenting cultural life in the major centers of Czechoslovak emigration in Buenos Aires and Chaco, and other smaller centers. The collection was restructured. For example, the material on Jan Purkrábek and Juan Jetmar was relocated into separate individual collections. The collection has recently grown with new material donated from Argentina.

The collection includes contemporary material from the last decade that is the result of renewed activities by Czech compatriot associations and by the work of Czech scholars, teachers and diplomats. The unique and valuable material consists of a bound book of association documents and a scrapbook called “Zprávy o situaci a rozvoji českých spolků a angažovanosti českých spolků

za nezávislost Československa z let 1917-1923” (Report on the Situation and Development of Czech associations and their involvement in the independence of Czechoslovakia 1917-1923).

The major part of the collection consists of donated archives. Mr. Jiří Brunclík, son of the teacher M. Brunclík who worked at Czech supplementary schools in Argentina during the 1930s, donated his father’s scrapbooks relating to the activities of Czech teachers. The author of this article donated two boxes of historical documents received from Czech descendants and documents relating to her teaching and research activities during her stay in Argentina in 2012-2014.

The archive collection contains the following documents:

- Association *Československý Sokol* (Czech Slavic Sokol) in Buenos Aires – report 1908;
- Activity report *Sokol* in Buenos Aires – photos from performances 1912;
- Bound book “Válečné působnosti Českého národního sdružení in Buenos Aires za rok 1918 a za dobu příměří” (Military operation of the Czech National Association in Buenos Aires in 1918 and during the period of truce) compiled by J. Jetmar – annual report, scrapbook associations prints, 390 pages 1917-1919;
- Bound book “A Francia. Los checoslovacos de la República Argentina” (To France – The Czechoslovaks of the Argentinian Republic) – scrapbooks and reports from Buenos Aires 1921;
- Bound book “Kronika z Argentiny – Kus národní historie v Argentině” (Chronicle of Argentina – A piece of national history in Argentina) compiled by Jetmar Juan, Buenos Aires, 673 pages 1922-1923;
- Association *Slavia* and *Sokol* in Chaco – photographs from activities 1919-1934;
- Association *Slavia* in Tafi Viejo – photos 1920, 1925;
- Leaflet about the journey of Czech athlete and journalist Francis Pepez Roland 1922;
- Czech clubs in Buenos Aires – invitations to clubs activities 1926-1929;
- Report on Dora colony in Argentina 1926;
- Photobook “V upomínku na čl. spolek Slavia v PRSP” (In Memory of Czechoslovak Club Slavia in the PRSP), 15 pages, 1927;
- Private correspondence of the Drab family from Southern Bohemia 1927-1936;
- Czech and Slovak Associations in Chaco – invitations to cultural activities 1929-1937;
- *Union of Czechoslovak Associations* in Argentina – status and annual reports 1928, 1930, 1931;
- Photos of Czech farms and businesses in the Chaco;
- Photos of the Slavia’s theater group in PRSP 1930, 1933;
- Photos of Association *Comenius* in Villa Devoto, Buenos Aires 1931;
- Photos of compatriots from Villa Dominico 1931;
- Photos of *Slovak School Association Štefánik* 1931, 1934;
- Association *Comenius* in Buenos Aires – Brochure “Slavnostní otevření první československé školy ve Villa Devoto” (Inauguration of the First Czechoslovak School in Villa Devoto) 1932;
- Photos of the Czech missionary Procházka and compatriots from Berisso 1934;
- Photos of Slovak actors in Buenos Aires and Comodoro Rivadavia;
- Photos of Czech associations in Villa Dominico (Buenos Aires);
- Postcards “The life of our missionaries among compatriots overseas”;
- Brochures of Czech compatriot businesses in Buenos Aires – Hotel Křikava, Pharmacy Hušpaur;
- Manuscripts of articles about the life of Czech emigrants for the journal *Krajan* 1936;
- Report about the construction of the Czechoslovak school in Avellaneda 1936;
- Photographs from Czech and Slovak schools in Berisso, Chaco, Buenos Aires 1929-1937;
- Photographic portraits of Czechoslovak emigrants – J. Purkrábek, Fr. Procházka, R. Lehký, M. Suchan;
- Curriculum vitae of R. Lehký, General Consul of Czechoslovakia in Argentina;
- Photos of Czechoslovak emigrants on ships;
- Photos from the first Mass of the Slovak Catholic priest Fr. Gesse in Argentina 1934;
- Postcards of Czechoslovak colony in Argentina;
- Photos of Czechoslovak colony and Československý klub (Czechoslovak Club) in Cordoba, 1935, 1937;
- Photos from the Exhibition of the Czechoslovak schools in Buenos Aires 1936;
- Association *Československá Matice školská* (Czechoslovak School Association) – reports 1937, 1943;

