# THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PROFESSOR LADISLAV DROZDÍK<sup>1</sup>

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During this period when geopolitical concerns lead to increased interest in Arabic studies, we are obliged not only to describe, analyse, and comment on the unknown or the new phenomena that originated in the Arab world, but it is also our duty to look back at the most important figures who shaped Oriental studies in the past. One of the leading experts in this particular field in Slovakia was undoubtedly Professor PhDr. Ladislav Drozdík, CSc. – a prominent linguist, teacher and translator. This year he would have celebrated his 90th birthday if he had not passed away on the 4th of March 2017. Unfortunately, despite playing a decisive role in the development of Arabic studies, his professional life and works are, perhaps unjustly, relatively little known. Therefore, in our article we wish to focus on Drozdík's remarkable academic career and his achievements in order to describe the circumstances that shaped this exceptional individual as well as the sometimes unfavourable conditions under which he created the majority of his enduring contributions to the field. It is, however, rather unfortunate that due to his death some questions concerning his personal decisions must remain unanswered.

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condensed and updated version of the bachelor's thesis of BROWN, F. S. *The Life and Legacy of Ladislav Drozdík*. The thesis was supervised by Zuzana Gažáková. We would like to give special thanks to the children of Professor Drozdík, Vojtech Drozdík, Ján Drozdík and Katarína Madison, who not only devoted precious time to extensive interviews but also lent us materials from the personal archive of their father, thus making our research possible.

The story of Ladislav Drozdík begins on the 3rd of March 1930. He was born in a small town in the west of central Slovakia called Nová Baňa, the first child of Vojtech Drozdík and Margita Jajchová.<sup>2</sup> The first few years of his life were spent in a house on the banks of a brook running along the eastern side of a hill named Himmelreich.<sup>3</sup> The geographical name of the hill suggests the significance of the German language in the history of the town. This indeed goes back to the 14th century, when Germans, who brought new technologies for the mining of precious metals, migrated and settled in the region. However, the town in the central region of Slovakia, where the standard literary Slovak language originated, did not manage to escape Magyarization in the 19th century.<sup>4</sup>

The young Drozdík was thus exposed to Hungarian in his immediate family. His father only completed four years of secondary school and worked on the cadastre. Despite this limited education, he is described by his grandchildren as a seemingly very educated man, leaving behind an impressive library. He was a strong Hungarian patriot, despite not being Hungarian, and for this reason he spoke exclusively Hungarian at home. Ladislav Drozdík's mother was born to a German family from Moravia. As a child she spoke Hungarian in school, Slovak with friends and German at home. She did not, however, later speak German to her son. In his hometown, Drozdík attended the elementary school, to which his schoolmates used to go barefoot whereas he was the only one provided with shoes.

He went to secondary school (gymnázium<sup>8</sup>) in Zlaté Moravce, a town in south-western Slovakia, where his parents built the house in which he would spend his adolescent years. Here he studied compulsory French. On entering the university, Drozdík was already well-armed with two languages other than Slovak to begin his linguistic journey.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Drozdík's sister, Mária, three years his junior, still lives today in the Czech Republic.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Personal communication with Ján Drozdík and Katarína Madison (17 December 2019).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Magyarization or Hungarization was an assimilation process of non-Hungarian nations in the Hungarian Kingdom of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, mainly in the second half of the 19th century and at the beginning of the 20th century.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Personal communication with Ján Drozdík and Katarína Madison (17 December 2019).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Personal communication with Ján Drozdík and Katarína Madison (17 December 2019).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> An unpublished private document provided by Vojtech Drozdík, the son of Ladislav Drozdík.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> A "gymnázium" is a type of school with a strong emphasis on academic learning that provides advanced secondary education comparable to British grammar schools.

