Résumé

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RÉSUMÉ

This monograph is dedicated to the way of Euclid's *Elements* throughout the world to their Czech translations and translators.

The first part of the book maps the fate of Euclid's *Elements* from their inception up to the present times. Individual paragraphs are dedicated to works of Euclid's predecessors, to Euclid and his *Elements*, to their importance in the Greek world, Roman Empire, Byzantium, Islamic world, medieval Europe and Jewish community. Readers will become familiar with basic facts about the most important Greek and Latin prints originating from 1482 to 2001, and about publications of *Elements* in national languages.

These parts were written on the basis of study of several monographs, where the information is dispersed on many pages. It tries to fill the gap in literature, because a sufficiently detailed and synoptic essay about these problems in Czech language is still missing.

The second part of the book is dedicated to Czech translations of Euclid's *Elements*. It describes an unsuccessful attempt of the *Union of Czech Mathematicians* between 1870 and 1871, failure of Josef Smolík, who translated the whole *Elements* at the end of 80s of 19th century, however, he was not able to publish them, translational efforts of František Fabinger and František Servít, who published translations of initial parts of *Elements* in 1903, and finally the publication of complete translation by František Servít.

Smolík's translation fell into oblivion; today it is deposited in archives of the National Museum. Servít's translation was published in 1907 by the *Union of Czech Mathematicians* and it is the only complete printed Czech translation of *Elements*. Fabinger's translation of the first book of *Elements* was published in the annual report of the secondary school in Smíchov, and this was perhaps the reason why it was affected almost by the same fate as Smolík's translation.

In the third part, the monograph gives a detailed map of fates of individual translations, including their comparison. The attention is paid to the first book, because Fabinger did not translate any other books. This part of the book was created on the basis of study of archival sources, books and journals. Various issues of *Elements* were used for comparisons.

Three paragraphs of the fourth part of the book are dedicated to life and work of Czech translators of Euclid's *Elements*. They explain fortunes of their lives and characterize their professional activities. These parts were written on the basis of archival research, study of books and journals, news reports and special journalistic works.

Josef Smolík (1832–1915) was born in Nový Bydžov, in 1852 he graduated from secondary school in Prague, and from 1852 to 1856 he studied at philosophical faculty of Prague University. From 1856 to 1893 he worked at secondary schools in Prague, in Pardubice and then again in Prague; he taught mathematics, physics, Czech, German and French languages.

He had extremely wide interests. He wrote six secondary-school textbooks of mathematics, one textbook of Czech language, seven special and popular articles about history of mathematics, six methodological and didactical articles about mathematics, nine methodical, didactical and popular articles about physics and natural sciences. In 1887 he vainly tried to publish his translation of 15 books of Euclid's *Elements* in the *Royal Czech Society of Sciences.*

His scientific activities in archaeology and numismatics were at a high level. He wrote many important works, minor contributions, reports and surveys about archaeology. From 1878 to 1884, he was editor of the magazine *Archaeological and topographical relics.* He wrote dozens of special works about numismatics. They are original scientific works, overviews, methodological works and popular works. He dedicated important contributions to fundamentals of the Czech coins production. Some of his works are cited until now. From 1881 to 1915 he performed a creditable work as a custodian and later as a director of the numismatic collection of the National Museum. He administered, sorted and catalogued the museum numismatic collection. He also wrote little works about topography of the East Bohemia and genealogy of the local minor Czech aristocracy.

Smolík was a corresponding member of the *Royal Czech Society of Sciences*, a regular member of the *Archaeological Board of the Czech Kingdom Museum*, an irregular member of the *Czech Academy of the Emperor Francis Joseph I for science, literature and arts*, a corresponding member of the Austrian company *Österreichische Gesellschaft für Münz und Medaillenkunde*, a member of the *Museum Association* in Pardubice and the *Museum Association* in Lázně Bělohrad.

František Fabinger (1863–1938) was born in the lonely house of Sychrovka near Prague, in 1883 he graduated from secondary school in Hradec Králové, from 1883 to 1889 he studied at philosophical faculty of Czech University in Prague. From 1890 to 1920 he worked at secondary schools in Třebíč, Brno, Uherské Hradiště, Slaný, Prague, Klatovy, Kolín and again in Prague; he taught mathematics, physics, geography, German language, calligraphy and philosophical propaedeutic.

According his activities he was quite versatile man. He was interested in history of mathematics; as one of first experts in Bohemia he promoted physical laboratory works at secondary schools. He wrote four articles about history of mathematics, six articles about management of laboratory works and establishment of school laboratories. In 1903 he published translation of the first book of Euclid's *Elements* in the annual report. At the end of the World War I, he started to pursue the idea of building construction in so-called "garden cities". He wrote two brochures and two books about this issue, he

was one of initiators of establishment of the *Society for foundation of garden cities in the Czechoslovak Republic with the seat in Prague.*

František Servít (1848–1923) was born in Modlíkov near Přibyslav, in 1871 he graduated from secondary school in Německý Brod (today Havlíčkův Brod), from 1871 to 1874 he studied at philosophical faculty of Prague University. From 1874 to 1910 he worked at secondary schools in Prague, Jičín and again in Prague, he taught Latin, Greek, Czech and German languages. In 1903 to 1907 he published translation of Euclid's *Elements* in annual reports of the school in Vinohrady, which was published in 1907 by the *Union of Czech Mathematicians.* After he left for retirement, he published nine books dedicated to analysis of Horatio's works.

The fifth part of the book contains lists of manuscripts and prints of Euclid's *Elements*, which are deposited in libraries and archives of the Czech Republic. There are 10 manuscripts (8 Latin, 1 German and 1 Czech) and 326 prints, out of it 146 miscellaneous (67 Latin, 3 Greek, 14 Latin-Greek, 33 German, 12 French, 6 Italian, 1 English, 1 Spanish, 1 Russian, 1 Hungarian, 1 Polish, 1 Serbian, 1 Hebrew, 1 Arabian, 1 in Sanskrit, and 2 Czech). Individual items of lists are ordered according to date of their print (in the case of manuscripts according to the estimated time of their origin), full name is completed by abbreviation of an institution and by signature under which the manuscript or print can be found.

The sixth part of the book contains Smolík's translation of so-called fourteenth and fifteenth book of Euclid's *Elements*; text of these two books has not been published in Czech yet. Smolík's text was transcribed word after word, including all symbols, signs and diacritics. Even the text arrangement was maintained as far as possible. Pictures were made by computer and included directly to the text.

Finally, the monograph contains a partial copy of Smolík's translation of Euclid's *Elements* written in his own hand; title page, introduction and complete first book are reprinted here. Individual pages were scanned and cleaned, pictures were highlighted in a "computer way". The original size of Smolík's handwriting could not be maintained, the printed text is made smaller.