- Photos of the Czechoslovak community in Verónica;
- Photos of Czech teacher Nekola;
- Scrapbooks and photos from the Czechoslovak community in Rosario 1934;
- Association *Pěvecký kroužek Vlastimil* (Singing group Vlastimil) in Rosario – report on association’s foundation 1934;
- Newspaper *Jihoameričan* – separate numbers (Vol. XII, No. 3, 4) 1935;
- Brochure “Eucharistic Congress in Buenos Aires”, published in Buenos Aires in Czech 1934;
- Brochure “T. J. Sokol Villa Dominico” published in Buenos Aires on the occasion of the opening of the first *Sokol* gymnasium in South America, 24 pages, Czech, editorial in Spanish 1940;
- Yearbook of newspaper *Tábor* published in Buenos Aires in Spanish, 140 pages, 1944;
- Publication “Primer Congreso Latino-Americano Eslava en la Argentina”, published in Buenos Aires in Spanish, 1943;
- Publication “Segundo Congreso Eslava en Argentina”, Buenos Aires published in Spanish 1946;
- Association *Československá frakce komunistické strany* (Czechoslovak Communist Party) in Argentina – circular letter 1947;
- Czech teacher’s Miloš Brunclík work in Argentina – documentation of teaching activities at Czechoslovak schools in Argentina, 80 pages 1937-1942;
- Brochure “Czechoslovak Association in Avellaneda – 10th anniversary 1933-1943” published in Buenos Aires 1943;
- Association *Československé Sjednocení* (Czechoslovak Union) – report on resistance activities during the World War II. 1945;
- Letter from Carlos Saavedra Lamas to President Benes on the situation at the Argentinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs during the war 1945;
- Newspaper *Velehrad* (Alcazar) – cultural religious magazine for Czechs and Slovaks in Argentina, separate numbers 1945, 1957, 1958;
- Brochure “Czechoslovak Club in Buenos Aires 1908-1948” published in Buenos Aires, in Czech, 12 pages 1948;
- Newspaper *Noticioso Checoslovaco*, published in Buenos Aires, in Spanish – separate numbers (No. 104, 105) 1953;
- Brochure “Československé sdružení – 25. výročí spolku 1933-1958” (Czechoslovak Association 25th anniversary 1933 – 1958) published in Buenos Aires, 16 pages, in Czech, 1958;
- Journal *Věstník T. Sokol* in Buenos Aires, 4 pages, fragment 1959;
- Brochure “Melodías de Praga. Boletín de la audición checoslovaca” published in Buenos Aires, in Czech, 1959, 1960;
- Newspaper *Nová Doba*. Nueva Era, published in Buenos Aires – separate numbers 1942, 1961;
- Association *Československé národní sdružení* in Avellaneda – book evidence of correspondence from 1941-1948; book “Records of membership fees” – fragment 1936-1964;
- Manuscript “Za mořem daleko od nás je v Jižní Americie stát Argentina” (The sea far away from us is in South America Argentina), written in Czech by Z. Kysela, 12 pages, 1960;
- Death notice of Czechoslovak priest Jerónimo Kadlec 1970;
- Invitations to activities of Czechoslovak Associations: *Slávia* in Temperley, Buenos Aires Sokol, *Československé národní sdružení*, *Čsl. komitě při Červeném kříži* (Czechoslovak wComité of Red Cross), ca 50 pieces, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1947, 1949, 1951-1959, 1961, 1969, 1975, 1976, 1991;
- brochure “Asociacion Checoslovaca in Avellaneda 1933-1984” published in Buenos Aires, in Spanish 1984;
- Manuscript of the memoirs of Fr. Kadeřábek jr. about Fr. Kadeřábek, the Czechoslovak ambassador in Buenos Aires, 40 pages, in Spanish, 1984, 2007;
- Brochure “Primer Encuentro de los paisanos” published in Chaco, in Spanish, 17 pages, 2003;
- Invitation to the film festival of Czech-Slovak Federative Republic in Buenos Aires, 1990;
- Photographs of Slovak compatriot institutions in Chaco donated by Slovak researcher Ján Botík 1991;
- Jiří Brunclík correspondence with compatriots in Chaco 1994-1997;
- Slovak magazine *Slovenský život v Argentíně* (Slovak life in Argentina) – separate issue (No. 95), 1995;
- Request of Slovak organization in Chaco to receive archive material from Náprstek Museum 1998;