## **University Education**

Ladislav Drozdík began his university studies in the Slovenská univerzita (Slovak University)<sup>9</sup> at the Faculty of Arts in Bratislava in 1949 at a time when Oriental studies in Slovakia was still in its infancy. The teaching of Oriental languages, such as Arabic, Hebrew and Aramaic, started only in 1929. The first professor was Ján Bakoš (1890 – 1967), the founder of Slovakia's first Oriental research and teaching workplace in the Faculty of Arts after World War II. Bakoš studied Evangelical theology and Semitic philology at the University of Göttingen under the auspices of Enno Littmann and Julius Wellhausen. In 1914, he received a prize from the university of Göttingen and later a state prize for his dissertation about marking vowels in north Semitic languages (Die Bezeichnung der Vokale durch Konsonantenzeichen in den semitischen Sprachen, published in Göttingen, 1920). <sup>10</sup> In 1931, he completed his habilitation thesis at Comenius University. <sup>11</sup> There he taught Aramaic, Arabic and Hebrew and played a vital role in the development of Oriental Studies in Slovakia, also as one of the founder members of the Institute of Oriental Studies at the Slovak Academy of Sciences (1960).<sup>12</sup> In 1946 he became Professor (Ordinarius) and was the holder of the chair of Semitic philology until his retirement in 1964. In 1946 he was appointed dean of the Faculty of Arts of that University.

Initially, the young Drozdík was interested in medicine, and it is unknown what brought him to study languages instead.<sup>13</sup> He started with Russian and Slovak, just like many other important linguists in Slovakia. The reason behind this was that in these two departments the students were taught how to think in terms of linguistics.<sup>14</sup> However, it is clear that he was interested in Semitic philology from the very beginning, since his student grade book<sup>15</sup> indicates that in his first year of study he already passed two subjects from this field. More interestingly, it is evident that after his first year Ladislav Drozdík changed his

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<sup>9</sup> Slovenská univerzita was the official name of Comenius University in Bratislava in 1939 – 1954.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> DROZDÍK, L. Oriental Studies in Slovakia, Two Decades of Oriental Research. In *Asian and African Studies* 1985, Vol. 21, p. 9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> A habilitation is a post-doctoral qualification in some countries which opens a road to a professorship. The holder in Slovakia is called a *docent*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> GAŽÁKOVÁ, Z., PAULINY, J. *Arabský jazyk a kultúra* [Arabic Language and Culture], p. 48–50.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Personal communication with Ján Drozdík and Katarína Madison (17 December 2019).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> ONDREJOVIČ, S. Viktor Krupa, ako som ho poznal [Viktor Krupa as I Knew Him]. In *Jazykovedný časopis*, 2016, Vol. 67, No. 3, p. 187.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> A small student booklet (called "index" in Slovak) which contained a list of courses passed along with the grades, which was signed by the teachers.

major to Semitic philology, abandoning Russian studies completely. The reason behind this decision is again unknown, <sup>16</sup> but it is obvious that he must have developed his passion for Oriental languages at some time during this period.

The list of the subjects that Drozdík passed during his university studies reflects a time when Czechoslovakia was a part of the Eastern Bloc. During that period it was compulsory to undertake courses like "Military Education" (Branná výchova) and "Social Sciences" (Spoločenské náuky). This requirement was part of the strict implementation of the Marxist-Leninist ideology after February 1948<sup>17</sup> in the content of education in all types of schools including universities.<sup>18</sup>

Courses in his major included: Introduction to Linguistics, Old Slavonic Seminar 1, Introduction to Slovak Phonetics, History of Russian Grammar, and Standard Russian Grammar. Regarding his studies of Semitic philology, Ladislav Drozdík attended the following courses at the university: Arabic Grammar, Reading and Comprehension of Semitic Texts, Grammar of Classical Arabic, History of Arabic Literature, Introduction to Arabic Sciences, Semitic Seminar, North Semitic Epigraphy, Arabic Literature, Semitic Philological Seminar, Semitic Literary Seminar, Hebrew Grammar, Reading of Hebrew Texts, and Introduction to Semitic Philology. According to his student grade book, all the courses offered in Semitic Philology were taught by Professor Ján Bakoš. This demonstrates not only his great erudition in the field but also the fact that he was at that time probably the only person with the necessary qualifications and knowledge for that position.

