

From the Church Law Society

*Aus der Gesellschaft für Kirchenrecht
Dalla Società per il Diritto Canonico*

Day of Associations 2017 at the School of Law of Charles University in Prague

On 23rd October 2017, an annual daylong presentation of student associations took place in the atrium of the School of Law of Charles University in Prague. Students of the School of Law and members of the Church Law Society Jan Beránek, Adam Csukás, Jakub Kaňa, Jakub Nagy and Marek Novák took turns at the table of the Society. A guitar accompaniment performed by Štěpán Korenec, a student of law and a graduate of the Prague Conservatory, refreshed the presentation.

Friendly Meeting Commemorating Colonel Stanislav Rejthar

On the morning of Sunday, 5th November 2017, after regular worship, a friendly meeting in memory of heroic World War II pilot and member of the congregation of Vršovice Colonel Ing. Stanislav Rejthar (1911–1977) took place in the assembly hall of the Congregation of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren in Prague-Vršovice.

His life story can be read in Rejthar's autobiography *Good Soldiers Have Fallen... From Memories of a War Pilot*, which was arranged after 1990 by his wife Vlasta Rejtharová, MA (Oxon.), and his daughter PhDr. Olga Bezděková Rejtharová. The third, significantly supplemented edition was released in 2011.

The life story of a Czechoslovak army officer who fought on the Western Front against Nazi occupiers, was a pilot of the 313th RAF fighter squadron, participated in the Slovak National Uprising in 1944 and then fought until the end of the war as a partisan in the Slovak mountains, is described in the book in detail. After 1948, he and his entire family were persecuted by the Communist regime.

PhDr. Olga Bezděková Rejtharová edited one more book from the life of her family in 2012, namely the *War Diaries* of her aunt, her mother's sister Olga Horníčková Nováková.

With great interest, we listened to a narration by PhDr. Olga Bezděková Rejtharová about her father, her mother Vlasta and the entire family at the friendly meeting at the Congregation of Vršovice. She brought a precious visitor, her aunt Olga Horníčková Nováková, who has lived in Canada since she was exiled and who recently visited the Czech Republic. The narration was also enriched by her personal memories, remembrances presented admirably and brilliantly by a woman who, despite her age of 95, can expound the events of her youth in detail with precision, elegance and in gorgeous Czech.

Festive Blessing of the Encyclopaedia of Czech Legal History

On 6th November 2017, in the Philosophical Hall of the Strahov Library in Prague the *Encyclopaedia of Czech Legal History* was blessed with the participation of more than 50 guests. The blessing was granted by the Abbot of the Royal Canonry of Premonstratensians at Strahov, The Rt. Rev. Michael J. Pojezdný, OPraem. The opening speech was delivered by Associate Professor JUDr. Karel Schelle, CSc., legal historian from the School of Law of the Masaryk University in Brno and editor of the encyclopaedia. The co-editor, Associate Professor JUDr. Bc. Jaromír Tauchen, Ph.D., LL.M. Eur.Int., was also present. Approximately 750 authors from various fields of law and legal practice, teachers at the schools of arts and education, museums and other scientific institutions from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Poland and Hungary participated in the formation of the Encyclopaedia.

Members of the Church Law Society, Prior of the Royal Canonry of Premonstratensians at Strahov PaedDr. ICLic. Mgr. Bartoloměj Marián Čačík, member of the Canonry Professor JUDr. Antonín Ignác Hrdina, DrSc., Vicar General of the Diocese of Plzeň Dr. Jiří Majkov, IC.D., Associate Professor Jiří Kašný, Th.D., from the Anglo-American University in Prague, Mgr. Petr Nohel, Ph.D., from the Charles University in Prague, JUDr. PhDr. Antonín Kubačák, CSc., from the Ministry of Agriculture and Associate Professor JUDr. ICLic. Záboj Horák, Ph.D., LL.M., Vice-Chairman of the Church Law Society, were present among more than 50 participants. Among the close friends of the Society who took part in the festive evening was the Vice-Dean of the School of Law of Charles University in Prague, Professor JUDr. PhDr. mult. Michal Tomášek, DrSc.

Christmas Concert of the School of Law of Charles University in Prague

Every year in Advent, the School of Law of Charles University in Prague organizes a festive Christmas concert for its teachers, students and employees, and their families and friends, in the main hall of Karolinum in Prague.

The traditional Christmas concert took place this year on 7th December 2017. At 7 p. m., the whole main hall of Karolinum was filled to the last place. After a respectable organ introduction, the concert was commenced by the Dean of the School of Law, Professor JUDr. Jan Kuklík, DrSc., re-elected this year.

In his speech, he hoped that the experience of beautiful music in a pleasant environment would help everyone forget the everyday worries and the difficult political situation in our country for a while, and would refresh them for further scientific, pedagogical and intellectual work. In the end, he thanked all those who contributed to the preparation of the evening, especially Associate Professor JUDr. Věra Štangová, CSc., and those who supported the evening, in particular the Charles University in Prague and the attorney's office Císař, Česka, Smutný.

A rich concert followed, arranged by the Virtuosi di Praga orchestra, led by Oldřich Vlček, who lit the candles on the advent wreath and explained their symbolism immediately after the dean's speech. The solos were performed by Jiří Emmer (organ) and Lukáš Pavlíček (oboe). Famous opera arias were presented by Michaela Katráková (soprano), soloist of the Semperoper Dresden Jiří Rajniš (baritone), 10-year-old Anežka Povolná (with the participation of a string orchestra and flute) and several other singers.

The culmination of the whole evening was the moment when members of the 40-member Mixed Choir of Milevsko stood gradually in the auditorium during the Christmas chant *Adeste fideles*, walked to the front part of the graduation ceremony hall of Karolinum and sang together about 12 of the best-known Czech Christmas carols, encouraging everyone present to join. Eventually, the whole hall stood, as every year, and all sang four verses of the Czech and Slovak Christmas hymn 'Christ was born the Lord'.

After the concert, the evening continued with the entertainment of several hundred participants in the Gothic ground floor halls of Karolinum.

Congratulations to the Members of the Church Law Society

Ondřej Šmat successfully completed his master's degree at the School of Law of Charles University in Prague on 11th September 2017.

JUDr. Petr Poledník, an attorney in Brno, was elected Vice-Chairman of the managing board of the Czech Bar Association on 22nd September 2017.

Dr. Piotr Szymaniec from Wrocław successfully habilitated in the field of legal sciences at the School of Law, Administration and Economics of the University of Wrocław and was appointed Associate Professor on 23rd October 2017.

JUDr. Antonín Stehlik, a lawyer in the field of building construction and banking and organist at the Church of the Most Sacred Heart of Our Lord in Prague, celebrated his 80th birthday on 30th November 2017.

Mgr. Martin Gregor, from the School of Law of Comenius University in Bratislava, defended his rigorous thesis titled *Legal Reforms of Emperor Augustus* on 19th December 2017 and was awarded the degree of doctor of laws.

Mr. Pavel Landa, a leading Czech editor and publicist, honorary member of the Church Law Society, and senior adviser to the editorial board of the Church Law Review, celebrated his 82nd birthday on 2nd January 2018.

Jiří Rajmund Tretera