Svatava Pírková Jakobson
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The Svatava Jakobson Archive: Major Components

• The earliest sound collection of Texas Czech recordings: 189 hour-long (now digitized) analog tapes; cc. 800 reel-to-reel recordings, and stacks of LPs; an extensive collection of today famous Texas Czech bands

• The entire Jakobson collection also includes over 25 boxes of songbooks (hand-written, the earliest found so far from 1917), photographs, and manuscripts concerning ethnocultural and intellectual traditions of Czechs and Slovaks in the U.S.; a script for a documentary entitled *Argument for the Film* AND the unprocessed film itself: *Czech Language in Texas*; notes, personal letters, student fieldwork reports; fieldnotes and other documents prepared for the *Smithsonian Bicentennial’s Festival of American Folk Life* in 1976.

• cc. 33 linear feet of material
“No book will ever be able to replicate the experience of this mess”
INTRODUCTION:
1. SCENE: Inside Blahuta’s house -

**Blahuta’s speech:**
Texas school yard
Did not teach Czech to his kids
Now they ask why
Why didn't I?
Things would have been so different

STATEMENT OF THE CONCEPT OF FILM:
2. SCENE: Channel 8 studio -

**Dr. Jacobsen and Ed Huglin discuss the status of Czech language in Texas:**
History of Czech's in Texas
Profile of four generations:
1880-1920 - Immigrants - Czech speakers
1920-1940 - 1st generation Czech-American
1940-1960 - 2nd generation - Czech-English
1960- - 3rd English

PROFILE OF CZECH’S IN TEXAS
3. SCENE: Just outside Mrs. Kubos farm
We drive up to Mrs. Kubos’ house
She invites us in.

4. SCENE: Inside Mrs. Kubos' home -

**Mrs. Kubos speaks**
She longs to return to her country
Coming to Texas was a shock
This photo will always connect her to her parents

5. SCENE: Channel 8 Studio -

**Dr. Jacobsen tells Ed that this generation was traumatized by coming to Texas, they never gave up their desire to be reconnected to their beloved country.**

6. SCENE: Outside in the Konvicka farm yard -

**Mr. Konvicka speaks of the determination of his generation to build a new community of small farms and big families here in Texas.**

He is part of the first generation of Czech-Americans who plan to bring the Czech culture to Texas instead of returning to the old country itself.
Who was Svatava Jakobson?
Sociologicko-estetická studie o dnešní funkci moravské písně na moravsko-slovenském pomezí (1933/1934)
Promo poster for the film *The Vanishing World* (1934)
Svatava Pírková Jakobson and Antonín Pelc
USTANOVKA
byla žádána v těchto bodech:

Jeho politickou činnost a příslušnost od 1.4.1948 po dnešní dobu, jeho politické názory a postoje k danému zřízení, jeho styky a o jaké osobě se jedná.


Byl v Praze 5, Na Petycích 173/38 od 22.1.1936.

Děje: Praha 5, Libušová 405 od narození.

Nositel čl. 10 OF 3569148 NB 5, 24.9.1950.

Pocházel z učitelské rodiny se 3 sourozenci. Oba rodiče dosud žijí a bude o nich později."
A life of uncertainty inside and out; before us always a thought and hope for return.

Temporary apartments, clothes in the suitcases, books in the boxes, boxes in storage, losses as we moved from one country to another, searching for places to stay, for visa, for seats on the ships and on the trains, switching from one language to another, from one environment to the next, and people, people of many countries, of different traits, expertise, fates; meetings and farewells, lifting the anchor and as soon as lowered again, fleeing Norway on foot with Germans right behind us, our friends there arrested and killed, tension in Sweden, another full year of visiting consulates and legal offices, acrobatic attempts to leave, drowned ships, occupied docks, our ship stopped and searched by Germans in the open Atlantic, and finally that incredible feeling of freedom and peace still with mines within a hand’s reach, and then America, full of surprises in all respects.
From the right:
Svatava Pírková, Roman Jakobson, unidentified woman
I have continued with my sociologic-musical work here among our countrymen, thousands of whom live in the Czech quarter of New York and on the farms in its vicinity, teach Czech at 2 universities to white and black Americans, Slavic people, American Czechs and other nationalities, [and] it makes me very happy to hear them speak and read it [...].

Sometimes I dream that I’m walking through a crowd of people speaking Czech. When will it become reality? [...]. I am working on two books, one about the state of the Czech folksong and music in emigration, the other a monograph about an old woman originally from Skalica [in Slovakia], and various articles for academic journals.
The *Dotazník* Project

• *New yorské listy* (1874-1966)
• *Nedělní new yorské listy* (weekly supplement)
• *Hudební Dotazník* (1944-1945)
  • A regular feature *Zajímáte se o hudbu?* ‘Are you interested in music?’
  • *Schůzky Písničkářů* (first held April 14, 1945 in the SOKOL Hall, East 71st Street; evidenced in NNL)
  • Personal letters from the readers and collected song books
as “the first attempt and first step toward broader study of musical interests and desires of Czechs and Slovaks in America. In stages, it will bring questions regarding folk and authored songs, music that you like to listen to on the radio, song books, composers, theatrical performances, dances, orchestras and other musical ensembles, children’s songs, school songs, etc.” (7/23/1944)
Zajímáte se o hudbu?

Pamatujeme značný význam hudebního života, který začal v posledních letech se ziskem lidového umění. Veselé hudební události jsou připraveny na všechny věkové kategorie.

Chcete se také do zvukových her stát vedeným? Nenapadne mi jen jedna otázka, jak tohoto zázemí něco přispět. Myslím, že bychom mohli se spojit s hudebními znalcem a získat přímé zkušenosti s hudebními herami.

Cíle hudební práce jsou založeny na posílení uměleckého života a podporu hudebních her.

Představuji vám dva příklady zážitků, které jsou i pro vás vhodné.

1. Hudební hera - Režii

2. Hudební hera - Opera
Existing recordings

Bila Hora, Bryan, Buckholts, Damon, Ennis, Granger, Flatonia, Halletsville, Komensky, Louis, Marak, Moravia, Pflugerville, Praha, Robstown, Shiner, Schulenburg, St. John, Velehrad, Taylor, Temple, West, Austin, Houston, Dallas and many more…
SPJ receives the Texas Czech Heritage Award (1993)
Ethnic Folk Festival, San Antonio 1984
http://www.laits.utexas.edu/txczechproject