

OBITUARIES

Assist. Prof. PhDr. Květa Smoláriková, PhD. (1961–2024)

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On 21 May 2024, the renowned Egyptologist and classical archaeologist Assist. Prof. PhDr. Květa Smoláriková, PhD. passed away prematurely after a short, serious illness. She was born in Šurany, Slovakia, on 1 September 1961 and spent her childhood in Komjatice, Slovakia, where she attended elementary school. Already as a pupil, she became interested in archaeology, mainly thanks to the research by Assist. Prof. Anton Točík in Komjatice and the books of Vojtech Zamarovský. Her interest in ancient Egypt was also inspired by Karel Bruckner's book *The Golden Pharaoh*.

The Fight for Archaeology

For Květa, archaeology was a lifelong interest, mission and hobby. In the former communist Czechoslovakia, archaeology could only be studied at the universities of Bratislava, Brno and Prague, on a rotating basis – each year in a different city. However, there was a *numerus clausus* for students of archaeology. Knowledge was only one of the criteria in the admissions process, together with class origin, membership and activities in the Socialist Youth Union (SZM), and last but not least, good family connections. However, Květa was never a conformist person.

After finishing secondary school in Nitra, she intended to study archaeology in Brno, but she did not succeed in being included in the *numerus clausus*. In the autumn of 1982, after not being admitted to study archaeology in Prague, she obtained a post at the Archaeological Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Nitra. She worked as an assistant technician for Assist. Prof. Anton Točík, who poeticized her name to Flora (a reference to the flower – *květ/Kveta* in Slovak). She formed friendships with other (at that time) assistant technicians Táňa Macurová and Peter Bednár, with whom she enjoyed having regular meetings around creamy desserts, especially on their pay days.

In the spring of 1983, she took part in excavations in Jelšovce, Slovakia, in her capacity as assistant technician. At the same time, she was preparing herself for the entrance examination in prehistorical archaeology studies in Bratislava. Here, the *numerus clausus* was unfavourable to her again. Květa therefore continued in her job as a technician at the Archaeological Institute in Nitra in the winter of 1983. Due to labour

code changes, she had to leave her temporary job in Nitra in 1984. She obtained a contract at the Technical Glass Factory in Bratislava, where she could, outside working hours, prepare herself at the University Library and/or the Library of the Slovak National Museum for the next entrance examination. Unfortunately, in 1984, the first grade of archaeology could not be studied anywhere in the former Czechoslovak federation.

Together with Táňa Macurová, she therefore left Bratislava for Prague, with a view to sitting another entrance examination there. It is said that she worked in Prague's Orion chocolate factory and attended courses at a language school. In 1985, she passed the entrance examination for prehistoric archaeology in Prague, but she was admitted to the Charles University only in 1986, for the study of classical archaeology. She graduated with a master's thesis on *Terracottas from the Graeco-Roman Egypt* in 1991.

Egyptological Studies

The choice of her master's topic was probably influenced by the fact that a unique opportunity to study Egyptology arose in Prague in 1989 for the first time in nineteen years. Květa did not hesitate, she submitted an application for Egyptological studies and was accepted. In 1994, she graduated in Egyptology, together with Miroslav Bárta, Jozef Hudec, Jaromír Krejčí, Dušan Magdolen, Sylva Pavlasová, Barbora Patočková and Miroslava Sodomková. During her studies, she was from 1993 a member of the research team of the Institute of Egyptology, Charles University.

In Egyptology, she focused on the Late Period (664 BC – 332 BC) as well as relations between Egypt and the Eastern Mediterranean. After the fall of the communist regime, she also took part in archaeological research at the Neolithic site in Hanau - Mittelbuchen, Hesse, Germany in the summer of 1992. In 1994, she began PhD. studies in Egyptology, which she completed with the dissertation *Greek Imports in Egypt. Graeco-Egyptian Relations During the First Millennium B.C.* in 1998. She became a recognized authority on Egyptian pottery from the first millennium BC and especially imports of Greek pottery into Egypt.

