

**Review: *Studia orientalia Victori Krupa dedicata.*  
Eds. Anna Ráčová, Martina Bucková.  
Bratislava, Slovak Academic Press, 2016, 302 pages**

The publication *Studia orientalia Victori Krupa dedicata* of the Institute of Oriental Studies, edited by Ráčová and Bucková, covers all fields of Oriental studies, such as history, archaeology, literature, religious studies. The goal of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Slovak Academy of Sciences is to publish a yearly monographic edition which provides space for the results of scientific research. The 2016 edition is dedicated to Victor Krupa, an Orientalist, translator, linguist, the founder of Oceanic and Polynesian studies in Slovakia and one of the founding fathers of Japanese studies at the Department of Oriental Studies of the Slovak Academy of Science and at the Faculty of Arts, Comenius University, on the occasion of the eightieth anniversary of his birth. The introduction includes a detailed presentation of Krupa's scientific life, with a note on his personal life, written by Ráčová, his former colleague from the Oriental Institute, where he had worked for forty-nine years. A selected list of his extensive volume of publications constitutes the last contribution of *Studia orientalia* and offers a unique bibliography of Krupa's works, arranged across thirty pages and ordered according to the year of publishing.

The monographic edition offers an interestingly composed mix of seventeen essays, mostly by the members of the Institute of Oriental Studies.

An experiment on five different Persian texts in an attempt to show that polysemy displays a regular distribution is discussed in **Mianghi, Rezai, Altmann's** paper *Some Quantitative Properties of Polysemy in Persian*. **Emanuel Beška** examines a speech of one owner and editor of an Arabic newspaper in the trial against him in May 1914 in Jaffa. The author refers to the fact that Zionism

was perceived as a political threat to the Palestinians and the Ottoman Empire, as evidenced by the speech printed in the newspaper. In *The Circumstances of the Christianisation of Rennell and Bellona Island—Polynesian Outliers*, **Martina Bucková** presents a reference to the abovementioned islands in Oceania and the curious history of how their inhabitants adopted Christianity. The political situation and dispute around the Six-Day War between Israel and the neighbouring states of Egypt, Jordan and Syria had many consequences, which are discussed in detail in **Karol R. Sorby's** paper *Diplomatic Skirmishing Post-1967 June War*. Vladimír Krivoš (1865–1942), a famous Russian polyglot of Slovak origin, an Orientalist, a secret agent who worked for the Russian parliamentary office, as well as his ideas and attitudes with regard to the daily life and identity of the Crimean Tatars—especially his remarks concerning folk culture—are the main topic of **Gabriel Pirický's** *Vladimír Krivoš's Letters from Crimea: Travel Accounts on Crimean Tatars in the Service of Slovak National Revival*.

**Jozef Genzor's** paper *Endangered Languages and Revitalisation of Languages* gives an intriguing insight into the linguistic situation around the world as well as language maintenance, language revitalisation, and its current challenges, discussed in more detail on the example of the Korean language. The linguistic situation in Africa, where few states are known for their ethnic and linguistic homogeneity, is analysed by **Viera Pawliková-Vilhanová** in her essay *Multilingualism in Africa: Challenges and Solutions*. She refers to the small amount of regard of the ex-colonists for the African continent, as well as to its historical, cultural, and linguistic background, and consequently—to the extremely mixed population at the time when Africa was divided by the European powers. Further, she also discusses the position of African languages and ex-colonial metropolitan languages. *Total Reduplication in Bengali* by **Anna Rácová** analyses the functions of reduplication of adjectives, nouns, pronouns, adverbs, numerals, and postpositions. **Ivan Rumánek** mentions in his paper some parallels between the verbal systems of Manch-Tungusic and Old Japanese, as an attempt to draw typological and etymological conclusions. In an extensive article, **Andrew Pawley** describes pronominal gender assignment in “animated style” in Australian Vernacular English.

The theme of Ancient Egypt is elaborated upon in **Jozef Hudec's** *Amplitudes of the Ancient Egyptian Civilization According to Research in Tell el-Retaba*, which evaluates the research results of the Polish-Slovak scholar with regard to the situation during the Intermediate Periods, divided into natural (climatic, hydrological, seismic-tectonic circumstances) and social (position of the ruler and the elites, influence of religion and morality, economic situation) factors. Further, in the article of **Dušan Magdolen: The Identification of the Restored Parts of the Ancient Egyptian Coffin in the Slovak National Museum**, the author provides new information about a coffin which constitutes part of the Slovak National Museum's Natural History Museum in Bratislava, and of which no record of restoration

has ever been written. The research of the ancient Egyptian coffin has been undertaken by the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Slovak Academy of Sciences.

Papers related to China are contributed by several authors. **Marina Čarnogurská** introduces a medieval period of the Tang and Sui Dynasties, when fine art served not only religious purposes but also played a role in the secular sector. The author notes the “hidden statement” of the paintings and the reflection of the social and political changes in China in the arranging of the natural scenery in the pictures. **Luboš Gajdoš** refines the methodology for the quantitative description of different registers of written Chinese in the article *Quantitative Description of Written Chinese—A Preliminary Corpus-Based Study*. The situation regarding Slovak studies on the Bible and Christianity in China after the Velvet Revolution is evaluated by **Marián Gálik**, the first Slovak Sinologist, who has devoted his attention to the study of the Bible among the Chinese men of letters. **Daniela Zhang Cziráková**, in her paper *Crossing Ink River. Zhang Yu and His Contribution to the Movement of Experimental Ink and Wash Painting* presents the work of the contemporary Chinese avant-garde painter Zhang Yu in the context of ink and wash painting, discussing how his work contributes to the Chinese art as a whole. **Martin Slobodník's** essay *The Foe from the Island and the Friend From the Mainland—Perception of Two Chinas in Czechoslovakia During the 1950s* analyses the image of Taiwan in Czechoslovakia in travelogues and newspapers from the 1950s, where he explains the negative image associated with Taiwan, based on the construction of the dichotomy in a spatial sense (here/China versus there/Taiwan).

The monograph is an example of fruitful interdisciplinary work focused on different topics related to the Orient. Rich in new information, contemporary in the research focus, the monograph clearly exhibits a broad scope of papers. This volume is a worthy and valuable contribution to Krupa's birthday celebrations.

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