- Publication “Creadores santafesinos. J. Sedlacek” published in Santa Fe, in Spanish, 20 pages, 2001;
- Manuscript “Češi a jejich potomci v Argentině. Los checos y sus descendientes en la Argentina” (Czechs and their descendants in Argentina) edited by ex-ambassador E. Hrdá 1999-2003. The manuscript includes written memoirs by Czech and Slovak compatriots and their descendants. The biographical information of the narrators corresponds to 2003, the year of the book preparation. The book was never published. It includes memoirs about these persons:
- Memoirs of Fr. Kadeřábek jr. about Fr. Kadeřábek (1882 Prague – 1967 Buenos Aires) – Czechoslovak ambassador in Argentina from 1935 to 1947;
- Memoirs by Vera Poláčková born Saxlová (1910? Drásta near Prague – lives in Buenos Aires) – postwar immigrant of Jewish origin;
- Memoirs of Miguel A. Dersák about family Dersák-Volman – postwar emigrants;
- Memoirs of Gustav André Deutche (1935 Prague – lives in Buenos Aires) about family Deutsche from Dvůr Králové – war refugees;
- Memoirs of Doris Steuer about father Karel Steuer (1892 Prague – 1982 Switzerland) – founder of chain store Teta (Tía in Argentina);
- Memoirs of Francisco Kocourek (1943 Buenos Aires) about his family – war emigrants;
- Memoirs of Ludmila Čejková de Kudrnáč – postwar emigrant;
- Memoirs of Jan Maye (1945 Prague) – postwar emigrant;
- Memoirs of George Muller (1915 – live in Buenos Aires) – postwar emigrant;
- Memoirs of Ivan Vavrečka (1946 Prague – live in Buenos Aires) about the family Vavrečka – postwar emigrants;
- Memoirs of Ana Maria Janků (1951 in Buenos Aires – lives in Buenos Aires) about family Janka and Šlégr – postwar emigrants;
- Memoirs of Luis Slabý – musician, descendant of interwar emigrants;
- Memoirs of Mr. Beneš (1924 Prague – lives in Buenos Aires) – businessman, postwar emigrant;
- Memoirs of José A. Ingra (1923 Mistřín – lives in Buenos Aires) about family Irg and Zbořil – descendant of Czechoslovak interwar emigrants;
- Memoirs of sculptress Vlasta Simkova (1925 Slovakia – lives in Buenos Aires) – postwar emigrant;
- Memoirs of Tatana Korolkov (1932 Mladá Boleslav – lives in Buenos Aires) – postwar emigrant;
- Memoirs of count Ivan Deyme (1930 Prague – lives in Buenos Aires) – about aristocratic family Deyme from Střítež – postwar emigrants;
- Memoirs of Francisco Ulrico Kinsky (1936 Vienna – lives in Buenos Aires) – war emigrant;
- Memoirs of Helena Voldan (1924 Prague – lives in Buenos Aires) – interwar emigrant;
- Memoirs of Lidie Kotas about her father José Kotas (1906 Hvozdná – 1988 Buenos Aires) – interwar emigrant, publisher of newspaper *Nová Doba*;
- Memoirs of Milena Pivničková about her father Emil Pivnická (1902 Vienna – 1980 Buenos Aires) – interwar emigrant;
- Memoirs of artist Frederico Jorge Klemm Marecek (1942 Liberec – 2002 Buenos Aires) – post-war emigrant;
- Memoirs of Alejandra Collo about dancer Gloria Kazda (1919 Příbor – lives in Buenos Aires) – interwar emigrant;
- Memoirs of Dr. Joseph L. Hurt (1904 Bohemia – lives in Buenos Aires) – interwar and postwar emigrant;
- Memoirs of Vlasta Brhelová-Špalková (1933 in Buenos Aires – lives in Buenos Aires) about family Brhel and Špalek – interwar emigrant;
- Memoirs of Josef Špalek (1920 Troubky, Moravia – lives in Buenos Aires) – war emigrant and voluntary military recruit from Buenos Aires to the British Army.
- Invitations to social and cultural activities of the Association *Český dům* (Czech House) in Buenos Aires 2003, 2012;
- Newspaper *Naše doba. Nuestro Tiempo*, published in Spanish in Buenos Aires from 4/2004 – 7/2005 – full edition (No. 1 to 6);
- Manuscript “How the Czech Association of Oberá Misiones was founded” written in Czech by emigrant Sylva Berková, Misiones 2007;
- Presentation of 100th anniversary of Sokol – created by Vlasta Cmol 2008;
- Manuscript “Curriculum for friends” written by Helena Voldan, 6 pages;
- Manuscript about Association *Sokol* – history of the organization in Spanish;

- Manuscript of “Nuestra llegada a la Argentina” in Spanish written by Ane Novotný, 6 pages 2013;
- Brochure “Las profecías Jan” memoirs of Daniel Dráb, 32 pages, in Spanish 2008;
- Manuscript “History of the Czechoslovak Association in Avellaneda” written by Šárka Vašíčková, in Czech, 5 pages 2011;
- Manuscript “Memorandum for President Klaus of the Czech Republic” – written by Fr. Kadeřábek jr., in Czech, 10 pages, 2011;
- Calendar “Kalendář argentinských krajanů. Calendario de la Colectividad Checa en Argentina” published by V. Hingarová in Buenos Aires, 52 pages, 2012;
- Proceedings “Centro Cultural Johannes Amos Comenius 2002-2012” issued by Helena Voldán in Buenos Aires, 270 pages, in Spanish 2012;
- Association *Československý domov. Asociación Hogar Checoslovaco* (Czechoslovak home) in Rosario – invitations to activities of 2012;
- Association *Centro Cultural Checo en Argentina* – invitation for “Week of Czech culture in Buenos Aires” 2012, 2013;
- Association *Sparta* in Villa Dominico – invitations to activities 2012;
- Invitations to Festival de la Cultura en América Latina Checa in Chaco 2012, 2014;
- Information on Associations of Czech origin in Chaco: *Asociación Civil Checoslovaca, Cooperación Agropecuaria La Unión*,
- Invitation to the *Festival Anual Vallet Radost*, Iglesia de familia, Chaco;
- Association *Union Checoslovaca* in Chaco – Invitation to theater performances in Czech language 2012;
- Invitations to “Literary encounters at the Czech embassy” in Buenos Aires 2012;
- Invitation to the Fiesta de las Colectividades en Buenos Aires 2012;
- Scrapbook about Czech and Argentine compatriots in Argentina, 5 pcs., 2006-2012;
- Manuscript “Mi y algo más Biografía” written by Francisco Kadeřábek jr., 27 pages, in Spanish 2012;
- Manuscript “Los Tiempos que pasaron” written by Francisco Kadeřábek jr., Buenos Aires, 14 pages, in Spanish 2012;
- Report of Czech teachers teaching in Buenos Aires, 12 pages, 2012;
- CVs of students from the Czech language course at University Kennedy in Buenos Aires, 2012;
- Memoirs of dr. Francisco Kadeřábek jr., Buenos Aires, 23 pages, 2013;
- Article “Periodization of Czech and Slovak emigration in Argentina”, in Czech written by V. Hingarová, 30 pages, 2014.
- Interview collection “Czech expatriates in Argentina” – biographical interviews with compatriots in Argentina, transcripts of 33 interviews in Czech. Project leader: V. Hingarová and H. Bortlová. Audio recordings of interviews and consent of narrators are stored in the Archive of the Centre Oral History (COH), Institute for Contemporary History, Academy of Sciences in Prague, Vlašská 9, Praha 1. Biographical data of interviewees correspond to the year 2014. The list of interviewees:
 - Helena Voldanová (1924 Praha – lives in Buenos Aires) – translator and editor of Komenský;
 - Bedřiška Novotná de Aguilar (Plzeň – lives in Buenos Aires) – translator;
 - Vlasta Špalek (1933 Buenos Aires – lives in Buenos Aires);
 - Elena Halatová (1932 Buenos Aires – lives in Buenos Aires);
 - Vilém Halata (1933 Buenos Aires – lives in Buenos Aires);
 - Slavěnka Malinowska-Mišková (1934 – lives in Buenos Aires);
 - Věra Kraníková (1925 Pohnanec – lives in Buenos Aires);
 - Eliška Mišková (1934 Poland – lives in Buenos Aires);
 - Dana Tureček (1941 Buenos Aires – lives in Buenos Aires);
 - Eliška Kraus born Mišková (1931 Czech Villice at Volyň – lives in Buenos Aires);
 - Eliška Špatenka (1936 Cerro Azul – 2012 Buenos Aires);
 - František Kadeřábek jr. (1918 Srbsko – lives in Buenos Aires);
 - Milada Němcová (1932 in Buenos Aires – lives in Buenos Aires);
 - Olga Schwarzbieřová (1921 Holič – lives in Buenos Aires);
 - Vojtěch Bartoš (1937 Paraguay – lives in Buenos Aires);
 - Blanka Česal (1941 PRSP – 2014 v PRSP);
 - Jindřich Milan Jurásek (Chaco – lives in PRSP) – honorary consul in Chaco;
 - Růžena a Libuše Verbíková (live in PRSP);