Meanwhile, together with some other students of Egyptology, she occasionally visited the non-fiction Slovak writer Vojtech Zmarovský in his house in Soutice, near Prague. Mr. Zmarovský was pleased with these young Slovak Egyptologists and had them sign his famous "visitor's door". When the Aigyptos Foundation was established in Slovakia in 1995, Květa became a member of its first board of directors.

Lectures and Research

From 1999 she lectured at the Czech Institute of Egyptology in Prague on historiography, Graeco-Egyptian relations, Egyptian archaeology and the history of Late Period Egypt. Later on, she also extended the scope of her lectures to include prehistory and classical archaeology. In 2000, she was granted the A.W. Mellon Fellowship at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens with the project *Graeco-Egyptian relations during the first millennium B.C.*

Květa was a very successful archaeologist, even beyond the confines of Central Europe. Most of her career and professional activities were connected with the archaeological research by the Prague Institute of Egyptology in Abusir. She gained international recognition by researching the shaft tombs of ancient Egyptian dignitaries and generals from the Late Period there. The study and publication of ceramics from the Late Period, including the mummification deposit, brought her respect and numerous citations in the scientific literature. She also co-organised an international conference *Social and Religious Development of Egypt in the First Millennium BCE* in Prague in September 2009, together with Ladislav Bareš and Filip Coppens.

In addition to research at the Abusir site, she also participated in the mission of the British Museum Expedition at the Western Delta in the Kom Firin site, between the years 2004 and 2012. She focused her research there on the finds from late Ramesside Egypt.

Květa was the first Czech-Slovak associate professor of Egyptology. She gained her habilitation with the study *Saite Forts in Egypt. Political-Military History of the Saite Dynasty* in 2011.

From 2013, she was also the field director of the archaeological excavations of the Charles University in El-Hayz Oasis, inside the Bahariya Oasis depression. Due to the post-Arab Spring security situation in the Western Desert, she was not able to undertake a substantial season in the Oasis.

Since her research was also devoted to the ancient Egyptian army and fortresses, Květa became also a regular member of the Polish - Slovak team in Tell el-Retaba from 2015. Her knowledge of defence architecture in the Nile Delta as well as of the local pottery was very important and useful for the mission's excavation of fortresses of the 19th and 20th dynasties. As a member of the research project *APVV-20-0116 On the confines: the borders in life and life on the border of ancient Egypt*, she also became a scholar of the Institute of Oriental Studies at the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava.

Květa also participated in the project *APVV-17-0579 The Slovak research at the Sudanese site of Duweym Wad Haj* of Orientalists and archaeologists of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in the Sudanese site between years 2018–2022. Her heart was not only with the Egyptian Saite period but also with the Nubian rulers. She was indeed an invaluable help in research in Egypt and Sudan.

Travels Abroad and at Home

As already mentioned above, Květa was a tireless lecturer and populariser. She lectured not only in the Czech Republic and other countries, but also in cities and universities in her native Slovakia. She was a prominent star especially among the lecturers of the series *Expeditions in Ancient Egypt* in Bratislava. As recently as 23 February 2024, she lectured here about her favourite Egyptian-Greek location, Naukratis.

Viewers of documentaries broadcast on Czech and Slovak television will also definitely remember her name from the credits, as a professional translation consultant. But she was also known to both, radio listeners and readers of print media.

She also loved to travel. She travelled through Libya and wrote a book about its monuments – *Ancient Libya* (2006). As a classical archaeologist, she was fascinated by the opponents of the ancient Greeks – the ancient Persians. It is, therefore, no wonder that she visited Iran and remembered her trip very positively. Between 2004 and 2008, she travelled quite extensively in central Egypt, together with Jozef Hudec, Táňa Kusá and Peter Turčík.

Although she used to spend most of the year in Prague and Egypt, she also liked to return to her native Slovakia. She enjoyed trips to the Romanesque and Gothic monuments of Spiš, Novohrad, Liptov, and Gemer, especially with her colleague Renáta Rábeková from the Agyptos Foundation.

