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THE STATE SECONDARY TECHNICAL SCHOOL IN KOŠICE IN THE INTERWAR PERIOD*

Abstract

After the creation of the Czechoslovak Republic, some assumptions for radical changes in favour of the development of Slovak nation were made. This paper describes the development of the Slovak education system using the example of the State Technical School in Košice in the Interwar Period, particularly with respect to teaching and education, examining the aspects of its positive and negative developments. The result is a picture of educational institutions in the 1920s and 1930s.

Key Words: the Czechoslovak Republic, Košice, Education System, the Secondary Technical School, Students.

Słowa kluczowe: Czechosłowacja, Koszyce, system szkolny, technikum, uczniowie.

The foundation and the development of the Secondary Technical School until the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic

In the 18th and 19th centuries, Western Europe was swept by the Industrial Revolution. Emerging factories needed professionals, and these were created by schools. France, England, Belgium, Holland and Spain had already established a system of technical secondary schools at that time.

In the 19th century, the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy fell behind other European countries in terms of industrial development. However, the monarchy's industry was not distributed evenly across the empire: the Czech lands were among the most developed parts, while Hungary and modern Slovakia had undeveloped in-

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dustry. Hence, the questions of public – and especially industrial – education became much more important. At the initiative of the Minister of Education, a secondary school teacher in Košice, Joseph Szakkay, took a tour of Western Europe to study the structure and content of vocational schools. His interest was captured especially by the French and Belgian schools; he appreciated their cultivation of exactitude and workmanship along with industrial skills, even artistic sense and their linking of theory and practice. Upon his return to Košice he sent a letter to the Hungarian Minister of Education: "With a small financial support, I am able to build in the city such a higher technical school that would massively assist the advancement of industry by its theoretical and practical training...."[1]

Therefore, in February 1872, Szakkay requested permission to open a school. According to him, the students were to complete theoretical lessons in evening classes at the secondary school in Košice and practical lessons in the factory of Philip and John Müller in Čermel. Permission from the Ministry was received on 20 August 1872.

On 9 October 1872, the Higher Mechanical Engineering School opened in Košice as a private institute of Jozef Szakkay. Students in this school were categorised into two groups – regular and irregular – the regular students were required to be aged 15 to 22 years and to have completed the lower grades of secondary (grammar) school. 19 candidates signed up, and within a month the number increased to 31. In the 1874–1875 school year, the school had three classes and its own professors. From 1 January 1876, this school – the oldest of its kind in Central Europe – was transferred to the administration of the government. At the same time, Jozef Szakkay was appointed as school principal by the Minister of Education.

The building of the Secondary School of Mechanical Engineering is situated on the land bought by the school for the establishment of school workshops. On 8 November 1878, Emperor Franz Josef visited the school. His visit lasted about half an hour. In 1885, the school building had reached the end of its functionality and was demolished; a new one was completed in November 1886. The first notable period of the school's history ended in 1886 when its founder Jozef Szakkay died. Karol Tetmayer became the school's new principal and he re-elaborated the administration rules of the school, raising it among the most famous institutions of Austria-Hungary. There was a technical magazines reading room available to the students, which was the only one of its kind in Hungary. Thanks to the social empathy of the school management, the students were also provided free medical treatment. A new branch (civil engineering), training courses, a Sunday school of technical drawing and the establishment of laboratories all led to interest in study outgrowing the school's capacity. Thus, in September 1889, works on the exten-

[1] Anna P š e n č í k o v á, *135 rokov Strednej priemyselnej školy strojníckej v Košiciach*, Košice: Vienala, 2007, pp. 10–11.

sion of the school began. The reconstruction was completed in October 1901 and it gave the school its current shape.[2]

The First World War represented a major breakthrough in the history of the school. The building was used as military headquarters and military hospital. However, teaching during the war was not interrupted, tand he school workshops focused on the repair of army motor vehicles, on the production of munitions and, from the spring of 1916, the production of artificial limbs and building orthopaedics in two classrooms. Part of the teachers, staff and also students joined the army. According to annual report from school year 1917–18, 21 former students were killed in the war. There were many more injured who returned alive, but the consequences of their injuries are not known.[3]

The State Secondary Technical School in the Interwar Period

The dissolution of Austria-Hungary and the constitution of Czechoslovakia influenced further development of the technical school in Košice. The 1918–1919 school yearreflected the political affairs that took place in the streets of Košice as well. In January 1919, the lectures were shortly interrupted, but after few days the state authorities allowed them to continue under the condition of finishing in May. A special "military" class was open for the students, who had returned from the war front.[4]

To keep teaching in the 1919–1920 school year as well, it was necessary to integrate the school into the state education system. On 12 August 1919, the school was taken over by the government and assigned a principal, Václav Mayer. He was supposed to turn the Hungarian institute into a Slovak institute with Hungarian subsidiaries and to integrate its curriculum to that of Czech schools, i.e., to turn the 3-year study programme into 4 years with a leaving exam (the so-called graduation).[5] Lectures began to be given in Slovak. The first entrance tests were carried out with 49 applicants, though not without problems – there were only a few Slovak students and even they could not read and write in Slovak very well as no Slovak schools had existed before.[6]

Since the 1919–1920 school year, when the Czechoslovak school administration took charge, new general provisions for the admission of students were agreed:

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[2] Pavol B o d a, ed., *100 rokov priemyselnej školy v Košiciach*, Košice: Východoslovenské vydavateľstvo, 1972, pp. 10–15.

