



**We do not want you to become lazy, but to be like those who believe and are patient,
and so receive what God has promised.**

Hebrews 6:12

(Daily Watchwords - 24.9.2021)

***** Conference information *******

9th International Conference of the MORAVIAN National History Association

300 years since the birth of David Zeisberger, apostle to the Indians

After 8 months of long and careful preparations, we gathered at the conference from 24 to 26 September 2021. The decision to hold this conference was a bold one in view of the situation regarding Covid, but turned out to be the right one.

***** Brief overview *******

About 100 participants (including organizers) - members of Moravian - attended the three-day event. People came from Bohemia, Moravia, Germany, Slovakia, Austria, Romania and the USA. 17 papers on were presented on three main topics: David Zeisberger, other Moravians and their jubilees, other topics. The rich accompanying program made the offer of activities even more colorful.

****** Program *******

FRIDAY 24. 9. 2021 Registration at the entrance of Klub kultury

9 a.m. – 10 a.m. Onsite registration, which meant a number of necessary tasks had to be carried out: Preparing participant lists, handing out meal vouchers, providing accommodation for people staying overnight, handing out name tags, preparing document folders, dealing with conference fees, etc. This was all managed by H. Staňková and her team. Moravian also offered publications and other products throughout the two days; this was managed by Sára Jasaňová and assistants. Aleš Mrázek also offered a product for sale – the newly published 65-page graphic novel for children and adults alike about David Zeisberger, a friend of Native Americans.

The co-organizers of this year's conference were: The township of Suchdol nad Odrou, Klub kultury, Johannes Mathesius Gesellschaft.

The conference was held under the auspices of these persons:

Ing. Richard Ehler – mayor of Suchdol nad Odrou

PhDr. Karel Müller – director of the Provincial Archives in Opava

Greg Peters – Chief Emeritus of the Delaware Nation – Canada

Prince Heinrich XIV Reuss Dipl. Ing.

Drahomír Strnadel – chairman of Matice Radhošťská

The mayor of Suchdol nad Odrou opened the conference with a short welcome speech.

The hosts of the conference were PhDr. Karel Chobot and his daughter Mgr. Lenka Chobotová.

PhDr. K. Müller – the director

of the Provincial Archives in Opava and Dipl. Psych. Horst Schinzel



Registration at the entrance of Klub kultury

from Munich, representing the Johannes Mathesius Gesellschaft organization, gave salutatory speeches. Dr. E. Štěříková, historian, and Greg Peters, Chief Emeritus of the Delaware Nation, who visited Suchdol together with a few members of the nation in 2015, sent their greetings in writing.

This was followed by presentations, interpreted by Noemi Martinová and Marek Říčan:

1. Bc. Pantálek Jáchym: The Zeisberger Family
2. Prof. Dr. Brossmann Ulf – Munich: Ballenhorst Rosina (1722-91)
3. Bc. Solnický Pavel: Lawatsch Andreas (1712-71)
4. Říčan Daniel: History of Horní dvůr in Suchdol nad Odrou

Lunch and all catering was provided in Klub kultury, organized by our members under the leadership of M. Böhmová. There was also time for coffee, after which we went to the gallery of the House of Culture where we have been showcasing our activities.

There were four exhibitions this time:

- 1) David Zeisberger and his vision of Moravian Indians – 17 panels.
- 2) Seven long-term projects of MORAVIAN – a presentation of our activities.
- 3) Moravian conferences 1996-2018 – a presentation of past conferences.
- 4) “Making of Zeisberger” – an exhibition showing all the knowledge and research necessary in order to make an exhibition of a man of such magnitude.
- 5) The David Zeisberger exposition in the Museum of Moravian Brethren was open at an agreed time during the conference.