- Valerio a Elena Břinovi (1932 Chaco – live in PRSP);
- Věra Zelinková (1940 Chaco – lives in Chaco);
- Božena Ivan de Botik (lives in PRSP);
- Rosa Handl (nar. Chaco – lives in PRSP);
- Lída Soldanová and Karel Damborský (1937 v Chaco – live in PRSP);
- Jindřich Cigoš (1933 Chaco – lives in PRSP);
- Karel Černík (ca 1930 – lives in PRSP);
- Lojza Vonka (lives in PRSP);
- Marie Kučerová (1927 Moravia – lives in PRSP);
- Patricia Březina (1950 Chaco – lives in PRSP);
- Jindra Kratochvíl (1942 PRSP – lives in PRSP);
- Blahoslav Verlik (Yugoslávie – lives in Resistencia).

2.3 Private collections

2.3.1 Juan Jetmar's⁴ collection

The collection consists of material that was donated after Jan Jetmar's death by his brother. It contains personal correspondence, historical material of Czech associations, scrapbook from Argentine and Czech newspaper and Jetmar's own newspaper articles. Some of the material written by J. Jetmar about the organization *České národní sdružení* can also be found in the K2 collection in the Náprstek Museum.

⁴ Jan Jetmar (1888 born in Hodolany near Olomouc – died 1926 in Buenos Aires) signed in Spanish as Juan Jetmar. He came from the Moravian countryside and graduated from the Business Academy in Brno. In 1905 he emigrated to Argentina. He worked as an official at the state administration. He translated several Latin American short stories into Czech and was correspondent of the Czech emigrant newspaper *Český vystěhovalec*, writing about the situation of Czech emigrants in Argentina. Is the author of a short information booklet for emigrants' "Hrst úvah o Argentině" (Handful consideration of Argentina), published in Prague in the hand book "Do Argentiny a do Brazílie. Dopisy dvou krajanů", 1906. In 1916 he received Argentine citizenship. He was active in the Association *Slavia* and *Československé národní sdružení* in Buenos Aires. He wrote several larger reports about the very first activities of the Czech associations in Buenos Aires. He was not married and had no children. In 1926, he apparently committed suicide.

- Essay "Analytický příspěvek k mírovému působení spolku ČNS in Buenos Aires a jeho poslání poválečném" (Analytical contribution to the peaceful activities of the club ČNS in Buenos Aires and its mission after the war) written by J. Jetmar, 52 pages, 1920;
- Correspondence of Mr. Stuchlík with the Association *Československé Národní Sdružení* in Buenos Aires 1920;
- Personal documents of J. Jetmar – membership cards of *Československý klub* (Club Chequo-Eslavo) in Buenos Aires and *Slavia* in PRSP 1916;
- Brochure of Cruise Lines Royal Mail Lines in South America, in the Czech and Slovak language;
- Report of *Československé Národní Sdružení* about donations for the Czechoslovak army in France 1917;
- Speeches of J. Jetmar in Spanish 1920;
- Associations *Československý klub* (Czechoslovak Club) and *Sokol* in Buenos Aires – invitations to activities 1921;
- J. Jetmar correspondence with *Czechoslovak Club* in Buenos Aires 1921;
- Newspaper article by J. Jetmar: Czechoslovakia and South America 1921;
- J. Jetmar correspondence with Czech associations in Buenos Aires 1921;
- J. Jetmar article "Pokus o navázání duševních styků mezi Československem a Argentinou" (Attempt to establish intellectual relations between Czechoslovakia and Argentina) 1921;
- J. Jetmar correspondence with *Sokol* in Buenos Aires 1922;
- Spanish translation of Tyrš manifest about Sokol 1923;
- Reports on compatriot periodical *Argentinský týdeník* 1923;
- Newspaper *Argentinský týdeník* – separate numbers (Vol. I., No. 1, 4), 1923;
- Scrapbook from Argentine and Czech compatriot newspapers (1918-1920);
- Correspondence of J. Jetmar with Czechoslovak embassy in Buenos Aires in 1924;
- Newspaper cuttings about Czechoslovakia from newspaper *La Nación* 1925;
- J. Jetmar correspondence with compatriot newspaper *Jihoameričan* 1925;
- Donation of J. Jetmar documental inheritance to the Náprstek Museum by dr. Jaroslav Jetmar 1946.

