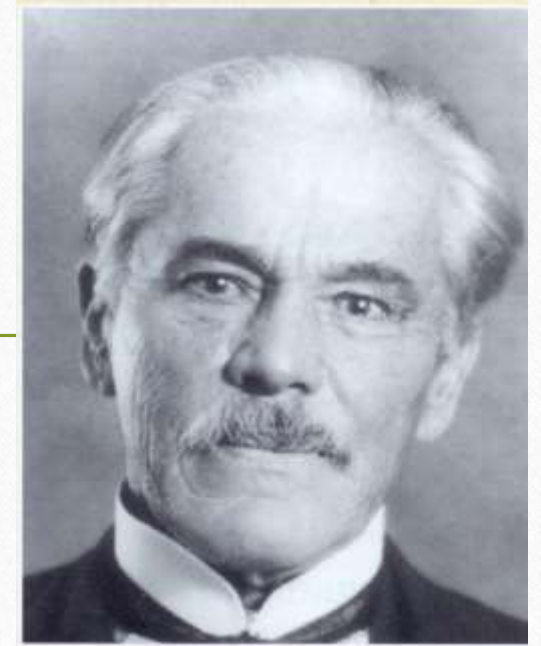


History of Hrdlička's congresses

Pavel Bláha

PALESTRA, Prague, Czech Republic

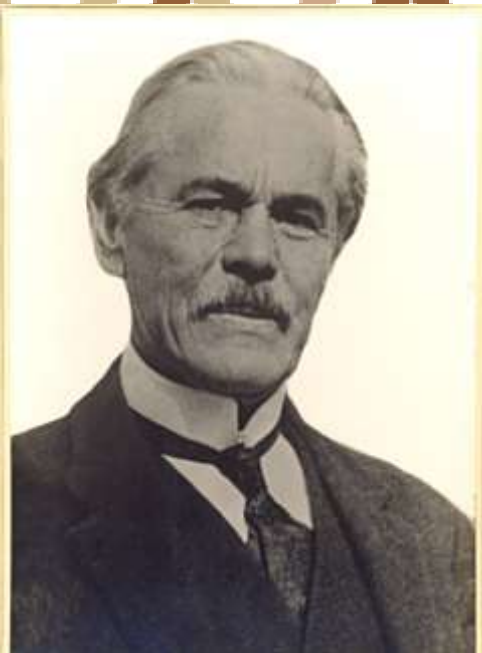
Dr. Aleš Hrdlička



- Born **29th March 1869** in **Humpolec**
- **1882 moved to USA**
- Studied medicine in New York. Opened private medical practice, but this didn't enable him to work on scientific research as he had wished.
- He accepted a position at the State Homeopathic Hospital for the Insane at Middletown, where they promised him to let him work on his research.
- He was interested in anthropometry first (1895 body measurements of 1000 probands)

Dr. Aleš Hrdlička

- Thanks to his publications he was invited to join staff of newly founded Pathological Institute, but he felt a desire for further study.
- He went to Paris, where he **studied anthropology** under Manouvrier, **physiology** and **forensic medicine** and at the same time he *attended clinics of several hospitals*.
- During his studies in Europe, he visited scientific institutions in England, Belgium, Austria, Germany and Czechoslovakia, where he met prof. Jindřich Matiegka.
- In 1896 Hrdlička returned to New York and continued his scientific work.



Dr. Aleš Hrdlička

In 1910 Hrdlička received position of curator of ***Division of Physical Anthropology*** in the ***National Museum*** at ***Washington***

- Focused his work on Indians and made several expeditions
- Worked for **Smithsonian Institution**
- Set up a foundation for establishing a **Museum of Man** (Hrdlička Museum of Man later) in Prague in 1929
- Hrdlička **died** on **5th September 1943** at the age of 75 in Washington

1st Congress of Dr. Aleš Hrdlička

- On the occasion of **100 years of Hrdlička's birth**
- **30. 8. – 5. 9. 1969**
- Opening ceremony in National Museum in Prague
- Scientific meetings in Humpolec
- **President** of the congress was
prof. Vojtěch Fetter
- 107 participants



Humpolec



National Museum, Prague

Congresses of Dr. Aleš Hrdlička

- In **10 years periods**
- Organized by Czech Anthropological Society (Czechoslovak Anthropological Society) and town Humpolec
- Venue mostly Humpolec and/or Prague



Hrdlička's medal

- Since 1959
- **Medals** of high artistic value **created**
by sculptor **Milan Knobloch**
- Awarded in the frame of Hrdlička's congresses and on other important occasions associated with Dr. Hrdlička
- **Awarded to important anthropologists and persons** known from social life, Humpolec natives
- *165 people awarded since 1959*