[3] The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1917/18.

[4] P. B o d a, *op. cit.*, p. 17.

[5] The most significant difference between Czech and Slovak curricula was in the number of lessons of vocational trainings in workshop classes. The students of Secondary Technical School in Košice spent 40 per cent of teaching process in workshop classes, while Czech students of secondary technical schools spent only 7 per cent.

[6] The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1923/24, 11.

1. Enrolment to all years was on personal basis.
2. A single class could contain only up to 40 students.
3. No private lessons were allowed.
4. Only mentally and physically mature boys and girls were admitted, they had to be at least 14 years old at the time of application.
5. Completion of the third year of secondary school or the fourth year of civil school was required, with at least average ranking in all mandatory subjects. These applicants were expected to have experienced at least 1 year of vocational practice (as locksmiths, blacksmiths, etc.).
6. Completion of the fourth year of secondary school with at least a satisfactory ranking was required; these applicants did not need the aforementioned vocational practice.
7. All students, without exception, were obliged to pass the entrance exam on the language of education, math and metrology.
8. Students were admitted only conditionally for the first term; only after showing their skills were they allowed to continue their studies.[7]

The announcement of conditions for admission for the 1925–1926 year contained what a student was obliged to master when taking the entry exam. With regard to the language of education, let us mention "the ability to reproduce a simple article using correct logical process and without excessive linguistic lapses. Knowledge of the most important grammar rules will be assessed by a short dictation, whereas familiarity with morphology and composition will be examined by parsing a compound sentence."[8] Math and metrology essentials included measures and weights, basic calculations, powers and roots, solving proportions, percentages, determination of circumference, area and volume, Pythagorean theorem, etc.[9]

In January 1920, a Hungarian subsidiary of the institute was opened with the old ensemble of professors and no personal changes (the former principal Balassa was appointed a department head). The first year was launched according to new curriculum while in the other two years the old one was followed. The school ran more and more steadily, and the workshop production was also being developed.[10]

Two divisions formed the school in this period: the Slovak and the Hungarian one. They both had the same teaching style, they only differed in language. Each division consisted of two teaching parts: higher school of mechanical engineering and specialized courses for various disciplines of mechanical engineering.[11]

Besides the higher school and evening courses, new departments were gradually opened so the organizational structure of the secondary school in Košice at the beginning of 1930s looked like this:

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[7] Monika Jakabčinová, *130 rokov strednej priemyselnej školy strojníckej v Košiciach – Žiaci a absolventi*, Košice: SPSŠ, 2003, pp. 3–4.

[8] The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1924/25, 35.

[9] The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1924/25, 35.

[10] The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1923/24, 12.

[11] The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1921/22, 3.

All day departments:

Department A: **Higher Technical School of Mechanical Engineering** provided in Slovak (4 years)

Department B: **Higher Technical School of Mechanical Engineering** provided in Hungarian (4 years)

Department M: **Craftsmanship School of Mechanical Engineering** provided in Slovak (2 years)

Department C: **Training Workshop of Technical Engineering and Modelling** provided in Slovak (3 years)

Courses:

Evening courses: stoker course, mechanical engineering and electrical engineering courses provided in Slovak and Hungarian (3 months)

Driving (motoring) courses: provided in Slovak and Hungarian (3 months)[12]

All-day sections

The Higher School of Mechanical Engineering provided the standard technical education needed by owners and managers of engineering and other factories and technical officers of prominent machine works and state enterprises. Study took four years and was concluded by a leaving exam.

In the Craftsmanship School of Mechanical Engineering (opened in 1931) one could get educated in the context of practical specialization, so after two years they were prepared to become an independent craftsman or a technical manager in a factory.

The Training Workshop (opened in 1924) for locksmiths, metal lathe operators and carpenters provided full-length craft education in one of the above-mentioned professions together with appropriate theoretical background. The three-year study programme was concluded by a vocational certificate.[13]

The Evening Technical Courses lasted only a few months and the lessons took place in the evening hours only (2–3 times a week after 6pm). They were meant for full-time workers, who thus could get the necessary knowledge regardless of any prior education. The courses focused on electrical engineering, boilers and steam engines. The minimum number of participants was set at 20.[14]

Driver's Courses were launched in 1927 and provided complete theoretical and practical education in the field of automobiles and their driving. Lessons took place in evening hours (after 6 pm), and practical drives were scheduled in compliance with the participants' time schedules.[15]

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[12] The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1936/37, 5.