2.3.2 Jan Purkrábek's collection

The collection contains the private archive of Jan Purkrábek, donated to the Náprstek Museum by Milada Purkrábková, Purkrábek's daughter, in 1938. The collection consists of three archive boxes and contains many documents relating to Purkrábek's personal life and his national interests in developing the Czechoslovak colony in Argentina during 1914-1932. J. Purkrábek was an active administrator of all compatriot organizations in Buenos Aires. The contents of the archive closely record the development of compatriot centers in Buenos Aires in the 1920s.

The collection includes the following documents:

- Statutes of *Sokol* in Buenos Aires (1916);
- Travel and personal documents of Jan Purkrábek 1912, 1933;
- Correspondence regarding Purkrábek's employment in Argentina, 1913-1917;
- Report on the celebration of Masaryk birthday in Buenos Aires 1919;
- Association *Československé Národní Sdružení* in Buenos Aires – confirmation letter on Purkrábek contribution to the Czech colony 1919;
- Manuscripts of lectures and speeches about individuals in Czech and Slovak history, 1921-1931;
- J. Jetmar statement on the proposal for a position in the diplomatic service of Czechoslovakia 1921;
- Correspondence about research on Czech issues in Argentine and Czech newspapers 1920-1921;
- Manuscript “Návrh navázání intelektuálních styků s argentinskou vědeckou historickou organizací” (The proposal to establish intellectual relations with the Argentinean historical scientific organization) 1921;
- Comity of Czechoslovak associations – invitation to Czech Sunday school 1921;
- Application to support Czech schools in Buenos Aires 1921;
- Correspondence of Purkrábek with E. St. Vráz 1921;
- Letter from the Czechoslovak ship *Legion* addressed to Czechoslovak clubs in Buenos Aires 1922;
- Letter of E. Hrubeš about the postwar situation of Czechoslovakia 1922;
- Correspondences of Association *České národní sdružení* in Buenos Aires 1923;
- Manuscript on the history of Czechoslovak emigrants and associations in Argentina;
- Correspondence with the editor of *Argentinský týdeník*, 1923;
- Notes on geography, economic, trade and political developments in Argentina;
- Association *České národní sdružení* of Godoy Cruz in Mendoza – library regulations, 1923;
- Correspondence with the Czech teacher Slamín Konrád 1923;
- Letter from Fr. Čech-Vyšata about the life in Chile, 1923;
- Association *České národní sdružení* in Buenos Aires – invitation to activities 1924;
- Notification of *Czechoslovak embassy* about books collection at Buenos Aires custom 1924;
- Complaint to periodical *La Nación* about an unfavorable article about Czechoslovakia 1925;
- Correspondence between members of *Sokol* 1925;
- Purkrábek's speeches 1925;
- Invitations to children's theater and activities of *Sokol Villa Dominico* 1926
- *Výstěhoválecká kancelář* (Czechoslovak Emigration Offices) in Buenos Aires – proposal on reorganization 1927;
- Correspondence with Jaroslav Jetmar 1924, 1927;
- Correspondence with several interested Czechs for emigration to Argentina 1927, 1929;
- Correspondence about shipment of Czech magazines to Buenos Aires 1928
- Manuscripts “Vznik a vývin českého školství v Argentině” (The emergence and development of the Czech education system in Argentina), “Život a zvyky v Argentině” (Life and customs in Argentina);
- Letters of condolence to Ms. Purkrábková 1929;
- Invitations to activities of *Sokol* in Buenos Aires 1929;
- Purkrábek's appointment of honorary member of *Sokol Villa Devoto* 1930;
- Letter of Vlastimil Kybal to Purkrábek 1930;
- Manuscript “Argentine petroleum industry” written in Czech by Fr. Čeleda, 8 pages, 1930;
- Photos from the construction of school in *Villa Devoto* 1931;
- Purkrábek's Diploma of Merit for building Czechoslovak Education in Buenos Aires 1931;
- Invitation to farewell party with Purkrábek in *Sokol Villa Dominico* 1931;