2nd Congress of Dr. Aleš Hrdlička

- 3. – 7. 9. 1979
- Opening ceremony in National Museum in Prague
- Scientific meetings in Humpolec
- President of the **organizing committee** was **prof. Vladimír Novotný**
- 202 participants from 20 countries of 4 continents
- Translated to 5 languages

3rd Congress of Dr. Aleš Hrdlička

- 3. – 8. 9. 1989
- Opening ceremony in National Museum in Prague
- Scientific meetings in Humpolec
- President of the **organizing committee** was **prof. Vladimír Novotný**
- 107 Czech participants and 105 foreign participants
- 172 presentations, 230 discussions and 19 posters

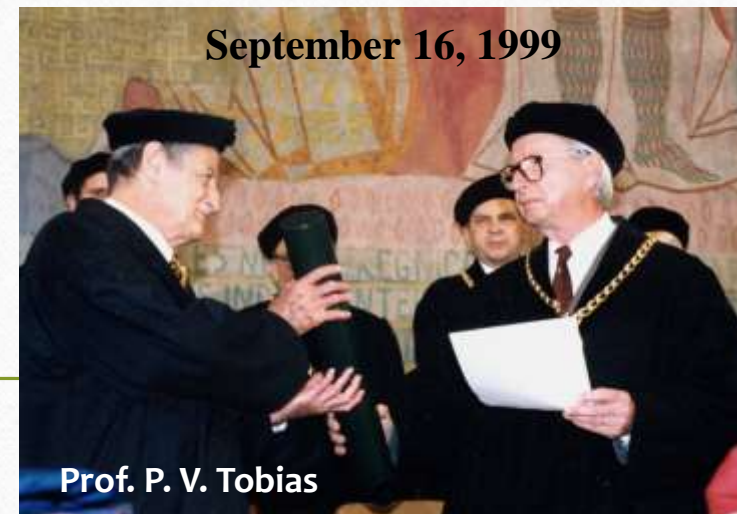
Congress of Dr. Aleš Hrdlička in 1993

- On the occasion of **50th anniversary of death** of Aleš Hrdlička
- Organized by Czech Anthropological Society and Slovak Anthropological Society
- At Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of Charles University in Prague
- In Czech and English language
- 109 participants



4th Congress of Dr. Aleš Hrdlička

- 31. 8. – 4. 9. 1999
- Motto: World Anthropology at the Turn of the Centuries
- Opening ceremony and scientific meetings in Prague, one-day „Memorial of Dr. Hrdlička“ in Humpolec
- Opening ceremony in Karolinum
- Scientific **president** of the congress was **prof. Phillip Valentine Tobias**
- President of the **organizing committee** was **Assoc. prof. Pavel Bláha**
- 320 participants from 32 countries



International Anthropological Congress “Anthropology and Society”

- An extraordinary congress on **60th anniversary of Hrdlička's death**
- Requested by prof. P. V. Tobias to be organized 5 years after previous congress
- **30. 8. – 24. 5. 2003**
- Opening ceremony and scientific meetings in Prague, one-day „Memorial of Dr. Hrdlička“ in Humpolec
- Opening ceremony in Karolinum
- Scientific **president** of the congress was **prof. Phillip Valentine Tobias**
- President of the **organizing committee** was **Assoc. prof. Pavel Bláha**
- 260 participants from 22 countries



5th Congress of Dr. Aleš Hrdlička

- 140th anniversary of Hrdlička's birth
- 2. – 5. 9. 2009, Motto: “*Quo vadis homo... societas humana*”
- Opening ceremony and scientific meetings in Prague, Karolinum
- One-day “*Memorial of Dr. Hrdlička*” in Humpolec
- Scientific **president** of the congress was **prof. Phillip Valentine Tobias**
- President of the **organizing committee** was **Assoc. prof. Pavel Bláha**
- 250 participants from 30 countries

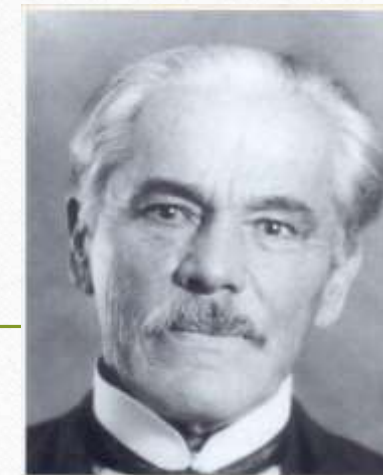
6th Congress of Dr. Aleš Hrdlička

- 2. – 5. 9. 2019 Motto: “**All Mankind is of One Origin**”
- 150th anniversary
 of death of Dr. Aleš Hrdlička
- 50th anniversary of 1st Hrdlička's congress

