

THE HISTORICAL LEXICON OF MUNICIPALITIES IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC 1869–2005¹⁾

At the end of 2006 the *Czech Statistical Office* published the modestly titled **The Historical Lexicon of Municipalities in the Czech Republic 1869–2005¹⁾**, a unique source on the modern history of settlements in the country. Although works of exceptional value tend to gain appreciation over time, this is not quite true in this case, as this publication will undoubtedly be appreciated by contemporaries – not just in the statistical community but also among everyone who is interested in the history of settlement, among people who need to find data on the republic, regions and districts, and people who are interested in information on small settlements: it is a source that is thoroughly democratic, giving space to the capital city and to each of the 6248 municipalities and 11 475 municipal districts that the territory of the Czech Republic was divided into on 1 January 2005.

I suspect even experts may find it difficult to imagine how much hard and painstaking statistical, archival, and scientific-research work lies behind this publication. Work that moreover required immeasurable meticulousness, patience, and perseverance. For this reason alone the names of at least those who worked most on the preparation of the lexicon deserve mention: under the direction of *Jiřina Růžková* and *Josef Škrabal* they include *Vladimír Balcar*, *Radek Havel*, *Josef Křídlo*, *Marie Pavlíková*, and *Robert Šanda*, and others contributors include *Štěpánka Morávková*, *Miroslav Řípa*, *Magdaléna Poppová*, *Petra Berrová*, *Dana Pirníková*, *Tomáš Volný* (all of them from the *Czech Statistical Office*), and *Jan Müller* (from *URS Prague*).

The Historical Lexicon is comprised of two very distinct but nonetheless closely linked parts: one section consists of data (part one of the publication) and an alphabetical list of municipalities and municipal districts (part two). The data section mainly contains information on the municipal populations since 1869. The tables adhere to the traditional breakdown of Czech statistical lexicons. The municipalities are ordered alphabetically by district and region, and municipalities that are divided into boroughs list them, too, usually alphabetically. Their order corresponds to the administrative divisions in effect since 1 January 2005. Each municipality or municipal district includes the year of the first written mention of the location, its area in ha (only municipalities), followed first by figures for the population size in census years (1869, 1880, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1921, 1930, 1950, 1961, 1970, 1980, 1991, and 2001) and then by the number of homes in those same years – except for the columns with the numerical order of the municipality this involves twenty-nine columns.

In addition to statistical data the first part also contains a very important introductory section that provides information about the historical context of the published statistical data, along with a relatively detailed description of the methods used to compile the historical lexicon and explanations of the tabular data. Here we find a section on the organisation of public administration in the Czech lands in 1850–2005, a list of sources used to compile the Historical Lexicon, a list of characteristics on municipalities published in statistical lexicons since 1869, and useful retrospective overviews: an overview of territorial divisions, trends in population growth and the number of households by regions and districts, historical cities of the Czech Republic as of 31 December 2005, the largest towns in 1869–2001 (on the area at the time of each census).

The publication's map supplement is worth noting. It shows the cartographic appearance of the administrative divisions of the Czech Republic in the period under observation, as since 1869 the administrative divisions at the level of the lands (or provinces), and at the level of the regions and districts has "only" changed substantially on five occasions (if we leave out the period from 28 September 1938 and 9 May 1945): in 1920, 1927, 1949, 1960, and 2000. Changes in the territorial divisions of municipali-

¹⁾ This review was published in *Demografie* 2007, 49, p. 49–51. The contents of the journal are published on the website of the Czech Statistical Office at: <http://www.czso.cz/csu/redakce.nsf/i/demografie>.

¹⁾ *Historical Lexicon of Municipalities in the Czech Republic 1869–2005*. Volume 1, Population Size and the Number of Homes between 1869 and 2005 according to the Administrative Divisions of the Czech Republic as of 1 January 2005, 760 pp.; Volume 2, An Alphabetical List of Municipalities and Municipal Boroughs in 1860–2005, 624 pp.; Published by the Czech Statistical Office in Prague in 2006 in cooperation with Daranum s.r.o. publishers. Printed by Ekon Jihlava.

ties within districts occurred more or less continuously. The map supplements capture the changes in territorial divisions at the level of the lands, the regions, and the districts. At the district level the maps also indicate population density in the years 1869 and 2001, population growth between 1869 and 2001 (the relative increase or decrease in a period of one or two decades, e.g. in 1930–1950, or 1991–2001), and the changing number of homes (the relative increase or decrease for the selected period).

