



On the 7th of December 1988 dr. Erich Herold, the former director of the Náprstek Museum, died in Prague in the 61st year of his life. The Museum lost a brilliant specialist and its staff one of the most distinguished members.

Having graduated from the philosophical faculty of the Charles University in indology and comparative religion, dr. Herold worked first at the same faculty and later at the Oriental Institute of the Academy of Sciences. In 1957 he spent several months in India and with two other young indologists wrote an interesting book on this country and the life of its inhabitants.

Since 1959 when he became director of the Náprstek Museum and in the subsequent eight years during which he was holding this position his activities were aimed at the rebuilding of the Museum into a modern institution.

Relieved of administrative duties in 1971 dr. Herold was able to concentrate wholly on his research work directed now to African art. It resulted in several monographs and exhibitions the most successful of which was the exhibition African Art in Czechoslovakia organized in Belvedere, Prague, in 1983.

His university studies and broad general knowledge enabled dr. Herold to take over the charge of museum collections of South-East Asia and of Asian arms. The issue of his studies in these fields was an exhibition of the art of Burma and a new non-European armoury at the Opočno castle in East Bohemia.