[13] The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1937/38, 6–7. The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1931/32, 5.

[14] The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1921/22, 3.

[15] The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1937/38, 6–7. The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1931/32, 5.

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According to the new curriculum, students completed their education by passing the leaving exam (graduation). The first such exams took place both in Slovak and Hungarian divisions at the end of the 1922–1923 school year. In the Slovak class, 29 students passed the exam (8 with full marks); in the Hungarian class, 32 students passed (5 with full marks).[16]

Under certain condition, the new curriculum and school leaving exams guaranteed the graduates the opportunity for further study at the technical universities. According to the Decree of the Ministry of Education and the national enlightenment from 26 September 1926 (No. 84.865-IV), graduates of the mechanical engineering school were permitted to continue studying mechanical or electrical engineering at a technical university under the condition that they "provide the certificate of secondary school leaving exam with full marks, or at least average 2nd grade rating during the whole period of study; for technical subjects it is enough to demonstrate a 2nd grade rating in both terms of the 4th year of study, while for the other, nontechnical, subjects, every two 3rd degree ratings have to be compensated by one 1st degree, and a 4th degree is unacceptable."[17]

Out of 140 graduates from the first two years, 20% continued to study and 11 students (8%) were employed in state enterprises, while the majority (61 students – 44%) were employed in private enterprises, one set up their own business and 12 remained unemployed. Many of those that found no job in Slovakia found a job in the Czech Republic or abroad in a more developed industry.[18]

The consequences of the Apponyi nationalistic school politics were visible during the launching of the first year of study, as only a few Slovaks applied for study at the school. And because education in Slovak did not exist before the coup, even those few had significant lack of knowledge. In order to preserve the Slovak classes, they were supplemented with students from Bohemia and Moravia. In the first years of the existence of the school, there were significantly more students interested in attending one of the Hungarian subsidiaries. Another problem was also the lack of qualified teachers, but that was gradually eliminated by recruiting Czech engineers.[19]

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[16] P. B o d a, *op. cit.*, p. 20.

[17] The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1928/29, 7–8.

[18] P. B o d a, *op. cit.*, p. 20.

[19] Alžbeta B o j k o v á, *Primárne problémy transformácie stredných a odborných škôl v Košiciach v medzivojnovom období*, dizertačná práca, Košice: UPJŠ, 2012, p. 182.

Table 1

Overview of students in various departments of the State Technical School in Košice during the first twenty years of the Czechoslovak Republic[20]

School year	School, courses								**Total**
	Higher school of mech. engineer. Slovak	Higher school of mech. engineer. Hungarian	Craftsmanship school Slovak	Training work-shop Slovak	Evening courses Slovak	Evening courses Hungarian	Drivers courses Slovak	Drivers courses Hungarian	
18/19	–	261	–	–	–	131	–	–	–
19/20	39	218	–	–	31	–	–	–	**288**
20/21	82	160	–	–	60	111	–	–	**413**
21/22	107	133	–	–	38	49	–	–	**327**
22/23	136	146	–	–	29	63	–	–	**374**
23/24	127	150	–	–	51	101	–	–	**429**
24/25	139	145	–	20	71	85	–	–	**460**
25/26	138	140	–	41	43	68	–	–	**430**
26/27	138	138	–	58	–	–	–	–	**334**
27/28	129	135	–	53	52	96	59	20	**544**
28/29	133	116	–	53	87	56	81	–	**526**
29/30	136	111	–	58	73	–	70	65	**513**
30/31	150	115	–	57	62	13	73	43	**513**
31/32	157	89	15	57	21	17	83	21	**460**
32/33	155	82	36	58	25	–	46	20	**422**
33/34	151	69	44	49	83	–	21	11	**428**
34/35	144	75	40	53	66	–	30	10	**418**
35/36	147	73	35	51	55	–	33	–	**394**
36/37	144	90	41	61	50	–	24	–	**410**
37/38	182	103	54	79	65	–	36	–	**519**
Total	**2534**	**2549**	**265**	**748**	**962**	**790**	**556**	**190**	**8594**

[20] The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1937/38, 12.