The second volume of the Historical Lexicon contains an alphabetical list of municipalities and municipal boroughs between 1869 and 2005. This is a unique inventory of all the names of territorial units at the level of municipalities or boroughs that have existed in the statistical lexicons of municipalities since 1869, along with the larger administrative unit they belong to (district) in the individual census years, which from the years 1964 is expanded to include the exact dating of any territorial change (e.g. one municipality merging with another, the creation of a new administrative unit), the renaming of a municipality or municipal borough, or its transfer to another district. The lexicon therefore also allows readers to trace changes in administrative divisions during the period under observation. A major advantage of this list is that it graphically distinguishes the names, municipalities, and municipal boroughs that exist today from older names (no longer in use today) or from municipalities and municipal boroughs that no longer exist, and changing administrative affiliations of individual territorial units are described when possible under a single entry.

The volume opens with methodological notes and explanations and with a summary table of districts and historical statutory cities on the territory of the Czech Republic between 1869 and 2005.

The Historical Lexicon, prepared by the Czech Statistical Office, is very much a unique piece of work. Its graphic design is also outstanding. Hopefully it will help satisfy the growing interest among scholars and the general public in works of this type. The Czech Statistical Office and the collective of authors should be commended for this work.

Ludmila Fialová

THE FAMILY AND SOCIETY (NOT JUST) FROM A SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE*)

In 2006 SLON Press (officially the Sociology Press) published a new book by Ivo Možný titled **The Family and Society**, which is a revised and expanded version of his previous book titled **The Sociology of the Family** (Sociologie rodiny)¹⁾, published in 1999²⁾. Like the majority of work by this author, this is a monograph that an educated layperson as well as an enthusiastic student or expert in the same or a similar field can read with interest and with a sense that they are co-discovering things often innately connected with their own lives. The book is conceived as a textbook (and is published in the Press's Study Texts series), and the structure of the book as a whole and its individual chapters are designed along these lines. However, the text satisfies much wider demands. In it, the author covers a broad scale of themes connected with the sociology of the family, ranging from themes more closely tied to general sociological theories, to explanations of changes in demographic behaviour (more or less accepted in sociological literature), to themes bordering on psychology and other related disciplines.

In the first chapter the author introduces readers to the topic of the sociology of the family by outlining his opinions on questions about the stability or decline of the family and by elucidating the book's general approach. He presents his conception of the developmental stages of the family, which are then analysed in more detail in other parts of the book. The next two chapters are "historical" and offer a rough overview of **the development of theoretical approaches** to the family and related phenomena and how the family is understood in contemporary sociological theories and concepts. Here the author follows not just the chronology of approaches and interpretative frameworks but also the relationships and connections between theoretical concepts. The reason for including this historical-sociological section is not just the publication's textbook character; it is also valuable because it offers readers, who may have varying degrees of knowledge about the history of sociology in general and the sociology of family in particular, with the opportunity to make an informed assessment of the current ideas and reality in each given area.

*) This article was published in *Demografie* 2007, 49, p. 126–127. The contents of the journal are published on the website of the Czech Statistical Office at: <http://www.czso.cz/csu/redakce.nsf/i/demografie>.

¹⁾ Možný, Ivo. *Rodina a společnost*. Praha: Slon, 2006, 312 p.

²⁾ Also published by Slon Press. 2nd edition, Praha: Slon, 2002.

In the fourth chapter the author identifies the relationship between changes in the family and the changes in society as a whole and the basic feature of society – **social inequalities**. He also looks at the role of family ties and structures in society-wide relationships and structures. While questioning the role of the family in contemporary society, Možný has some interesting views on its effect as “the basic unit of inequality” (p. 110). In a sense he places the family at the centre of sociological inquiry. He is not trying to overestimate the significance of the family but just to draw attention to the mutual relationships between individual objects in the investigation of social inequalities and to the growing heterogeneity of the family and the widening of various family types.