We will miss Květa very much! Not only as an established and famous expert in Egyptology and archaeology, but especially as a personality and a friend. We loved her for her sharp humour, witty sarcasm, unexpected bons mots, laughter, vitality, karate, steadfastness, advice and hard work. As a Francophile, she abounded in French feminine charm.

Květa – Flóra – Flóriška, walk beautifully along the beautiful paths of the West and may you never lack shabtis in the realm of Osiris. All the friends and colleagues from the Retaba mission will always speak your name with respect and reverence. Rest in peace!

A sample bibliography by Assist. Prof. PhDr. Květa Smoláriková, PhD.

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Jozef Hudec & Peter Bednár

Marián Gálik: A Lifelong Dedication to Chinese Studies in Slovakia

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On Friday, 27 September 2024 at the age of 91, we lost a distinguished sinologist, literary scholar, and translator — our dear colleague, mentor, teacher, and friend Dr. Jozef Marián Gálik, DrSc. He will be remembered not only for his extensive and unique research but also as a co-founder of Slovak sinology as an academic discipline at the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, and as the founder of the sinology study programme at the Faculty of Arts of the Comenius University in Bratislava.

Jozef Marián Gálik was born on 21 February 1933, in Igram. In 1953 he started to study sinology and the history of the Far East at the Faculty of Philology of Charles University. After completing his studies in Prague in 1958, he participated in a two-year postgraduate study programme at Beijing University in China. There, he studied under Professor Wu Zuxiang (1908–1994) and established personal contacts with many prominent Chinese scholars and writers, including Mao Dun, who later became Minister

of Culture of the People's Republic of China, and with whom he consulted his research. After returning to Slovakia, he began working at the Institute of Oriental Studies on 1 November 1960. Together with Viktor Krupa he was one of the founders of the institute, where he remained throughout his career until retirement. During his studies in Prague, he was a representative of the Prague school of sinology, led by Professor Jaroslav Průšek (1906–1980), which emphasised the study of modern Chinese language, history, and literature. At the beginning of his career, he also focused on translating Chinese literature, such as Lao She's novel *Rickshaw Boy* and other literary works. However, very soon he found his lifelong passion in comparative research on Chinese literature.

In 1966, he earned his CSc. degree (Candidate of Sciences), focusing on analysing Mao Dun's works, following the advice of Professor Průšek. The following year, he received a scholarship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, spending a year at the University of Munich. There, among other activities, he revised his dissertation, which was published in English in 1969 as *Mao Dun and Modern Chinese Literary Criticism* by Franz Steiner Verlag in Munich as the first volume in the series *Münchener Ostasiatische Studien*. This was the first scholarly monograph on the famous writer Mao Dun, whom Gálik knew personally, and the work received international acclaim, as evidenced by numerous citations.

In October 1969, Gálik undertook another scholarship stay in Munich as a research associate at the Volkswagen Foundation, leading a project on the impact of German thought on modern intellectual history.

During this stay, he focused primarily on the works of Nietzsche and their influence on Chinese literature and thought. After his forced return to Slovakia in the autumn of 1970, he began working on his dissertation for the DrSc. Degree (Doctor of Sciences). His dissertation, published in 1980 as *The Genesis of Modern Chinese Literary Criticism (1917–1930)*, became his most cited work and gained significant recognition, especially in China. In 1985, he was awarded the DrSc. degree, and in 1986, he published his third book, *Milestones in Sino-Western Literary Confrontation (1898–1979)*, in Wiesbaden. Both *The Genesis* and *Milestones* were later translated into Chinese and became essential study texts for students of modern Chinese literature and comparative literature in China.

In 1988, he initiated the establishment of the sinology study programme at the Faculty of Arts of the Comenius University in Bratislava, where he taught until 2000. After 1989, Gálik shifted his focus to studying the Bible's influence on Chinese literature and culture in the 20th century. His first book on this subject, *Influence, Translation, and Parallels: Selected Studies on the Bible in China*, was published in 2004 by the Monumenta Serica Institute in Sankt Augustin. In total, six of his books were translated into Chinese.