Given the division of lessons into theoretical and practical, the teachers were also divided into two groups preserving certain hierarchy. Theoretical subjects were taught by professors, contract professors, specialist teachers and assistants, temporary staff and external teachers.Václav Mayer, the principal, was at the head of the professors' board and the Hungarian division was managed by technical chief Ján Balassa, the former principal of the Hungarian secondary technical school, from January 1920. In the workshops, the practical teaching was provided by state teachers, shop foremen, contract foremen and other employees of this sort.[21]

In its first years, the principals were replaced quite often. In December 1920 Václav Mayer was appointed the principal of the secondary technical school in Kladno and his post in Košice was filled by Maximilián Klotz, the former department chief of secondary technical school in Plzeň. After two-and-a-half years, Klotz was moved to České Budejovice and in March 1923, Antonín Benda came from the Škoda works in Plzeň to take charge. Benda ran the institute for 14 years and improved it significantly. At the end of 1937, Benda was appointed the principal of the secondary technical school in Bratislava and was succeeded by Juraj Krajčovič.[22] On the other hand, the professors' board was relatively stable as the technical subjects made every single teacher remain in the team. The principal's post (exemplified by the fluctuation of principals in Košice in the 20's) was often left due to promotion either to a higher position in the same area (inspector) or to another workplace. Professors were replaced either temporarily by substitute professors or by candidates for a permanent teaching post.

The following persons worked at school in the 1923–1924:

- *Teachers (Professors):* Benda Antonín (the principal); Balassa Ján (the technical chief, he taught: technologies, organization of the technical work, construction of machinery, engineering drafting), Borš Koloman (mechanical technology, factory accounting and organisation, electrical engineering, chemistry, chemical technology), Hromada František (Slovak, Hungarian, history, geography), Jelínek Oldřich (technologies, technical drawing), Kindl Jozef (mechanics, construction of machinery, accounting), Kirchknopf Ondrej (mathematics, geometry, physics, chemistry), Koch Vilém (mechanics, technologies, engineering's drafting), Matzner Henrich (technical subjects and mechanics), Pelc Otto (physics, chemistry, electrical engineering), Pospíšil Viktor (Slovak, history, geography), Růžička Rudolf (mathematics, construction of machinery, drafting), Sapák Antonín (administrator of workrooms), Wein Ján (material science, technologies, engineering drafting), Zsámboki Teodor (electrical engineering, construction of machinery, drafting, technical drawing),[23]
- *Work foremen:* Bezruč Gothard, Bodnár Pavel, Bresztovics Viktor, Derfinyák Gustáv, Elischer Vojtech, Friedmann Jozef, Hunyady Géza, Jančo Štefan, Jelenek Alfréd, Mariščsák Ludvík, Markovics Arpád, Martončík Antonín, Pacsuta Ludvík, Šlesár Alexander, Tóth Ján

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[21] Juraj B a u e r, *Katalóg pedagógov strednej priemyselnej školy strojníckej v Košiciach 1872––2002*, Košice: SPŠS, 2003, p. 24.

[22] Jozef M e ľ u c h, ed., *100 rokov strednej priemyselnej školy strojníckej v Košiciach 1872––1972*, Košice: SPŠS, 1972, p. 20.

[23] The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1923/24, 38–39. The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1920/21, 6–7.

- *Assistants:* Charvár Karol, Thurzák Martin[24]
- *Substitute Teaching Staff:* Buczkó Emil (geography), Hendl Jozef (building), Holba Kassian (Hungarian), Riszner Karol (Slovak), Rubeš Antonín (hygiene)[25]

Fig. 1: Staff at the end of the school year 1923/1924[26]

Among the subjects taught at the school were: the language of education (Slovak, Hungarian), history, geography, mathematics, physics, chemistry, metrology, drafting and projecting, technical drawing, statics and dynamics, the science of strength and flexibility, machine parts, hoists, water engines, heat engines, mechanical technology, chemical technology, electrical engineering, costing and organization of production, equipment and operation of the machine works, trade literature, factory accounting, encyclopaedia of building, hygiene of industrial plants and shop work.[27]

Interestingly, there was no physical education contained in the curriculum, and thus students only exercised in various sport clubs. By the decree of the Ministry of Education No. 117.136/37-III from 26 August 1937, defence education was introduced with two hours a week as well as one marching exercise a month. According to the annual report from 1937–1938, "defence education has

[24] The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1923/24, 14–15.

[25] The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1923/24, 40.

[26] The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1923/24, 15.

[27] State Archive in Kosice, Fund: State Secondary Technical School in Košice, box 8. Main Catalogue for school year 1920/21.

been accepted joyfully yet soberly. Professors, who were assigned the defence education (reserve officers), set up temporary curriculum. Soon they arranged serial exercises needed for marches."[28] On 25 April 1938, 15 minute morning exercises in the schoolyard started, taking place three times a week instead of the one hour of defence training a week, thus physical education was partially introduced. Students mainly enjoyed skiing, hockey and scouting; there were two scout units established at the school – Slovak and Hungarian.[29] The first one was dissolved in 1937 due to inactivity, whereas the Hungarian one was very active and won a bronze medal in a walking race.[30]