In 1953 Drozdík received a Master's degree (Mgr.) in Slovak language and Semitic philology, and he obtained a red diploma meaning that he passed with honour (*Cum Laude*). Despite this achievement, he did not consider it important enough to invite his parents to the graduation ceremony, which can perhaps be seen as another example of his humility.<sup>19</sup>

The university studies of Ladislav Drozdík had perhaps more of an impact on his life than one might assume since the university was the place where he first met his future wife, Jarmila Drozdíková née Šiková (1931 – 2010), who supported her husband devotedly throughout his entire life, often at the expense of her own interests. Like Drozdík, she also started studying Semitic philology at

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Personal communication with Ján Drozdík and Katarína Madison (17 December 2019).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> The communist coup in February 1948 established a totalitarian regime in Czecho-slovakia that lasted 41 years until the Velvet Revolution in 1989.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> OLEJNÍK, M. *Implementácia marxisticko-leninskej ideológie vo sfére vzdelávania na Slovensku v kontexte poitického vývoja v rokoch 1948 – 1953* [The Implementation of the Marxist-Leninist Ideology in the Sphere of Education in Slovakia in the Context of the Development during the Years 1948 – 1953], p. 40.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Personal communication with Ján Drozdík and Katarína Madison (17 December 2019).

the Faculty of Arts in 1951 with the hope of hiding her origin as she came from the family of rich landowners (pejoratively "kulaks") from Moravia. <sup>20</sup>

After two years, however, she was expelled from the University, owing to her family background. That was perhaps one of the reasons why Drozdík was never politically affiliated.<sup>21</sup> The two started a family together, raising three children: two sons and one daughter. They had to overcome various financial hardships. There were times when Drozdík's office at the Comenius Faculty of Arts served as a shelter where he would sleep. During these times the family had to move around from one temporary accommodation to another. It was not unusual during this period for them to have insufficient money to pay for food.<sup>22</sup>

The poverty the family was facing resulted in Jarmila Drozdíková taking a job as an English teacher at a secondary school of economics in Bratislava, providing some financial stability to the family. Moreover, she took full responsibility for their household and raising their three children. Despite the many sacrifices she had to make, she remained a true companion to Ladislav Drozdík for the rest of her life. After almost 60 years together Jarmila Drozdíková passed away in 2010 owing to various health complications.<sup>23</sup>

Later in her life when a different political situation allowed it, she returned to her studies. She successfully graduated, and in 2004 she received her Ph.D. for her work *The Legacy of Edward Said*, in which she subjects to critical scrutiny the work of the notoriously influential opponent of Western Oriental studies Edward Said.

Quite unlike her husband, Jarmila Drozdíková's main focus was not language. Many of her works focus instead on religion and culture. In later life, with more time allowing, she started publishing various books and studies of her own, such as *Etiópčania* [Ethiopians] Bratislava: Obzor, 1989; *Základy Judaizmu* [The Foundations of Judaism] Bratislava: SNM, 1993; *Lexikón islámu* [The Lexicon of Islam] Bratislava: Kalligram, 2005 and *Na ceste k Armageddonu – Scenáre o konci sveta* [The Road to Armageddon – Scenarios About the End of the World] published posthumously in 2012 by Kalligram.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Wealthy landowners were viewed and treated by the Communists during the drive to collectivize agriculture as oppressors and class enemies.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Personal communication with Ján Drozdík and Katarína Madison (17 December 2019).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Personal communication with Vojtech Drozdík (10 January 2020).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Personal communication with Ján Drozdík and Katarína Madison (17 December 2019).

### **Professional Life**

After graduation Drozdík was immediately offered a position at the Semitic Seminar of the Faculty of Arts. He accepted the offer and worked for several years as the assistant of Professor Bakoš, who retired in 1964 leaving Drozdík as his successor. In 1967 Bakoš passed away and the subsequent issue of the journal Asian and African Studies published by the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Slovak Academy of Sciences begins with a tribute to him entitled *L'Académicien Ján Bakoš est mort*, written by Ladislav Drozdík.<sup>24</sup>

This tribute was not the only time Ladislav Drozdík wrote about Bakoš. He seems to be the author of most of the articles about him,<sup>25</sup> perhaps signifying that Bakoš was of primary importance and inspiration to Drozdík in his formative years. Drozdík's children recall visiting Ján Bakoš's home as a family and seeing the two as silhouettes in a fog of smoke from the cigars they smoked together, maybe not as colleagues but rather as friends.<sup>26</sup>

After Bakoš's death, the whole teaching and research programme of the Semitic Seminar became exclusively focused on Arabic. At that time Drozdík was responsible for teaching subjects related to the language; in research he conducted a systematic linguistic analysis of Arabic concentrating predominantly on diglossia and related sociolinguistic issues, such as code-switching, prestigious oral communication as well as changing attitudes towards language and the main trends of the lexical evolution of modern written Arabic. All these domains were to become Drozdík's main research fields in the years to come.