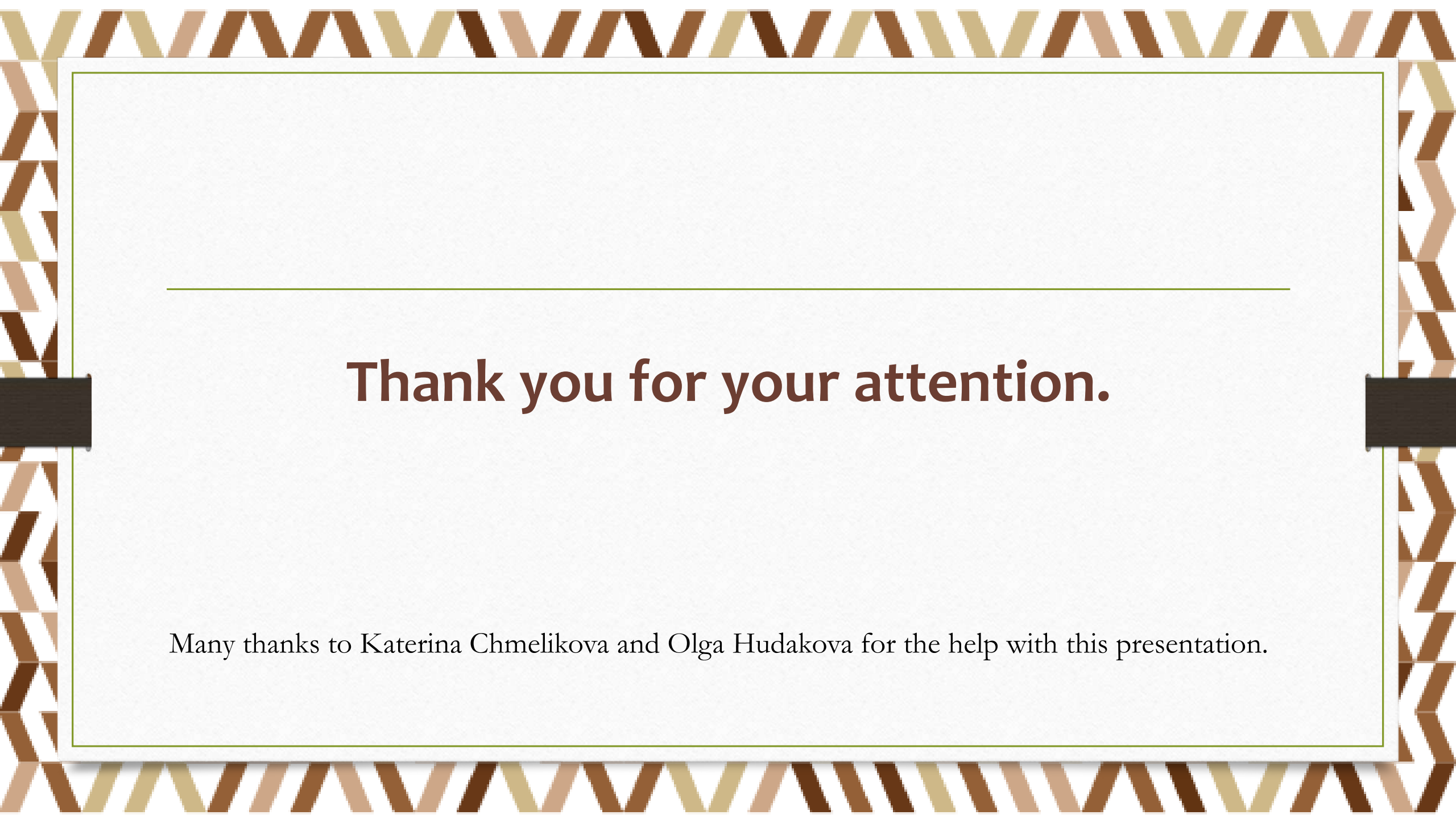




Future???



- I thank to **town Humpolec** and **Czech Anthropological Society**
and wish them a lot of enthusiasm for next congresses.
- I thank to every single person, who has ever participated in Hrdlička's congresses organization and really appreciate their effort.
- I hope the tradition of Hrdlička's congresses will persist for at least next 50 years.



Thank you for your attention.

Many thanks to Katerina Chmelikova and Olga Hudakova for the help with this presentation.