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Education during the first Czechoslovak Republic was paid. Even a contribution for teaching aids and workshops was required; there was also a fee for accident insurance. The total charges were as follows:[31]

Tuition: from the starting of school 1924/25, the first grade	**100** crowns a year
then the following years	**48** crowns a year
Registration fee:	**10** crowns a year
Contribution for teaching aids:	**20** crowns a year
Contribution for workshops:	**50** crowns a year
Contribution for electro lab (only for 4th grade)	**50** crowns a year
Fee for accident insurance :	**7,50** a year
Deposit	
(If no damage was done, it was returned at the end of a year)	**25** crowns a year

Due to the students' diverse social classes, the poorer ones could be exempted from the school fee (100 or alternatively 48 crowns), given they had good results. Other fees were compulsory for all. The neediest, but most diligent, students were granted monthly support; however, no one could be guaranteed to get some

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[28] Marching exercises were held on the following days: the whole school went to Olcar on 15 October 1937 and they also went to Myslava on 30 October 1937. On 21 December 1937, the students went to Kostoľany and Kavečany in two groups. On 19 February 1938, one group of students went to Haniska, another group of them went to Otilia by means of skis. On March 23th 1938 one group of students went to Kavecany, another one to Budimir. On 17 May 1938, one group was sent as a cycling team to Slanec and the rest, who were assigned various tasks in terrain, headed for Tejkes. On 20 June 1938, the training in Bankov was held. The Annual Report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1937/38, p. 19.

[29] At skiing competition of secondary schools in eastern Slovakia, organised by the club of Czechoslovak tourists in Košice 30 January 1938, the students reached top ranks and were given the award of the city of Košice and the cup of the military general Lev Prchala. In the competition of secondary schools in Canadian hockey, organized by the first Czechoslovak sports club in Košice, the school hockey team won the cup of Ing. V. Hollý. The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1937/38, p. 19.

[30] The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1936/37, 18.

[31] The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1923/24, 77.

in advance. Various funds supported by the founding members and contributors consisting of rich burghers, local notables, wealthy professors or their widows served as a source of support. The so-called anniversary funds were formed on occasions of some significant person's anniversary.[32] For example, in the memory of T. G. Masaryk, the professors' board decided to set up a special fund, interests from which were paid out as a scholarship every year on the president's birthday (7 March) to aid the neediest and most hardworking students. With the approval of the president himself, the fund was called the Masaryk Anniversary Relief Fund. The Ministry of Education and the National Enlightenment, professors' board, workshop foremen and the students contributed, as did various businesses (at the request of the principal's office). At the end of the 1924–1925 school year, the fund held:[33]

Table 2

The Balance of the Masaryk Anniversary Relief Fund
at the end of the 1924–1925 school year.

Donator	Slovak department	Hungarian department	Total
Ministry of Education and National Enlightenment	10 000	10 000	20 000
Raised from the teaching staff and workshop foremen	1 296	1 296	2 592
Collections of students	4 287	2 395	6 682
Chamber of Commerce in Banská Bystrica	200	100	300
Total	**15 783**	**13 791**	**29 574**

Besides financial aid, the students were supported also in kind, e.g. with clothes, shoes or meals. Clothing was donated, for example, by the Baťa Company and the Vlček's Association. Free board was enabled by the clerks' canteens in Košice, which offered lunch and dinner, and some of them even gave larger groups of students half-price meals. Several individuals even offered board with their own families.[34]

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[32] Želmíra G e š k o v á and Ľubica K r i š k o v á, *Bibliografia výročných správ škôl z územia Slovenska za školské roky 1918/19–1952/53*, Martin: Matica slovenská, 1998, p. 46.

[33] The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1924/25, 26–27.

[34] To providers of free boarding services belong:

For Slovak Department: Railway canteen, Post Administration canteen, State Hospital, Officer´s canteen of 11th Division, Animal Farm Institution in Košice, Czechoslovak Military Hospital, The Canteen of State Malting factories, Institutions for the Insane, Catholic Institution, Head of Czechoslovak State Railways, Canteen of the Head of the Police, the restaurant

Moreover, the Directorate of the Czechoslovak state railways supported a student who graduated in 1922–1923 in his further studies at the Technical University in Prague with a monthly stipend of 300 crowns.[35]

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The school's influence on students was versatile. For instance, there was a reading room established in 1923 with wide selection of interesting magazines, both professional and literary/cultural. Before 1923, the school had subscribed to various technical magazines for its professors' library. In 1922, the school management requested the permission and financial aid in order to subscribe to literary magazines and newspapers as well in order to open a separate reading-room available not only to professors, but also to students. Magazines and newspapers were available to the professors during the week in the staffroom and to the students every Sunday and on holidays in a classroom. One person from the professors' board was responsible for both reading rooms. In the 1923–1924 school, there were 5 newspapers, 16 technical magazines and 7 literary and illustrated magazines.[36] There were 30 openings with 1443 visits (about 50 students on average) which is 18% out of all 277 students and that is fairly remarkable considering the period.[37] The number of magazines increased so that in 1938, the collection contained 48 technical and 29 literary magazines of not only Slovak origin, but also Czech, Hungarian, Yugoslavian and English.[38] The library grew rapidly as

