

PETR MACEK

JAROSLAV STŘÍTECKÝ AT 70

The 4 October 2011 marks the seventieth birthday of professor PhDr. Jaroslav Střítecký, CSc., aesthetician, musicologist, sociologist and historian, lecturer at the Institute of Musicology, Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University, a leading figure of Czech science and culture.

Jaroslav Střítecký was born on 4 October 1941 in České Meziříčí (Rychnov nad Kněžnou district). Between 1958 and 1963 he studied musicology and history at Masaryk University's Faculty of Arts (renamed Jan Evangelista Purkyně University between 1960–1990), both subjects as full diploma studies' programmes. In 1966 he was awarded the PhDr. degree with his dissertation *On Gervinus' conception of the nation and state* (Ke Gervinovu pojetí národa a státu). His candidature treatise *Wilhelm Dilthey. Historical and philosophical sources of human-scientific methodology* (Historické a filosofické zdroje duchovněné metodologie) led to the degree of candidatus scientiarum (CSc.) in 1981. In 1986 Jaroslav Střítecký habilitated for the field of sociology and then in 1991 he habilitated for the field of philosophy at the Faculty of Arts of Masaryk University on the basis of his published treatise *History and historicity. Study on the problem of the unity and the particular in writings by Dilthey and Kant* (Dějiny a dějinnost. Studie k problému jednoty a jednotlivého u Diltheye a Kanta). In 1994 he was awarded the professorship in philosophy.

Střítecký's activities are closely connected with the Masaryk University and its Faculty of Arts. As early as 1964 he joined the Department of Czech and World History as internal postgraduate („aspirant“) research assistant under the supervision of professor Dr. Jaroslav Kudrna, DrSc. Between 1966 and 1970 he worked as a lecturer („odborný asistent“) at the Department of Philosophy and Methodology, between 1970 and 1995 at the Department of Sociology, for nine years he was the head of the department (1981–1990). In here his research comprised especially of the history of sociology and sociology of culture and he lectured on Central European and Russian aesthetic formalism, on Frankfurter Schule of social theory, on the problems of social rationality and the argument between the

Habermas Schule and the French (post)structuralism and on other subjects. From 1995 Jaroslav Střítecký lectures at the Department of Musicology on aesthetics, formalism, Central European modernism, Thomas Bernhard and Peter Handke, Gesamtkunstwerk and more.

From the beginning of 1990s Střítecký also lectured externally at the Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts in Brno (1990–93, 1995–97, lectures on aesthetics, theory of communication and music sociology) and up to these days he lectures at the Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University, as external lecturer. Once the political restraints were lifted, Jaroslav Střítecký accepted a couple of invitations for lecturing abroad: between 1993–95 he was visiting professor at the Institut für Kulturosoziologie at the Paris Lodron Universität Salzburg (lectures on collective national identification, dialectics of enlightenment, Walter Benjamin's texts on Baudelaire, Max Weber as a sociologist of music) and between 1994–97 he was visiting professor at the Institute of Austrian History of Leopold-Franzens-Universität Innsbruck (Central European history from the multinational point of view, Wilhelm Dilthey, Max Weber, Karl Mannheim).

The formation of Střítecký's scholarly profile was highly influenced by his academic research fellowships abroad: in 1967–68 and then for six months in 1981 he was at the Institut für europäische Geschichte in Mainz (he used to attend T. W. Adorno's lectures in Frankfurt), then in 1989 in Munich (culture scholarship of the City of Munich), and finally in 1997 and 1998 in Vienna (Internationales Forschungszentrum Kulturwissenschaften, Österreichisches Institut für Südost- und Osteuropageschichte).

Jaroslav Střítecký is active in both university and non-university life: Between 1981 and 1993 he was member of the Scientific Board of the Masaryk University, between 1990–93 he was member of the Scientific Board of the Faculty of Arts of Masaryk University, between 1998–2006 he was member of Rector's Art Board of the Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts in Brno, between 1990–1993 he was member of Scientific Board of the Institute of Philosophy of the Czechoslovak/Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague, between 1990–1993 he was member of the Collegium of the Institute of Czech and World Literature of the Czechoslovak/Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague, to mention just some of his activities. Since 1996 he has been member of the Board for Social History of the Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, since 1998 he has been working in the international expert council for the research project *Orte des Gedächtnisses* of the Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Kommission für Kulturwissenschaften und Theatergeschichte. On 13 May 1999 and on several more occasions he sang the role of the Chairman (Vyedushtshiy) in the first Czech performance of Shostakovich's satirical chamber opera *Antiformalist rayok*.

Střítecký's scholarly and research interests are focused chiefly on the problems of the Prague, Viennese and Russian aesthetic formalisms, on the history of social theories and sociology, on the collective processes of identification - specialized on cultural and national models of identification and on conceptions of nature in literature and art of Goethe's times and of German Romantik -, on questions of social rationality in the debate on postmodernism, on the methodological problems of research in social science (W. Dilthey, M. Weber, W. Benjamin, scientific empiricism), on the modern literature in German language and more. For select bibliography please see the following chapter.

Translated by Jan Špaček