- Newspaper *Jihoamerický svět* – separate numbers (Vol. 2, No. 14-15), 1931;
- Application to support Czechoslovak education in Argentina 1931;
- Farewell letters of Purkrábek 1931;
- Report of Josef Chvapil about the court dispute of *Svaz československých spolků* (Federation of Czechoslovak Associations) 1931;
- Letter of *Sokol* in Buenos Aires about the situation in the organization 1931;
- Association *Comenius* – request for teacher J. Purkrábek in Villa Devoto;
- Letter of compatriot Venceslao Pesek in Cordoba – botanic questions 1931;
- Correspondence with family Lejhanec 1931; 1932;
- Membership card of *Sokol* in Buenos Aires 1923-1931;
- Letter of Purkrábek to a Czech priest about Purkrábek's life in Argentina and return to Bohemia 1931, 1932;
- Newspaper cuttings from newspaper *Věstník Československý* 12/1931;
- Correspondence with compatriots on the situation in associations in Buenos Aires 1931-1933;
- Newspaper *El Eslavo en América* – separate numbers 1932;
- Letter of Purkrábek to pupils of *Czech Supplementary School* in Villa Devoto;
- Appointment of J. Purkrábek for honorary member of Association *Comenius* 1933;
- Correspondence about Sokol expedition to the Assembly (*Slet*) in Czechoslovakia 1933;
- Manuscript in Czech “Our associations in Argentina”, 3 pages;
- Newspaper articles about J. Purkrábek 1934;
- Newspaper *Venkov Čakenský* – separate number 1934;
- Report of Československý ústav zahraničí about the needs for Czechoslovak schools in South America 1935;
- Photographs (50 pieces) from Czechoslovak compatriot colony in Buenos Aires – Association *Sokol, Komenský, Klub Česko-Slovanský*;
- Newspaper cuttings from the Argentinian, Czech and compatriot newspaper about the Czech colony in Argentina 1935;
- Correspondence with *Sokol* in Villa Dominico 1936;
- Publication “Checoslovaquia 1935-1936” published by the Czechoslovak diplomatic authority in Buenos Aires, in Spanish, 50 pages, 1936;

- Letters of condolence 1937;
- Correspondence of Milada Purkrábková with Božena Čvančarová-Crhová 1937.

2.3.3 Čech-Vyšata's collection

The private collection of Čech-Vyšata⁵ includes two manuscripts of travel memoirs from Argentina and Brazil from 1912-1937 and some other archive material. The collection was donated to Náprstek Museum by Čech-Vyšata family members in the 1950s.

- Manuscript “Paměti z domova a z ciziny” (Memories from home and abroad), part I. written by Fr. Čech-Vyšata, 296 pages, 1939;
- Manuscript “Ze života Franty Čecha v Jižní Americe” (The life of a Franta Čech in South America)⁶, 1922-1924, 284 pages;
- Photo of Veronica colony in Argentina 1921;
- Correspondence of Čech-Vyšata with his future wife Antonie Slanořová 1938;

⁵ František Čech-Vyšata (1881 Chlumany – 1942 Prague) came from a Czech rural family and worked as a craftsman. He lived in Vienna for a short time after a failed marriage; he left in 1910 to Argentina. He worked as a seasonal worker in Buenos Aires, in Chaco, in Pampa and in Rosario. After two years, he returned briefly to Bohemia. Then he worked in several breweries in Buenos Aires, in San Carlos or? in Santa Fe. He was occasionally involved in compatriot associations. He undertook several travels to Brazil, Chile and Peru. He described his experiences in South America and published in compatriots newspapers in Vienna and North America and Argentina. After a third sojourn in Argentina, he settled in Bohemia. Part of his travel diaries were published in magazines and in the book trilogy *Patnáct let v Jižní Americe (Fifteen years in South America)*: Part 1: *V žáru pamp* (In the Heat of Pampa) 1927; Part 2: *Divokým rájem* (Wild paradise) 1927; Part 3: *Z tajů Cordilier* (The secrets of the Cordilleras), in Prague at Kvasnička and Hampl publishing house. He published also a travel book from his travel around Brazil *Středem Jižní Ameriky: dojmy z cest* (Through the middle of South America: impressions from trips), 1936.

⁶ First part of the manuscript was revised and published in Czech under the title *V žáru pamp* (1926).

- Correspondence of Antonie Vyšatova after the death of Čech-Vyšata 1942.

2.3.4 Jarmila Novotná's collection

- Documentation of the tour in South America (Buenos Aires and Santiago de Chile) – newspaper cuttings from Argentine compatriot press, programs performance 1943.

2.4 Collection of the Československý ústav zahraničí – CUZ (Czechoslovak Foreign Institute)

The collection contains extensive institutional archives from the first half of the 20th century. The collection consists of material about Czech and Slovak compatriot centers throughout the world. It concerns mainly material resulting from the activities of CUZ such as lists of Czech and Slovak expatriate associations, periodicals, business enterprises, research newspaper articles on emigration in Czech and Slovak press correspondence with compatriots and associations. The extensive collection is stored in 107 archive boxes. The topic of emigration to Argentina is scattered in over more than 20 boxes.

- Bound books of newspaper cuttings from the Czechoslovak newspapers on emigration to Argentina, elaborated by Ministry of Social Affairs, 151 pages, 1929-1937;
- Scrapbook (150 pcs.) – Czechoslovak emigrants in Argentina and South America from 1929 to 1932, 1934 to 1939;
- Correspondence regarding the orders of compatriot magazines from Buenos Aires 1929, 1930, 1931;
- Newspaper cutting on Slovak separatists in Argentina 1931;
- Warnings of CUZ to those interested for emigration to Argentina – information on the repatriation of the unemployed;
- Information about the prospects of emigrants in Argentina and instructions for proper behavior of emigrants 1931;
- Report of Embassy in Buenos Aires on compatriot magazines in Argentina 1932;
- List of associations in South America;
- Report of “Kulturní poměry československé větve v Jižní Americe” (Cultural situation of Czechoslovak colony in South America) – written by B. Čvančarová in Czech, 6 pages, 1932;
- Report of *Societad Checoslovaca Slavia* in PRSP – situation of Czech school system in Argentina 1932;