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Czechoslovak House, The restaurant F. Štofko, the Head Doctor J. Uram, the Head of Czechoslovak State Hospital, Ing. Šindelář – the Chief Counsellor of Czechoslovak State Railways, Ph. Mr. F. Ulrich – Pharmacist of Czechoslovak State Hospital, K. Luňáček – adjunct of Czechoslovak State Railways, Slavia Café Restaurant, Ing. A Sapák – Teacher at Secondary Technical School, Ing. R. Ružička – Teacher at Secondary Technical School.

For the Hungarian Department: there were mainly private persons who provided the students with boarding services in their families: dr. A. Fischer-Colbrie – Bishop of Košice, B. Thost – Košice´s Parson, A. Julius Siposs, Premonstratensian monastery, Ľ. Körmendy-Ékes, D. Geffert – Pharmacist, G. Gönczy – reformed Parson, Ľ. Jassik, Fr. Szilágyi, M. Jozefová, Fr. Bajusz, J. Horváth, B. Siposs, G. Jaschkó, A. Vécsei, J. Micsák, J. Weis, K. Bauernebl, J. Balassz, Th. Pausz, K. Szakmáry, K. Štefanová.

[35] The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1923/24, 59.

[36] **Newspapers:** Slovenský Východ, Slovenský Denník, Lidové Noviny, Kassai Napló, Prager Presse.

Technical Magazines: Strojnický Obzor, Vynálezy a pokroky, Domácí dílna, Železo, Elektrotechnický Obzor, Československý strojník a elektrotechnik, Zprávy veřejné služby technické, Zprávy o letectví, Časopis pre pěstování mathematiky a fysiky, Rozhledy mathematicko-přírodovědecké, Příroda, V.D.I. (Zeitschrift des Vereins deutscher Ingenieure), Maschinen-Bau, Werkstatts-Technik, E.T.Z. (Elektrotechnische Zeitschrift), Zeitschrift für den physik. und chem. Unterricht.

Literary and Illustrated magazines: Zlatá Praha, Prúdy, Zvon, Mladé Slovensko, Český svět, Slovenský svet, Panoráma.

[37] The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1923/24, 62.

[38] Number of magazines was so high because in the reading room periodicals of Kosice Department of the Association of Czechoslovak Engineers were also available. The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1937/38, 23.

well, in 1938 it featured 13,260 titles (7,883 in professors' library and 5,377 titles in both students' libraries).[39]

The health of the students was systematically monitored already in the first decade after the coup by institutions whose establishment was inspired by similar institutions in Prague or Brno. The first facility of this kind was the Students' Clinic founded in Košice at the end of 1923, later named the Students' Association Clinic. It joined volunteers from all secondary and vocational schools in the city. For an annual fee of 10 crowns, it provided all kinds of free medical treatment in surgeries, hospitals or at home, including dental care and provision of spectacle prescription during the whole period of study. Students' states of health were checked at the beginning and at the end of the school year and were recorded on medical cards.[40] As agreed by the Ministry, periodic medical examinations were introduced in the technical school in Košice in 1933, taking place at the beginning and at the end of each school year. These were performed by Anton Rubeš, M.D., the state Head Doctor of the city of Košice, who lectured on the subject of hygiene in the school.[41] According to annual reports, the most frequent diseases were influenza, tonsillitis, scarlet fever, pneumonia and various injuries sometimes requiring a surgery.

School walks, trips and field trips belonged to the non-standard forms of education in the secondary schools. The short-term ones were carried out throughout the year, whereas the more favoured ones, which lasted lasting longer, were carried out in the spring months. Short-term trips included sightseeing walks and tours, usually under the guidance of the technical subjects' teachers, and they aimed both to strengthen health and fitness and to learn more about the school's surroundings. Expert field trips took place mainly in the local and regional manufactures (mills, bakeries, glass factories, handicraft workshops, various repairers...). Between 1–8 April 1936, students in the last year of the Secondary Technical School in Košice participated in an extensive field trip to important mechanical engineering factories in Prague, Plzeň and Kladno, guided by the Principal Benda and Professors Fischhof, Krajčovič and Pleskot. The trip included sightseeing in Prague and visits to the following factories: smelters and rolling mills of the Prague Metallurgical Company, the Škoda Works, the town brewery in Plzeň, the Czech-Moravian Kolben Daněk,[42] the Prague incinerator, the Waldes Factory and the Smíchov Brewery in Prague. As recorded in the report, during the tour of the Prague castle, the students spotted Edvard Beneš, then the president of

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[39] P. B o d a, *op. cit.*, p. 22.