However, being labelled an "Orientalist" led to some misunderstandings with the authorities of the university. At the end of the Korean War, in 1953 and 1954, he was put in charge of teaching the Slovak language to Korean War veterans prior to their studies in Slovakia, since they came from a region falling under the heading of "the Orient." He described these students as the most hardworking he had ever encountered. This experience led Drozdík to learn the Korean language. In order to do so, he is said to have listened to Korean radio stations on a daily basis. Visiting his daughter in Toronto, he would often go to the local shop which had a Korean shop assistant and communicate with him in Korean.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> DROZDÍK, L. L'Académicien Ján Bakoš est mort. In *Asian and African Studies*, 1967, Vol. III, pp. 7–9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Cf. DROZDÍK, L. Akademik Ján Bakoš sedemdesiatročný [Ján Bakoš, Seventy Years Old]. In *Jazykovedný časopis*, 1960, Vol. 11, No. 1; DROZDÍK, L. Centenary of Ján Bakoš, Member of the Slovak and Czechoslovak Academies of Sciences (1890 – 1967). In *Asian and African Studies*, 1990, Vol. 26, pp. 7–9.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Personal communication with Ján Drozdík and Katarína Madison (17 December 2019).
<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

However, we can see in the works he published later the wider impact that this experience had on him and his professional life. One example is his study published in the journal Asian and African Studies in 1996 entitled *The Impact of Honorific Stratification on the Identification of the Elided Subject in Korean*, in which he focuses on Korean as a regressively organized language. <sup>28</sup> In 2005 he published another study in the same scholarly journal entitled *Structural and Semantic Limits of Coordination in Korean*, <sup>29</sup> and he published several more studies regarding Korean in various other journals. It is clear that his focus remained on linguistics but expanded from the Arabic language to encompass also Korean.

Drozdík earned his Candidatus Scientiarum (CSc., Candidate of Science<sup>30</sup>) degree at Charles University in Prague in 1967, and the topic of his dissertation thesis was *Studies in Arabic Word Formation*. He obtained his habilitation thesis, *Definiteness Patterning in Arabic*, in Prague as well, twelve years later in 1979.<sup>31</sup>

As has been mentioned earlier, Drozdík was not a member of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, and perhaps this is one of the reasons why he was appointed Associate Professor (docent)<sup>32</sup> only after the collapse of the communist regime in 1990. Being a member of the Communist Party was the unspoken rule for career advancement in those days. His role at the university from 1992 was as a professor of Arabic linguistics, the title of his inaugural lecture being *Modern Standard Arabic in Oral Communication*. <sup>33</sup> Throughout his active academic career, the Faculty of Arts of Comenius University in Bratislava was his permanent and intellectual home, and in the years 1992 – 1995, he served as the head of the Department of Classical and Semitic Philology.

Ladislav Drozdík had the opportunity to travel a fair amount during his professional life. In 1959, he was granted a fellowship to attend Arabic language and literature courses at Cairo University in Egypt. He returned to Egypt in 1961–1962 as a lecturer at the High School of Languages (Madrasat al-Alsun al-ʿUlyā) in Cairo, making his position vacant for another young colleague, Ján Pauliny

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> DROZDÍK, L. The Impact of Honorific Stratification on the Identification of the Elided Subject in Korean. In *Asian and African Studies*, 1995, Vol. 5, No. 1, pp. 28–38.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> DROZDÍK, L. Structural and Semantic Limits of Coordination in Korean. In *Asian and African Studies*, 2005, Vol. 14, No. 2, pp. 113–135.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> The title CSc. (Candidate of Science) is the first of two doctoral level academic degrees in some former Soviet satellite countries. It is officially translated into English and other languages as Doctor of Philosophy (i.e. Ph.D.) and recognised as such.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> Curriculum Vitae of Ladislav Drozdík provided by the family of Ladislav Drozdík.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> A *docent* at some European universities denotes a specific academic appointment within a set structure of academic ranks below the position of Professor and above the position of Assistant Professor.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Curriculum Vitae of Ladislav Drozdík provided by the family of Ladislav Drozdík.