Jozef Marián Gálik's academic contributions are remarkable. In addition to 15 scientific monographs published in English and Chinese, he wrote 333 scholarly studies and articles in various languages and over 210 scientific reviews. His works have been cited over 700 times, which is a significant achievement in the social sciences.

He presented the results of his research at numerous conferences and symposiums, primarily abroad, in cities such as Hamburg, Toronto, Hong Kong, Bordeaux, Budapest, Innsbruck, Paris, Munich, Tokyo, Edmonton, Leiden, Seoul, Leeds, Copenhagen, Oxford, Jerusalem, Taipei, and many others. For his scientific and pedagogical work, Gálik was

appointed as an honorary professor at East China Normal University in Shanghai, Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, and Sichuan University in Chengdu.

On 25 March 2006, he received the prestigious Alexander von Humboldt Award in Bamberg, becoming the only Slovak social scientist to achieve this honour. His international significance is further evidenced by invitations to major events such as the 1st EU-China High-Level Cultural Forum in Brussels (2010) and the 1st World Cultural Forum at Lake Taihu near Suzhou (2011), where he was the only foreign expert on Chinese culture.

Jozef Marián Gálik received several awards for his scientific work in Slovakia, including the Ludovít Štúr Silver (1983) and Gold (1998) Plaques and the Slovak Academy of Sciences Award for the III Division (2003). In 2012, he became an emeritus member of the Learned Society of the Slovak Academy of Sciences.

Between 2004 and 2008, Gálik was the main organiser of two Humboldt conferences, with contributions published in 2006 and 2011. He also led three VEGA projects, focusing on globalisation and the return to cultural identity in the East-West intercultural process.

Lastly, Gálik was an active member of editorial boards for both domestic and international academic journals, including *Asian and African Studies* and the *Journal of Modern Chinese Studies* in Shanghai.

Marián Gálik had the soul of a Confucian scholar, as reflected in his Chinese name, symbolising the renunciation of material pursuits. His approach to research was unique, informed by his profound knowledge of the Bible and the works of thinkers such as Goethe, Kant, Nietzsche, and Kierkegaard. During his studies in China, he acquired an extensive collection of Chinese books and journals — materials that became rare after the Cultural Revolution. Gálik was an exceptional scholar, primarily by virtue of his unwavering independence; he remained committed to his own perspective, presenting his views without compromise, regardless of politics or prevailing trends.

As noted on the Alexander Humboldt Foundation's webpage: "Professor Gálik is one of Europe's last great scholars with a truly universal education. In contrast to many sinologists in East and West he was at home in many languages and traditions. Not only the quality but also the quantity of his publications may surpass many sinological institutions. Concerning his discipline Professor Gálik is exception as sinology in recent years prefers to stand on the politically correct side and follow academic fashions of other disciplines."

All of us who were fortunate enough to know Marián Gálik personally will remember him as an exceptionally hard-working individual with immense knowledge. He set high standards for himself and others, often critical, sometimes blunt, yet always fair. Driven by enthusiasm and boundless curiosity, he approached intellectual challenges as opportunities rather than obstacles, inspiring those around him to reach beyond their limits. Not only was he well-versed in Chinese literature, philosophy, and culture, but he also had a profound understanding of Western thought, frequently referencing thinkers like Goethe, Kant, and his own intellectual kindred spirit, Nietzsche. For him, his work was much more than a profession; he regarded Chinese studies as his highest aspiration and his life's goal.

For me and my university-era colleagues, his students, his teaching at Comenius University holds great significance. He introduced us to Chinese literature and philosophy, and we fondly remember his lectures and the guidance he provided, which helped us progress in our studies. He gave his students everything he could, including generously sharing his precious and rare sinology materials from his home library, resources that even Western European sinologists would borrow. He connected us with his international network at prestigious universities and dedicated a great deal of his time to us, whether at university, in cafés, or at his home. He valued our ideas and never imposed his own. Anywhere in China, his name opened up for us the doors to academic circles, libraries and archives. Being his student was an honour and the best introduction. We will remember Marian Gálik forever as a remarkable person who opened up for us the door to understanding China.

Daniela C. Zhang