[40] Ž. G e š k o v á and and Ľ. K r i š k o v á, *op. cit.*, p. 48.

[41] The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1933/34, 15.

[42] One of the most important engineering companies of interwar Czechoslovakia. The company arose from Austrian-Hungarian industry in the second half of the 19th century. Basically, these were the largest Machine-works of then Czechoslovakia. The head of the company was Emil Kolben.

the republic.[43] Let us mention also excursions abroad, e.g. the one to Austria and Italy in the 1924–1925 school year, attended by students in the Slovak division under the guidance of the principal A. Benda. It lasted 3 weeks.[44]

In addition, students of each year visited all the important facilities in Košice: the power plant, gas works, brewery, the Poledniak Concern,[45] tobacco factory, state hospital (and the machinery within), the Schalkház Hotel, etc.[46]

Education was not the only essence of the school life, as proved by information about speeches and celebrations of state holidays and memorial days. For example, the memorial day of Bedřich Smetana in February 1924 was celebrated in both divisions by joint lectures of professors of Slovak language. The 6th anniversary of the Constitution of Czechoslovakia was celebrated at first in the school yard and then, in the afternoon the celebration moved to the National Theatre President Masaryk's birthday used to be celebrated as well. Interestingly enough, in 1928 there were celebrations of 10th anniversary of the constitution of the Polish and Latvian Republics as well as the union of Yugoslavia.[47]

As for students' extracurricular activities, let us mention interesting lectures, such as: in April and May 1929, lectures about "50 years of Edison's bulb" and "Significant individuals in the world of engineering" were given. In June 1932, there was "Offenses against social behaviour" and in October 1933 there was a lecture against alcoholism. In December 1933 a lecture about the results of the 1930 census in Košice and about the previous ethnic ratios was held. In October 1936, in the gym of the police headquarters, the members of the Sokol Czech gymnastic organisation presented some exercises from the Olympics in Berlin with appropriate commentary.[48] A substantial part of educational process represented collective visits to cinemas, theatres and concerts.

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The Secondary Technical School in Košice ceased to exist as a result of the Vienna arbitration and on 3 November 1938, the school was taken over by the Hungarian government. The Secondary Technical School then consisted of 2 parts. Part of the professors and school facilities were led by Principal Juraj Krajčovič and were moved to Spišská Nová Ves, and later, due to unsuitable premises, to

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[43] The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1935/36, 15.

[44] The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1924/25, 31.

[45] Company Poledniak dealt with the production of driving engines.

[46] The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1932/33, 14.

[47] The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1923/24, 67. The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1924/25, 28. The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1928/29, 21.

[48] The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1929/30, 19. The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1931/32, 15. The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1923/34, 17. The Annual report of State Secondary Technical School in Košice for school year 1936/37, 18.

Ružomberok, and then to Banská Bystrica.[49] Juraj Krajčovič was the school principal of State Secondary Technical School in Banská Bystrica since 1939.[50]

At the general conference held on 11 October 1938, with the participation of all professors and workshop teachers from the school, an agreement between the leaving Slovak department and the Hungarian division was reached regarding the splitting of teaching aids, subjects and school equipment. Everything that was acquired before 1918 became the property of the State Hungarian Secondary Technical School in Košice, while equipment bought afterwards was to be divided in such a way that "this separation would not endanger, and moreover, would enable the continuity of the educational processes in the Hungarian school, possibly by keeping some lectures of the Slovak school at the Hungarian school, and furthermore the Slovak institute moving to Spišská Nová Ves should possess such equipment that is necessary to start and sustain teaching there."[51]

The part of the school that taught in Hungarian remained in Košice, where it was renamed The Hungarian Royal State Higher Technical School. Slovak students were able to study in January 1939 in a Slovak class that opened every year except for 1941–1942 as well as in two classes of craftsmanship school that, however, gradually ceased to exist.[52] By the end of the war, in 1945–1946 the school was officiallyed named The State Secondary Technical School in Košice.

Conclusion

The dissolution of Austria-Hungary and the creation of Czechoslovakia influenced further development of the technical school in Košice. The Czechoslovak school administration took charge starting in the 1919–1920 school year. Education during the first Czechoslovak Republic was paid. Even a contribution for teaching aids and workshops was required, as was a fee for accident insurance. At the end of the 1920s and early 1930s, the qualitative and quantitative growth of Slovak education can be observed. This was also reflected at the State Secondary Technical School in Košice by the creation of new departments and increasing the number of classes as well as the number of Slovak students. It is important to mention that the number of Hungarian students at this school slowly decreased. The positive development of the school was halted by the Vienna Arbitration, after which the school was divided. The part of it that remained on the premises was renamed

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[49] P. B o d a, *op. cit.*, p. 22.

