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FRANTIŠEK ALEXANDER ZACH 1807–2007. ED. BY LADISLAV HLÁDKÝ AND VÁCLAV ŠTĚPÁNEK. BRNO: INSTITUTE FOR SLAVIC STUDIES, FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY, MASARYK UNIVERSITY–INSTITUTE OF HISTORY, ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC–SOCIETY OF SOUTH-SLAVIC FRIENDSHIP IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC, 2007, pp. 80

Reviewed by Miloš Luković*

The institutions that act as publishers of this collection of papers were also the organizers of a scholarly conference set up to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of František Alexander Zach, one of the most important figures in the history of Czech-Serbian relations. The conference, which assembled Czech and Serbian scholars, was held 27 April 2007 at Brno, Czech Republic. The volume contains five papers, a discussion, and two appendices: the conference programme, and two pieces of information: a) about the establishing of František Alexander Zach Award, which is to be granted yearly to persons from Serbia and the Czech Republic in recognition of their exceptional contribution to bilateral relations, and b) about the restoration of Zach's grave in the Central Cemetery in Brno. All the papers and the discussion are in Czech and furnished with Serbian summaries, while the appendices are entirely in Czech.

The paper of Ladislav Hládký (Institute of History, Czech Academy of Sciences, Brno Branch) offers a comprehensive biography of F. A. Zach from his youth days in Brno and his early steps in politics after the completion of legal studies. Hládký gives an outline of Zach's political activity in connection with the 1831 Polish rebellion against Russian rule and of his collaboration with Polish émigré circles in Paris, until his arrival in the Principality of Serbia in 1843 as a political agent of Adam Czartoryski, the leader of the Polish emigration in France. Hládký discusses the issue of Zach's influence on Ilija Garašanin, Serbian politician and author of the well-known *Nacertanije* (Draft), a programme of nineteenth-cen-

tury Serbia's foreign and national policy which keeps being an object of controversy. He supplies little-known facts about Zach's participation in the Pan-Slav Congress in Prague in 1848 and in the struggle of Czech volunteers against Hungarians the same year. Hládký's detailed account of Zach's life and work in Serbia from 1849 until his retirement in 1892, when he returned to his native land, where he died later that year, sheds light on Zach's role in laying the groundwork for professional military education and army in Serbia. He was the first general of the Serbian Army and a commander in the 1876 Serbo-Turkish War, in which he lost a leg.

Ivan Dvorovský (Institute for Slavic Studies, Masaryk University, Brno) focuses on a particular period of Zach's life, that of the 1830s and 40s, in the context of Slavic romanticism. He convincingly documents Zach's youthful enthusiasm for the idea of Slavic mutuality as propagated by Jan Kollár and Pavel Josef Šafařík, but shows that the critical influence was that of Polish revolutionary poets of the age of romanticism such as Adam Mickiewicz, Antoni Malczewski, Stefan Garczyński and Seweryn Goszczyński along with George Gordon Byron, a leading figure of British romanticism. In Dvorovský's view, this particular influence prompted Zach to join the Polish rebellion in 1831 and, subsequently, to emigrate to France, where he closely collaborated with prominent figures of the Polish émigrés' cultural and political life headed by Adam Czartoryski.

* Institute for Balkan Studies, Belgrade

Suzana Rajić (History Department, School of Philosophy, Belgrade University) seeks to clarify how Serbian historiography came to know about the important role Zach played in the creation of the *Načertanije*, warning that Zach's text, the so-called *Plan*, on which Garašanin drew heavily, remained hidden from Serbian historians and public for ninety-five years. In her view, most of the credit for identifying the "Polish" and "Czech" shares in the origin of the *Načertanije* goes to the Czech historian Václav Žáček and his texts published in the 1860s and 70s, while Serbian historiography (V. Krestić, Lj. Durković-Jakšić, R. Ljušić and others) has been addressing the question of its origin over the past fifteen years.

Richard Stojar (Institute for Strategic Studies, University of Defence, Brno), describes Zach's steady advancement in the Army of the Principality/Kingdom of Serbia despite the fact that he lacked professional military education. Stojar argues that Zach gained his own firsthand experience only as a commander of a Slovak volunteer unit during the 1848/9 revolution in the Habsburg Monarchy, and he sheds light on Zach's role in the creation of a Serbian military school in 1850 and his appointment as head of the Military Academy in 1860. He also takes a look at Zach's involvement in the Serbo-Turkish war of 1876 and his advancement to the rank of general (the first ever in the Serbian Army).

Vlastimil Schilderberger Sr. (Czech Military History Society, Brno) supplements Zach's biography with facts concerning Zach's funeral on 16 January 1892 in Brno, the restoration in 1928 of the house where Zach had lived, and the transfer in 1935 of Zach's remains to a memorial tomb in the Central Cemetery in Brno, the one restored on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of his birth, reminding parenthetically that a street in Brno has been named after Zach.

In his authorized discussion, Dušan Kvapil (Department of Slavic Studies, School of Philology, Belgrade University) reminds that Zach was not the only person of Czech origin or culture who contributed to relations between the two nations in the nineteenth century, and points to the architect Jan Nevole, the artillery colonel in the Serbian Army Pavel Šafařík, and the professor of history at the Lyceum in Belgrade Janko Šafařík.

Even though it contains no more than eighty pages, the volume devoted to František Zach brings out many precious facts about his activity in Serbia or somehow related to Serbia, thereby completing the mosaic portrait of this Czech of Moravia who played a significant role in the military and political history of Serbia in the second half of the nineteenth century.