The fifth chapter, **Family Formation: The Marriage Market, Love and Sex**, combines – even in its title – the approaches of various scientific fields, from demography to social psychology and beyond. One key feature of this chapter is that it confronts theories about the marriage market with demographic realities. The author draws attention to the wider context of interconnected factors that have a synergic effect on the choice of (life) partner and to the differentiation of individual approaches and aspirations. As part of an analysis of the social and cultural determinants of assortative mating he focuses on the effects of territorial proximity, the tendency towards age, ethnic and racial homogamy of partners, religious homogamy/heterogamy, and the tendency towards the educational and class homogamy of partners. From the perspective of partnership behaviour also obviously of interest are the analyses of the changing social functions of sex and erotica that Možný summarises in this chapter.

In the sixth chapter about **the socialisation of children in the family** (as elsewhere) Možný ties in with his previous work. He identifies changes in the social perception of “the most important transition in the family cycle” (p. 148) – the transition to parenthood, which he analyses in detail. He reflects on the limits and defects to the social autonomy of parents in society today. The wealth of themes mentioned in the introduction as the focus of this publication are illustrated here in a sub-chapter on Incest and Child Abuse, in which the author applies his historical-developmental approach. The section on socialisation looks at various theoretical approaches and at the current, most topical themes, such as the effect of peer groups in the period of the family transition or the differences in the socialisation of boys and girls.

The seventh chapter, titled **The Family, the Household and the Economy**, is devoted to the very current issue of work-life balance. The highly informative value of the way the author integrates the given theme into its historical context and reveals its distant roots becomes particularly apparent here. Of equal explanatory interest in this case is his comparison of the present and the socialist period and the effect of the socialist-era ideology of women’s emancipation. Here Možný analyses three options (models) of tackling professional and parental aspirations, their positive and negative aspects, and how they stand up in practice. He questions ideas about the possibility of the “effective” compatibility of family and employment. Among other things, he draws attention to the subtle changes in the approach to the topic of equal opportunities, the effects of which in the family and in the sphere of employment are closely knit. In this context the author draws attention also to changes to masculinity and femininity. He situates recent changes in the general position of women in the context of, among other things, the greater openness in the public sphere of work and shifts in general opinion, which he expresses in the words: “Attitudes towards parenthood have also changed and the focal point in the perspective on the problem has shifted from pride in the participation of women in the labour market to the demand for men’s participation in parenting” (p. 189). The impossibility of finding a satisfactory solution to the dilemma of motherhood (fatherhood) and professional self-realisation is today leading to the “differentiation of family models, the modification of the life cycle, and the increase in lifetime childlessness” (p. 191). In a part of the seventh chapter of especial interest to sociologists and demographers Možný focuses on the incidence, social character, and significance of **singles** as a social phenomenon.

The eighth chapter takes a comprehensive look at the issue of **divorce**. Again keeping to his well-proven method, he presents information about the contemporary realities of divorce in the context of a qualitative analysis and quantitative data on the divorce rate, which often has only seemingly evolved in a diametrically different manner than today. He does not fail to take into account the methodological difficulties of such statistical comparisons. His arguments are convincing thanks in part to the way they are linked to a detailed sociological (psychological) analysis of the aspects of marriage instability. The chapter includes a section on repeat marriages. Worth mentioning is the author’s conclusion that divorces unquestionably remain one of the most frequent topics in sociology (and, shall we add, demography), but that it is quite possible that “...interest will shift from research into the orderliness of the family and from the study of divorce towards what happens next” (p. 227).

The ninth chapter bears the attractive title **The End of the Family?** and is devoted to the social context of changes in the post-modern family, including the connection with the development (and crisis) of the social state. He contrasts the opinions of various theorists of the family and individualisation and

also compares theory with empirical findings. He analyses the much-noted discrepancy between the 'traditional' family and the post-modern situation. He shows that the "progressive" function of the family that applied in past centuries has been diminishing for some time, the main influence here being the emancipation of women and the rise in the living standard, that is, two (for the time being) irreversible processes. He contrasts this with two facts: the foundation of the family is the mother-child relationship (p. 236), and the market society is indeed antagonistic to children, but this renders it a historical ephemeron (p. 237). Through an analysis of other effects of individualism, for example, on love and intimacy, and the again recalled differentiation of the family in the world today, Možný works towards the conclusion that even today the family is of significance, that "this civilisation will not dissolve an institution advantageous in every respect" (p. 249). Here he mainly has in mind intergenerational continuity, which is in the "selfish" interest of men and women.