[50] Juraj Krajčovič was in 1944 arrested by Nazi security authorities, imprisoned in Banská Bystrica and from December 1944 in Bratislava. He died during an airstrike on a transport of prisoners heading to the concentration camp in Mauthausen. Štefan V a l e n t o v i č, *Slovenský biografický slovník: 3. zv., K-L / (od roku 833 do roku 1990)*, Martin: Matica slovenská, 1989.

[51] The agreement of allocation of property of State Secondary Technical School in Košice from 4 November 1938. Fund: Archive of State Secondary Technical School in Košice.

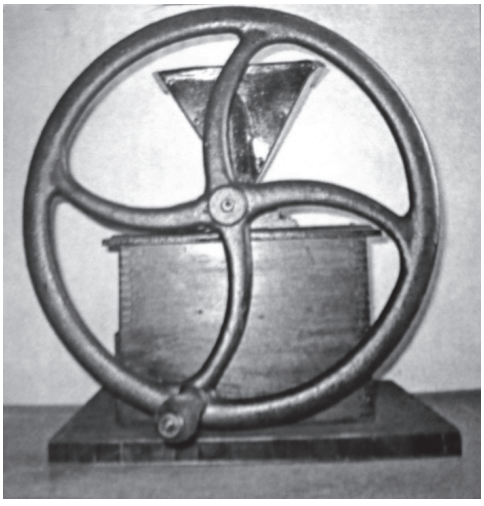
[52] A. B o j k o v á, *op. cit.*, p. 193.

The Hungarian Royal State Higher Technical School. The paper brings new insights, mainly unpublished facts about the State Secondary Technical School in Košice in the Interwar Period.

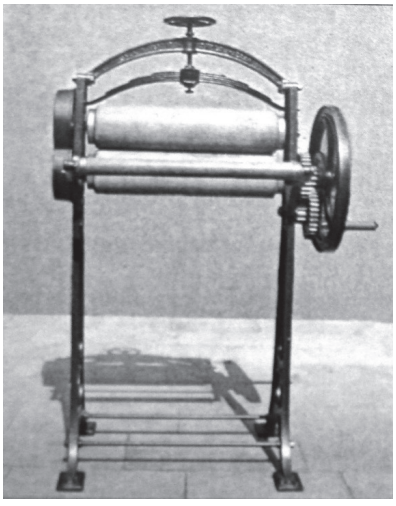
Appendix

Some of the Most Famous Products of the Educational Workshops, made in 1874–1944[53]

Products for customers	Production time	Quantity
Laundry Mangle	1874–1931	330
Tobacco Cutter	1874–1926	100
Poppy Mill	1906–1909	60
Locksmith Jaw-vice	1896–1944	1000
Drills, Milling Cutters, Lathe Knifes	1908–1912	240
Hand Vice	1877–1909	150
Drilling Machine	1917–1920	60



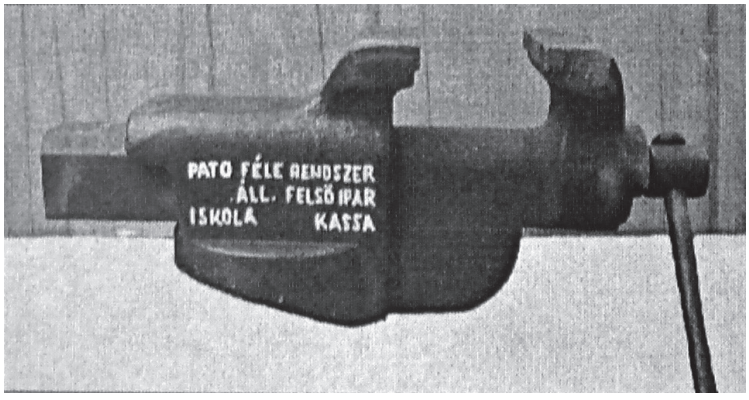
Poppy Mill



Laundry Mangle

[53] J. B a u e r, *op. cit.*, p. 186.

Tobacco Cutter



Locksmith Jaw-vice

Mária Ďurkovská

PAŃSTWOWE TECHNIKUM W KOSZYCACH W OKRESIE MIĘDZYWOJENNYM

Streszczenie

Rozpad Austro-Węgier i powstanie Czechosłowacji w 1918 roku postawiły specyficzne problemy przed nowymi władzami. Między innymi należało podjąć decyzje i rozpocząć prace nad szkolnictwem różnych szczebli i równego charakteru. Niniejszy artykuł podejmuje analizę historii technikum w Koszycach w okresie między dwiema wojnami światowymi, w oparciu o niewykorzystywane dotychczas materiały źródłowe. Przedstawione zostały blaski i cienie szkolnictwa owego okresu na tle problemów szkolnictwa w Czechosłowacji i Słowacji w badanym okresie.