The presentations continued:

5. Bc. Solnický Pavel: Nitschmann Susanna, née Weicht.
6. Halamová Lydie: D. Zeisberger’s letter dated 1792 in the archive of the Unity of Brethren in Liberec.
7. Dr. Štěříková Edita: Nitschmann Joh. Sr. (1711-72)
8. Mgr. Ing. Maďar Jaroslav: Missionary work of the Moravian Brethren in Upper Hungary.

The program continued in the Park of the Moravian Brethren:

- Unveiling of five memorial plaques for ten members of the Zeisberger family was carried out by our guests: Horst Schinzel, Iva Hlavsová, Šimon Dvořák, Heinrich XXIX. Reuss jun., Heinrich. G. Steinmann.
- We planted a tree in the back of the park where we have been building a model of Ohio, where Zeisberger worked among Native Americans. The planting of the tree from Goshen, Ohio, USA was carried out by Eva Mesicki from New York, the participant arriving from the most distant location.
- We rode by car to Růžový palouček (“Rosy Glade”) 2.5 km away – the first stop on the *Via exulantis*. This memorable place, where on 2 May 1724 the first exiles said goodbye to Suchdol – their birthplace, was established within one year. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was carried out by our guests, Mgr. Miloš Krejčí – the chairman of the Růžový palouček u Újezdce association, and Prince Dipl. Ing. Reuss Heinrich XIV, who gifted the property.

This was followed by an explanation of the symbolism of the trees planted here, the bush of Gallic roses and the stone kneelers. From here, we went to the nearby Forest Church.

- Meeting in the Forest Church with a short service led by Daniel Freitinger and a word reminding of the preachers who used to secretly come here from Uherská Skalice. We ended by singing *Soudce všeho světa, Bože* and with a prayer.
- After this, dinner was served in Klub kultury.
- The day concluded with a panel discussion for tireless participants. Here, participants had the opportunity to introduce the institution they represent and what they focused on. This part of the program also allowed people to get to know each other in person.

SATURDAY 25. 9. 2021

This day begun with songs performed by the local Skřivánek Children’s Choir. A novel part of the program was a film premiere of “*David Zeisberger aneb Delawáři v Suchdole*” (“David Zeisberger; the Delawares in



Horst Schinzel and Marek Říčan



Jar. Maďar from Banská Bystrica

Suchdol”). This historical event was made into a film by Vistafilm s.r.o., Mr. and Mrs. Hlavsa.

More presentations:

9. Iva and Lubomír Hlavsa: Making of the film on Zeisberger in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

10. Mgr. Freitinger Daniel: Schenk Johann Michael (1735-71)

11. Bc. Pantálek Jáchym: Earl P. Olmstead, David Zeisberger’s biographer.

12. Mgr. Kurková Monika: David Zeisberger’s diaries

13. Neústupný Pavel: Characteristics of missionary work of the Moravians.

Lunch in Klub kultury and time for coffee.

Final block of presentations:

14. Dr. Štětková Edita: Schindler Matheus (1694-1771)

Vistafilm, the Hlavsa family: Film screening: Making of the film about J. A. Comenius

15. D. Říčan: The Iroquois and Algonquin people in Ohio in the 18th century

16. Moravian Brethren with their jubilees in 2020, 2021 and 2022

Evaluation and closing ceremony of the conference.

We thanked all the co-organizers, sponsors, and volunteers, and gave gifts to the speakers.

The day concluded with a bus tour to Fulnek for the new interactive exposition in the J. A. Comenius memorial and to reformation landmarks in the area: Růžový palouček, Hladké Životice, Kunín, Šenov, Bernartice, Mankovice – a talk about the marks the Unity of the Brethren left in these places.

Dinner was again served in Klub kultury.