(born 1939), who thanks to this coincidence managed to enter the department.<sup>34</sup> In 1969, his profession took Drozdík to Salt Lake City in the United States for three months to work as a visiting professor at the University of Utah. There he lectured on subjects such as the advanced grammar of Arabic and the linguistic methodology of medieval Arab grammarians.<sup>35</sup> It may seem odd to mention that Drozdík travelled to the USA with only ten dollars in his pocket, but that was the amount of money with which he was allowed to leave the country at that time.<sup>36</sup>

In 1985, he travelled to Cairo and Tunis for a short academic stay; in 1990, he completed an academic stay in Jordan at Yarmouk University. In 1995 he travelled to Madrid, where he studied the lexicographical sources relevant to the formation of the Arabic lexicon in the 18th and early 19th centuries.<sup>37</sup> In 1991 he became a member of the Linguistic Society of America.<sup>38</sup>

## The Legacy of Ladislav Drozdík

During his long-lasting academic career, Drozdík realised that the lexicon is the most dynamic and variable linguistic domain of modern written Arabic. Therefore, he explored lexical innovations and evolutionary trends of Arabic, mainly the most productive procedure of word formation, derivation, as well as lexical innovation through borrowing. He also paid considerable attention to grammatical categories: to generic and grammatical manifestations of definiteness, grammatical gender, atypical sex-gender distinction and number. To this and other topics related to linguistics he contributed substantially with a large number of books and articles, not least with his monograph *Modern Written Arabic [al-'Arabīya al-mu'āṣira]*. The majority of his scholarly articles were published in academic journals, such as *Asian and African Studies* (AAS, Institute of Oriental Studies, Slovak Academy of Sciences), *Jazykovedný časopis* (Ľ. Štúr's Institute for Linguistics, Slovak Academy of Sciences) or *Graecolatina et* 

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> GAŽÁKOVÁ, Z. Ján Pauliny as a Scholar and Teacher. In GAŽÁKOVÁ, Z., DROBNÝ, J. *Arabic and Islamic Studies in Honour of Ján Pauliny*, p. 12.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> Unpublished private document (Curriculum Vitae of Ladislav Drozdík) provided by the family of Ladislav Drozdík.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Personal communication with Ján Drozdík and Katarína Madison (17 December 2019).
<sup>37</sup> Curriculum Vitae of Ladislav Drozdík provided by the family of Ladislav Drozdík.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> KOLOMAŠ, J., FILIPSKÝ, J. (eds.). *Kto byl kto. Čeští a slovenští orientalisté, afrikanisté a iberoamerikanisté* [Who was Who. Czech and Slovak Orientalists, Africanists and Iberoamericanists], p. 110.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> DROZDÍK, L. *Modern Written Arabic*, p. 228.

*Orientalia* (GLO, Department of Classical and Semitic Philology, Faculty of Arts of Comenius University in Bratislava). 40

No description of Ladislav Drozdík's multifaceted personality would be complete without a mention of his translation activity. As an admirer of Arabic literature, he translated a number of works of both classical and modern literature into Slovak, including poetry, e.g. the famous collection of Arabic fables Kalila a Dimna, on the basis of L. Cheikho's edition Kalīla wa Dimna [Kalila and Dimnal, Bayrūt 1923, Bratislava: Slovenský spisovateľ 1958, 303 pp.; Ibn Chaldún: Al-Mukaddima. Úvod do dejín [Ibn Khaldūn, al-Muqaddima → Introduction to History] Bratislava: Tatran, 1984; selection, 408 pp.; Žrebci poézie. Sedem ód zo starej Arábie [ash-Shu'arā' al-fuḥūl. al-Mu'allaqāt as-sab' → Stallions of Poetry. Seven Odes from Ancient Arabia] in collaboration with the poet Ľubomír Feldek; Bratislava: Slovenský spisovateľ, 1986, 125 pp.; or Táhá Husejn: Volanie hrdličky [Tāhā Husayn: Du'ā' al-karawān → The Call of the Turtle Dove, Bratislava: Slovenský spisovateľ, 1965. Ladislav Drozdík was awarded several prizes by the Slovak Literary Fund; as early as 1985 he received the Ján Hollý Prize<sup>41</sup> for the literary translation of Mahmūd Darwīsh's collection of poems: Oslava vysokého tieňa [Madīh az-zill al-ʿālī → An Eulogy for the Tall Shadowl, Bratislava: Slovenský spisovateľ, 1984. 42