- Paper of Professor M. Ruppeldt “Slovaks in Argentina” 1932;
- Report of Czechoslovak Embassy in Buenos Aires about absence of compatriots for Congress of Abroad Czechs and Slovaks in Prague 1932;
- Newsletter *Zprávy z oboru vystěhovalckého* (News about emigration) published by Czechoslovak Ministry of Social Care – articles about emigration policy in Argentina, emigration, prospects for emigrants, 1934-1937;
- Czech Colonization Society – proposal for emigration to the colony Pedro Luro;
- Correspondence with the editor of *Jihoameričan* 1935;
- Travel itineraries of shipping companies overseas (incl. South America);
- Newspaper clippings about compatriots in Argentina 1936-1938, 1940;
- Registry of Abroad newspapers and magazines in Argentina;
- List of Czechoslovak teachers working abroad 1938-1939;
- List of Czechoslovak Associations abroad, 1937, 1939;
- List of Czech and Slovak magazines abroad, 1937, 1939;
- List of embassies, schools, libraries, Czech and Slovak compatriots associations, magazines, businesses, compatriots and residents in South America;
- Correspondence with candidates from Czechoslovakia to emigrate to Argentina (10 applications);
- Correspondence with the Slovak Association in Buenos Aires 1938;
- Correspondence with the General Consulate in Buenos Aires 1938;
- Correspondence with compatriots in America and in Argentina;
- List of representatives of Czechs exporters abroad in 1939;
- Cashbook of Association *Československé Komité* in Buenos Aires 1942;
- List of members of Association *Svornost* in Buenos Aires 1941-1943;
- Association *Kroužek přátel Sovětského Ruska* (Czechoslovak friends of Russia) in Buenos Aires – association's chronicle in Czech, 100 pages, 1941-1947;
- Collection of photos, slides and negatives from Argentina (ca. 150 pieces) documenting:

- Czechoslovak compatriots on overseas ships, Czechoslovak school in Berisso, compatriots in Chaco, Czechoslovak colony in Tafi Viejo; activities of Association in Villa Dominico 1943-1947; Slovak Association in Berisso 1959; re-emigrants from Argentina in 1959;
- Commemorative letter to the visit of compatriots from Buenos Aires to Chaco 1958;
 - List of Czechoslovak associations abroad in contact with CUZ, 1968.

3. Summary and analysis of the sources on emigration to Argentina in the Náprstek Museum

The above inventory of documents, related to the emigration to Argentina stored in the Náprstek Museum, leads to several conclusions regarding the timing, quantity and thematic focus of the sources.

It is evident that the material relating to the emigration to Argentina is quite extensive. It consists of documents produced by compatriots in Argentina (personal correspondence, association's correspondence, newspapers and other printed material) and also Czech institutions dealing with compatriots' issues. Most of the material in the collection was created by Argentine citizens. The Náprstek archive can be considered as one of the most extensive and varied collections on Czechoslovak emigration to Argentina in the Czech Republic. In Argentina, no archive exists which specifically documents the history and development of the Czech and Slovak emigration,⁷ therefore the Náprstek collection should be considered as unique for both countries.

⁷ In Argentina, *Museo del Inmigrante* in Buenos Aires presents the history of emigrants in Argentina but covers only the agenda of the Argentinean Immigration office. The National Library in Buenos Aires archives most of the compatriot periodicals published by different emigrant groups including in Czech and Slovak language. *Museo de Juan Osyčka* in Chaco is dedicated to the history of Czech and Slovak emigrants of the area and the museum's collection includes tangible artefacts, artworks, books of Czech or Slovak origin. Several historical documents regarding Czech and Slovak history in Argentina may be discovered in Argentinian national and local archives, as well as in the buildings of former compatriot organizations in Chaco and Buenos Aires.

3.1 The time demarcation of the sources

The collection of sources on the emigration to Argentina covers the period from 1907 to 2014. Juana Jetmar's collection and that of K1 are invaluable for a better understanding of the formation of the first Czech compatriot centers in Argentina for they contain correspondence and chronicles of two key associations – *Sokol* in Buenos Aires and the *Czechoslovak National Association* in Argentina. The K1 and K2 collections and the private collection of Jan Purkrábek are key to a better understanding of the period of the main development of the Czech compatriot community from the mid-1920s to the end of the 1930s, characterized by mass emigration from Czechoslovakia. The material documents the rise and the development of compatriot institutions in Buenos Aires, Chaco and other provinces. The end of the 1920s is marked by an active interest by Czechoslovak institutions in compatriot issues in South America. Two Czechoslovak Ministries – the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Social Affairs set up special departments to deal with compatriot affairs. In 1929, the Czechoslovak Foreign Institute was established with the aim to document and promote compatriot activities worldwide. The Collection of the Czechoslovak Foreign Institute contains rich material on the activities of this institution. The material demonstrates that Argentina was considered as an exotic destination for thousands of Czechs and Slovaks, but the location does not draw special attention from the authorities. Its focus was limited to monitoring the situation of emigrants and the emigration policy in Argentina.

We can only find a limited number of sources on this topic relating to the period between the 1940s and the beginning of our millennium in the archive collection. This could be explained by the political situation in both countries. World War II and the communist regime in Czechoslovakia for a long time interrupted contact with Czech compatriots in South America (see more details in Hingarová 2014b). Following the political changes in Central Europe there is evident growing interest in their Czechoslovak heritage by Argentinians of Czech and Slovak descent. This has resulted in a renewal of compatriot organizations and an increase in Czech cultural activities as well as closer cooperation with the Czech authorities. The Náprstek Museum preserves material relating to the activities of new Czech compatriot associations in Argentina during the past 20 years. Recent

key materials to be studied are two collections of written and oral memories of Argentinian compatriots which are the results of research projects.