Šimon Dvořák – Unity Brethren



Planting a tree from Goshen, Ohio



In Martin Schneider’s Forest Church

SUNDAY 23. 9. 2018

- In the morning, we heard the final presentation in the hall of the clergy house by Prof. Dr. Brossmann Ulf: The Legacy of Comenius for seven Moravian places around Fulnek.
- Repeated screening: “David Zeisberger aneb Delawáci v Suchdole” Vistafilm s.r.o., the Hlavsas.
- The Sunday Service in the Evangelical Church was led by Šimon Dvořák of the Unity of the Brethren. Subsequent additional program:
 - A brief talk: History of the church as continuation of the history of the Moravian Brethren.
 - Exhibition: “Comenius’ Descendants” on the first floor.
 - Exhibition: “Comenius’ Heritage in Suchdol” on the second floor.
 - Exhibition: School work on J. A. Comenius.
 - Tour of the Eckert Library and the “Contact Point” for descendants of people from Suchdol.
 - Climbing to the top of the tower which has a beautiful view of the Moravian Gate.
 - Lunch was served in the Evangelical clergy house with time for coffee and dessert.
 - The most tireless of participants also went to see the Museum of the Moravian Brethren and the Museum of the Township. Gradually, groups of participants started heading home, filled with the numerous testimonies of the Moravians’ relentlessness in their sincere attempts at following in the footsteps of Christ.

**** Evaluation *****

Usually, it is the program that is unique in some way that receives a rating with the highest number of “stars”. Here, we could include the premiere of the Hlavsas’ documentary film about the arrival of the Delaware tribe to Moravia. This film aptly speaks of the issue of Native American identity in the present day and the attitudes of the Delawares towards the Moravian Brethren, all the while remaining completely impartial. The participants also enjoyed the panel discussion which gave some room after the busy day for discussions about who does what and what they focus on. This was also the case of the Saturday tour of the area, where especially the newly opened “Comenius’ World” received praise. Růžový palouček by the reservoir in Kletné, in the area where the first five emigrants from Suchdol said goodbye to their homeland in 1724. The land for the memorial was gifted by its owner, Prince Heinrich XIV Reuss from Austria. Since his ancestors were relatives of Count Zinzendorf, the ribbon-cutting ceremony also became a very symbolic moment. According to his own words, the Prince was buying properties in Suchdol as investment properties five years ago, but he was astonished by the spiritual dimension of the matter. Pleasant surprises were plentiful at this year’s conference, and so were the new friendships and contacts. The conference was also experimentally streamed online, about 70 people were interested and participated.



Opening of Rose Garden – the first stop on the *Via exulantis*



Participant group photo in the Forest Church

**** Outcomes *****

- Each participant received a folder with the program, promotional materials and the David Zeisberger publication.
- There were six new publications: *Teltschik* in Czech, German, and English; *Rod Zeisbergerů* (The Zeisberger Family) in Czech and English, *Deník Davida Zeisbergera* (David Zeisberger’s Diary) in Czech, and a graphic novel, *Přítel Indiánů David Zeisberger* (D. Zeisberger, Friend of the Indians).
- Building Růžový palouček – a memorial to the beginning of the large exile.
- Creating and placing all 58 memorial plaques in the Park of the Moravian Brethren.
- Planting a tree from Goshen, Ohio, where David Zeisberger is buried.
- Building a wigwam in the Park of the Moravian Brethren in co-operation with the Scouts, beginning of the Ohio project.
- Placing a memorial column at the former site of the house where David Nitschmann, the first bishop of the renewed Unity of the Brethren, was born.
- Marking memorable places with the first ten plaques.
- Conference proceedings.



The 9th International Conference and *Via exulantis* were supported by the HYUNDAI Endowment Fund, OSF Foundation, and the Suchdol nad Odrou township.

Published by MORAVIAN National History Association, with its registered office in Suchdol nad Odrou, for the internal purpose of providing information to its members and supporters; English version published with some delay. Drawn up by Daniel Řičan and Jáchym Pantálek – with no language revision, published in 30 printed copies and sent by e-mail to 320 addresses. Contact details: Daniel Řičan, Čsl. armády 276, 742 01 Suchdol nad Odrou, e-mail: daniel.rican(at)seznam.cz ☎556 736 855, 777 348 231