

Introductory Remark



Only few of those who wanted to manifest their esteem for Prof. Josef Opatrný could contribute to this volume, due to the limitation of space or other reasons. At the same time, we regret deeply the passing away of Dr. Bohumil Baďura (1929–2014), former member of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, long-term collaborator and faithful friend of the Centre for Ibero-American Studies — and that certainly not only because his essay for this volume, already in preparation, remained unfinished.

Besides, the anniversary of 100 years from birth of Prof. Josef Polišenský (1915–2001) should be remembered at this place. Josef Polišenský, Professor of General History at Charles University, a prominent representative of the post-war generation of Czechoslovak historians, was the founder of the Centre of Ibero-American Studies where Josef Opatrný started his scientific and pedagogical career. For four decades, Josef Opatrný was tied to his tutor and then colleague by bonds of mutual respect, support and companionship. Out of their collaboration arose what can be duly named the “Prague school of Ibero-American Studies”.

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