

Dear Colleagues,

We would like to invite you to an international conference arranged as part of Czech Science Foundation Project No. P410/12/1136: "**T. G. Masaryk and the Slavs**". This conference is to take place on **7th and 8th November 2012 in Prague**. The event will be organized by the Masaryk Institute and Archive of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Public Research Institute, together with the History Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Public Research Institute. Thematically, the conference will be divided into two sections, linked by T. G. Masaryk the man, and the "Slavonic" Central-Eastern and South-Eastern European area.

Section A

T. G. Masaryk and the Slavonic world: philosophical and sociological questions and political conceptions

At the time T. G. Masaryk was active, the question of the identity of the Slavs and the compatibility of the Slavonic space was a substantial topic of discussion, both within the ideological and the practical political context. As political nationalism came to a peak at the end of the 19th century the ideological potential of this subject seemed to have quite exhausted itself. However, the outbreak of the First World War and the radical transformation of geopolitical relations in the Central-Eastern and South-Eastern European space again placed this subject and the associated political vision at the forefront of interest. It was indeed Masaryk's generation (of politicians, military theorists, cultural agents and others) who understood the issues of Slavonic space and identity to be old challenges revisited, which they responded to in their own particular way.

Recommended subject areas:

T. G. Masaryk's attitude towards Slavism, Masaryk's views on the resolution of the Slavonic issue (both generally and in specific periods and national environments).

- The problem of a uniform Slavonic identity / identities of the Slavs, the compatibility /incompatibility of the Slavonic space, the various attempts by Masaryk and his contemporaries to interlink this space (with individual ideological, cultural, economic and constitutional conceptions in the period before and during the First World War and in the interwar period).

Section B

Masaryk's role in the history of the Slavonic nations – Masaryk as an ideological and political symbol

Within the scope of his activities, Masaryk not only influenced the development of specific events, but he also presented a prominent political and ideological symbol for the political establishment to measure up against, alongside the broader public in his country and in other parts of the region. Hence the attention of researchers has long focused on various interpretations and reinterpretations of Masaryk's historical role and the responses to his activities. This section focuses in particular on Masaryk's practical contacts with the Slavs and on the issue of the overall evaluation of T. G. Masaryk (both then and now) in individual Slav countries.

Recommended subject areas:

- Previous treatment of the Masaryk issue in individual Slav countries (important historiographical work, archive material, correspondence and reflections in the period press).
- New findings on relations between T. G. Masaryk and representatives of the Slav nations, or Masaryk's influence on the social, political and cultural development of the Russians, Poles, Ukrainians, Slovaks and other South Slav nations.
- Shifts and changes in the perception and evaluation of the TGM phenomenon in the political environment of his homeland and in other Slav countries (with an outline of previous interpretations and/or new interpretations of the meaning and influence of TGM).
- An interpretation and evaluation of key works by T. G. Masaryk on the Slav question and/or the political and ideological development of Europe and the Slav countries.

Individual written contributions will be included in the collective monograph which we plan to publish in 2013.

If interested please send a working title for your planned contribution with a short annotation **by 31st May 2012** to the organizer's e-mail address:

For the conference organizers:

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