

# From Scientific Life

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## Report on the presentation of monograph *A Centenary of Právny obzor*

On 30 November 2017 a solemn presentation of the collective monograph *A Centenary of Právny obzor*, written by a team of authors led by **prof. JUDr. Oľga Ovečková, DrSc.** and **doc. JUDr. Jozef Vozár, CSc.** and issued by the publishing house Veda, was held in the congress hall of the National Bank of Slovakia in Bratislava. The solemn presentation of the monograph – with participation of many precious domestic and foreign guests – **passed in an atmosphere of celebration of a centenary of Právny obzor**, the oldest continuously appearing magazine on legal science in Slovakia. The solemn presentation was successfully organised by the Institute of State and Law of SAS, which has been issuing the magazine celebrating a jubilee since 1955.

In his opening solemn speech the director of the Institute of State and Law of SAS doc. Jozef Vozár greeted the guests, highlighted the **importance of a centenary of Právny obzor** and cordially thanked to the long-year chief editor of the magazine prof. Oľga Ovečková for her merits – also by handing over a rose bouquet to her.

**In the first speech prof. Oľga Ovečková highlighted the importance of foundation of Právny obzor**, which should be understood and fully appreciated in the context of a period in which the magazine had been founded. Since its foundation in 1917 *Právny obzor* significantly influenced the process of **creation, shaping and development of Slovak legal terminology**. Prof. Ovečková highlighted **main tasks of the new magazine**, which in the difficult social and political situation of Austria-Hungary included spreading of the knowledge of valid law in Slovak language, publishing of first scientific law articles in Slovak language, enforcement of the use of the Slovak language in justice and

public administration, and in particular **cultivation of the Slovak legal science**. The existence of *Právny obzor* was important for the foundation of the first Czechoslovak Republic and its disappearance later significantly affected the existence of *Právny obzor*. **In the interwar period it formed the opinion of the lawyer community and became the most respected law magazine in Slovakia**, when it fully developed its mission and achieved a high professional level. The growing importance and the fast development of *Právny obzor* in the period of the first Czechoslovak Republic are reflected in many valuable scientific articles, which significantly contributed to the development and quality of law, legal science and legal thinking in Slovakia. However, prof. Ovečková noted that **pages of Právny obzor captured authentically not only scientific achievements, but also the contemporary peripeteia of the development of different branches of law**. Prof. Ovečková highlighted the importance of the 100-year continuous **existence of Právny obzor, which is also testimony on the fight for survival and further existence of the magazine**. In this context prof. Ovečková pointed out to the undisputable historical value of *Právny obzor*, which during the hundred years of its existence had brought, beside of scientific articles, different news from the scientific life such as information about discussions, conferences, lectures and other important events. Historical documents capturing the life and work of important personalities of the Slovak legal science always had a special place in *Právny obzor*.

According to prof. Ovečková the team of authors of the monograph *A Centenary of Právny obzor* tried to remind and highlight in particular the positive values related to the 100-

year history of the magazine. **The hundred volumes of *Právny obzor* represent an important historical document, which reflects the peripeteia of the 100-year history of our society through the prism of law.** For the team of authors of the jubilee monograph it was important to highlight and underline in the 100-year history of *Právny obzor* the timeless preserved items as a value, to which generations of lawyers, including the present one, can and do return.

**In the second speech doc. Jozef Vozár first emphasised that *Právny obzor* as a theoretical magazine on legal science had created conditions for laying the foundation of the Slovak legal science since its foundation.** In this context of the first years of its existence doc. Vozár then looked more closely at the personalities behind the foundation and development of *Právny obzor*, by presenting the biographical profile of the founder, editor and publisher of *Právny obzor* - lawyer and politician **Dr. Emil Stodola (\*1862–†1945)**, who enabled the publication of the first issue of *Právny obzor* in Budapest in 1917. The following profile was devoted to the life and work of an important lawyer, politician and teacher - **prof. Vladimír Fajnor (\*1875–†1952)**, who significantly contributed to the magazine reissuing in 1920. In his speech Doc. Vozár also mentioned the foundation of three magazine-related institutions – Faculty of Law of Comenius University (1919), Právnická jednota na Slovensku (Slovak Lawyers' Association) (1920) and Šafárikova učená spoločnosť (Safarik's Learned Society) (1926). **Doc. Vozár evaluated the personalities behind the foundation and development of *Právny obzor* as high-principled and viable lawyers**, who had been able to swim against the stream, when he borrowed the idea of the British journalist and satirist Malcolm Muggeridge (\*1903–†1990) “only dead fish swim with the stream”.

The solemn presentation of the monograph in the congress hall of the National Bank of Slovakia with the presence and speech of the Governor of the National Bank of Slovakia **doc. Ing. Jozef Makúch, PhD.** was the guarantee of a dignified event and reminded the guests of the fact that one of the founders of *Právny obzor* prof. Vladimír Fajnor by his work in the banking sector had influenced not only Slovak legal terminology, but also banking terminology.

The President of the Slovak Academy of Sciences **prof. RNDr. Pavol Šajgalík, DrSc.** in his speech appreciated the personalities who had founded and shaped *Právny obzor*, making reference to the (from our modern viewpoint) **symbolic, but very fitting name *Právny obzor*** chosen by the founders of the magazine who, striving for timeless values, could see beyond the historical legal horizon.

In the final speech of the lawyer, historian of Slovak advocacy and reviewer of the published monograph **JUDr. Peter Kerecman, PhD.** expressed admiration to Dr. Emil Stodola and appreciated his courageous and self-sacrificing decision to launch the first law magazine written in Slovak language. Dr Kerecman designated the jubilee monograph **A Centenary of *Právny obzor*** as work dignified for celebration of a centenary of *Právny obzor* and worthy of attention, not only of the law scientists, but of the whole cultivated law community.

**Dr. Peter Kerecman and doc. Jozef Vozár solemnly baptized the monograph by a Slovak conifer branch and Czech mineral water**, as symbolic manifestation of recognition to Czech professors who after the foundation of Comenius University in Bratislava in 1919 contributed by their pedagogical activity to the foundation of Slovak universities and by their publishing work to the development of *Právny obzor*.

**Tomáš Jablonický\***

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