



JIŘÍ MARTÍNEK

Geograf a cestovatel Jiří Daneš [Geographer and Traveller Jiří Daneš]
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Jiří Viktor Daneš (1880–1928) was an outstanding character of his time accomplished in multiple fields. He was an internationally respected geographer, a diplomat, author, a globetrotter and collector. His remarkable life story is sadly mostly forgotten and unknown to the general public. The new publication by Jiří Martínek *Geograf a cestovatel Jiří Daneš [Geographer and Traveller Jiří Daneš]* aims to reintroduce this extraordinary figure by filling in the blank space of the Czech historiography, as stated by the author (p. 225).

The book is commenced with a short essay on the genre of biography and its role in the field of historiography; methodology and goals of the publication are also introduced. The core of the book is a chapter on the life of J. V. Daneš, for the sake of clarity divided into multiple sub-chapters. The author analyses the family relations in detail, no possible thread of information was omitted, but on the contrary fully exploited to offer a comprehensive insight into the family and social background that no doubt played a crucial role in the forming of Daneš's personality. The text proceeds from his early years, through education, towards pursuing scientific career in geography and many accompanying activities, to the tragic accident that led to his untimely death. His legacy, including Daneš's trust, as well as the life of the widow, Božena Danešová, are also discussed. Special chapters are dedicated to Daneš's scientific work and to his political worldview. The book is concluded with a summary, appendices and an English résumé.

The publication not only tells the life story of a significant personality. The author makes every effort to portrait J. V. Daneš as a real person, with a complex character and strong opinions, many interests and, naturally, some flaws. Some data and information are repeated multiple times across the chapters. This is not only a useful aid to the reader's memory and orientation within Daneš's eventful life; it also makes the book functional and resourceful within its individual parts, not only as a whole.

The publication prides itself in meticulous citations and footnotes, and an extensive bibliography. The author thoroughly studied all available resources, including the National Archives of Australia, and followed all leads that could contribute some to the grand mosaic. Appendices contain the complete bibliography of J. V. Daneš; list of his

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university lectures; list of dissertations that Daneš was an opponent of; and a name index. A comprehensive overview of Daneš's publications has been compiled shortly after his death by Josef Stěhule; the list presented by Jiří Martínek is a yet extended version, thoughtfully ordered chronologically and in sections by the genre. University lectures are arranged clearly in tables by universities. Illustrations, plates and tables were used in a reasonable measure where appropriate.

As any other book, this one also has some imperfections that could mostly be avoided with more thorough proofreading. However, a reader will gladly excuse an incomplete sentence or a typo for the whole picture that is presented.

Geograf a cestovatel Jiří Daneš brings a complex portrait of an interesting personality discussed from different points of views (e.g. Daneš as a private person, Daneš on the warfront or Daneš as a politician). The book is firmly based on credible resources, but is not restricted to dull listing and repeating of historical dates and events. It will be read with pleasure by scholars and those interested in the historical period of the turn of the "long 19th" and "short 20th" centuries alike. The life story of J. V. Daneš, almost forgotten for decades, has been finally awarded with a biography worthy of this outstanding figure.