3.2 The types of archive records from Argentina

The compatriot collection at the Náprstek Museum stores diverse types of documents such as compatriot periodicals, academic and popular publications, fiction, calendars, annual brochures, printed invitations; manuscripts, personal correspondence, association's chronicles, commemorative albums and photos. Most of the printed documents were published in Argentina for commercial purposes (newspapers, books); a smaller portion of prints was published for promotional purposes by Czechoslovak compatriot associations and Czechoslovak authorities. The specific documents are the result of research projects and activities by Czech teachers.

An important source for the reconstruction of the Czechoslovak emigration are compatriot periodicals. Most of them are systematically catalogued in the collection of periodicals in the Library of Náprstek Museum. A few single periodicals have been placed in several different collections at the Archive of the Náprstek Museum. These record special historical events and are often unique examples of the only known volumes and numbers. This is the case, for example, of the oldest compatriot newspaper *Slavia*, "discovered" in the collection K2. The newspaper *Slavia* was issued in Argentina in the Czech language and was already being published in 1907. The collection holds the first two original numbers. The existence of the newspaper was known from secondary sources in scholarly literature (Baďurová 1983). *Slavia* had been part of the archive collection for a long period of time but because it was stored as part of the Museum's archive and not in the collection of periodicals, the original prints were only "discovered" during the research on this project.

The archive material is clearly prevalently from the compatriot centers in Buenos Aires (especially the suburban neighborhoods such as Villa Dominico, Avellaneda, Villa Devoto, Dock Sud, Temperley) and the province Chaco. The collection provides partial information about the small number of compatriot centers in Cordoba, colony Veronica, Tafi Viejo, Comodoro Rivadavia, Rosario and Misiones. The material relates mainly to the following compatriot associations: *Československé národní sdružení* (Czechoslovak National Associations) in Buenos Aires, Avellaneda and Villa Dominico

(later called *Sparta*), *Sokol* in Buenos Aires, Villa Dominico and in Chaco, Association *Slavia* in Chaco, *Slavia* in Temperley, *Komenský* in Villa Devoto and *Czech Communist party* in Buenos Aires. A small section of the material also relates to current Czech compatriot associations: *Komenský cultural center* in Buenos Aires, *Český dům* (Czech House) in Buenos Aires, *Československá unie* (Czechoslovak Union) in Chaco and *Český spolek* (Czech Association) in Misiones.

The archive material provides information about several individuals of Czech origin, settled and/or temporary employed by Czech institutions in Argentina. The Collection of J. Purkrábek offers a detailed view of the life and commitment of the voluntary Czech teacher J. Purkrábek in compatriot centers in Buenos Aires. The documents provide more detailed information on: Honorary Consul Richard Lehký, Ambassador Fr. Kadeřábek, missionary Procházka, teacher M. Brunclík, voluntary teacher Čvančarová, businessman Miloš Suchan, and amateur historian and chronicler Juan Jetmar.

A recent donation to the Náprstek Museum of a collection of memoirs of fifty Czechoslovak emigrants provides a unique source for exploring the history of individual compatriots. Memoirs were gathered based on the method of oral history and on individually written memoirs during the last fifteen years. The material provides a unique record about socially successful individuals, as well as ordinary people of Czech origin. For example, the memoirs of František Kadeřábek, Jr., the son of the most important Czechoslovak ambassador in Argentina provides new information about Czech diplomatic activities in Argentina during the World War II.

4. Conclusion

The aim of this article is to provide information about the archive sources stored in one of the key institutions for the study of emigration to South America. The study provides an inventory list of archive sources at the Náprstek Museum and defines and evaluates the collection's sources about the Czechoslovak emigration into Argentina.

The archive records constitute a relatively extensive collection stored in two departments of the Náprstek Museum – at the Library of the Náprstek Museum, that stores compatriot periodicals and some other printed publications – and the Archive of the Náprstek Museum. The Archive has material relating to our topic in 7 collections in over 60 boxes containing several hundreds of

documents. These documents include correspondence, manuscripts, commemorative album, compatriot periodicals, publications, calendars, annual brochures, forms, photos and individually written memoirs of compatriots.

The main result of the study is the elaboration of the inventory list of all sources relating to the emigration to Argentina and the Czech and Slovak colonies which are stored in the Náprstek Museum. The list brings crucial information about the nature, extent, time and origin of the records. It is evident that the collection of material about the emigration to Argentina is quite extensive. It includes documents produced by compatriots in Argentina, as well as material produced by Czech authorities dealing with compatriot issues.

The material at the Náprstek Museum is undoubtedly beneficial for historical research on Czechoslovak emigration to Argentina, its development, socio-demographic form, as well as the understanding of export and integration of Czech culture abroad. It is a unique source that allows the reconstruction of the history of the Czechoslovaks in Argentina, a micro history of Czech compatriot centers, associations and individuals. The archive records can also be used in the field of humanities and social science research.

For example the archive records provide rich data relevant to the research of the development of the Czech language outside the home country and the evolution of the Czech bilingual emigrant community in Argentina, also it enables explore the rebirth of the old Czech and Slovak associations and the new ethnic movement in Argentina and it has the potential to awake the interest of the Czech state in promoting its cultural heritage abroad.

Sources: Náprstek Museum, Collection department, Archive of Náprstek Museum, Library of Náprstek Museum.

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