Upon his retirement in 1996, Drozdík remained remarkably active and accepted the offer to become a research fellow at the Institute of Oriental and African Studies of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. During this period, he published, apart from a number of articles, his last monograph *Non-Finite Relativization: A Typological Study in Accessibility*, a cross-linguistic comparative study of non-finite relative clauses in four languages: Standard Arabic, Hungarian, Turkish and Korean. It was the first work in a new monograph series established by the Oriental Institute, *Studia Orientalia Monographica*, 2010. In this period, he also translated the famous travels of Ibn Baṭṭūṭa *Cesty po Afrike*, *Ázii a Európe v rokoch 1325 – 1354* [The Travels of Ibn Baṭṭūṭa through Africa, Asia and Europe in the Years 1325 – 1354] Bratislava: Slovak Academic Press, 2010.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> Cf. BROWN, F. S., GAŽÁKOVÁ, Z. Bibliography of Professor Ladislav Drozdík. In *Graecolatina et Orientalia*, 2020, Vols. 41–42, (forthcoming).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> Ján Hollý (1785 – 1849) was the first significant Slovak poet to write in the newly standardized literary Slovak language. The Ján Hollý Prize (awarded since 1967) is the highest Slovak prize annually awarded in the field of literary and scientific translations. <sup>42</sup> SOKOLOVÁ, E. *50 rokov činnosti Literárneho fondu* [Fifty Years of the Activities of the Literary Fund] [online] [cit. 28 July 2020]. Available from http://litfond.sk/subory/50\_LF\_web.pdf.

Moreover, Comenius University was not the only university where he served as a professor. After his retirement, in the years 1997 - 2003, he taught Arabic at the newly established Arabic Department at the Faculty of Arts of Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica.

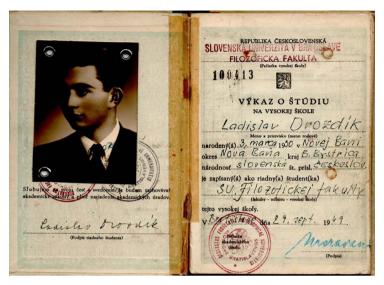
Drozdík was a genuine rapid language learner. Slovak and Hungarian were the languages he grew up with; he learned French at secondary school and Arabic at university. A sheer misunderstanding regarding the term "Orientalist" led him to learn Korean. He had an excellent command of English, spoke Italian at a conversational level, and could easily cheer on the toreador in Spanish. In his last years, he even learned to speak Turkish.

Ladislav Drozdík was a Renaissance man with an exceptional feel for languages, skilled in many different areas. He can serve as an inspiration to today's generation not only by his commitment to work but also by his character as a person as well. People who remember him mention his personal characteristics such as his kindness, diligence, humility and dedication. Such characteristics deserve a rightful place in today's society.

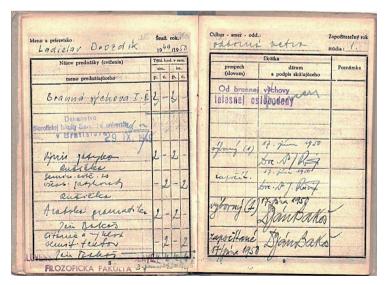
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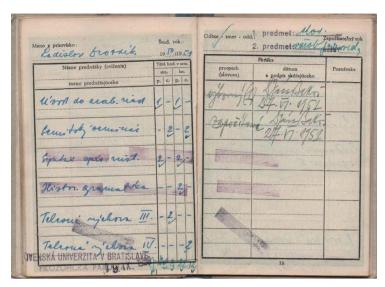
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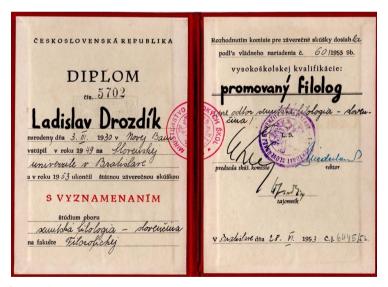
Gažáková, Fig. 1. Ladislav Drozdík's Student Grade Book, title page.



Gažáková, Fig. 2. Ladislav Drozdík's Student Grade Book, pp. 8–9 with grades and signatures of Professor Ján Bakoš.



Gažáková, Fig. 3. Ladislav Drozdík's Student Grade Book, pp. 18–19, the second year of study



Gažáková, Fig. 4. Ladislav Drozdík's University Diploma.



Gažáková, Fig. 5. Ladislav Drozdík's Candidate of Science Diploma.