Chapter ten, the final chapter (entirely new and not in previous edition of *The Sociology of the Family*) analyses and evaluates demographic and sociological data on **the development of the Czech family** and the Czech population in recent years from the perspective of the trends and theories described in the preceding chapters. The author points out the specific features of Czech development and analyses future outlooks, including some of the risks to population development that become apparent in current trends. In the book's conclusion he draws attention to the "expected imbalances" (p. 269) stemming from today's demographic behaviour and the sociological characteristics of the Czech population: 1. the relationship between the "productive" part of the population and the older generation in the process of population ageing (p. 271), 2. the relationship between the Czech population and immigrants, without which further population growth is inconceivable (p. 274), 3. the relationship between the intellectual elite and the rest of the population with regard to the high degree of homogamy and status continuity in Czech families (p. 275), 4. the relationship between childless people (singles) and families with children (p. 275), and 5. the relationship between the wealthy and the poor (p. 277).

Alongside its wealth of content, other features of I. Možný's monograph that will appeal to readers are the author's pleasant interpretative style and the nice combination of scholarly erudition, a simplicity of style, and an amount of humour appropriate to such a scholarly work.

Věra Kuchařová^{**)}

HOUSING FOR SENIORS*)

Housing for Seniors¹⁾ is the title of a book by *Dagmar Glosová* and a collective of authors that looks at the issue of housing for seniors from the perspective of sociology, architecture, and other fields. After the introduction, in which *Jiřina Šiklová* asks the question "How to Survive Old Age?", the book is divided into five chapters. *Boris Burcin* and *Tomáš Kučera* are the authors of the first chapter titled **How We Age...**, where they look at the problem of the demographic ageing of the population. In the first part of the chapter they discuss demographic trends since the mid-1980s, when a dramatic decline in fertility and mortality occurred in the majority of European countries, which was reflected in a sharp increase in the share of seniors in the population. In the second part they present the current results of their own demographic prognoses, which can be used to formulate a concrete idea of the expected population ageing, which is going to be especially dramatic in the Czech Republic.

The second chapter, **What Do Seniors Need?**, contains a study by *Kateřina Kubalčíková* on the "Natural Environment as a Significant Aspect in the Provision of Social Services to Seniors". In it the author notes mainly the need to try to enable elderly people dependent on the assistance of others to remain in their natural environment and try to keep them integrated in society. Two practical examples are cited: the model of supervised residential flats for seniors, which have been seen set up as part of the transformation of residential services in Vienna, and the model of integrating supervised residential flats into regular tenement buildings, as has been done in Amsterdam. The second chapter also contains two contributions from *Milan Lipner*. The first, *Housing and the Quality of Life of Seniors*, looks at the

^{**) Direct all correspondence to: PhDr. Věra Kuchařová, CSc., Research Institute for Labour and Social Affairs, Palackého nám. 4, 128 00 Praha 2, Czech Republic, vera.kucharova@vupsv.cz.}

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¹⁾ Glosová, Dagmar et al. *Bydlení pro seniory*. Brno: Era, 2006.

needs and demands of seniors in relation to housing, and the second, **The Basic Principles of Housing for Seniors from the Social and Social Health Perspectives**, presents some of the findings from studies focusing on the wishes of seniors with regard to housing and the quality of life in old age. M. Lipner also formulates some of the basic requirements that should be taken into account when considering seniors' housing.

The third chapter, **How Well Seniors Live**, contains an article by *Ladislav Lábus*, which begins by addressing the wider context and conceptual background to the transformation of the idea of social care at the end of the last century, when in EU countries care services were gradually re-oriented towards smaller-scale, more individualised and humane facilities. In the Czech Republic, which ranks among the countries with the highest proportion of institutionalised social care and the largest number of hospital beds per capita, social care remains in the shadows of institutions. In this context, L. Lábus repeatedly emphasises the advantages of housing and care in the home environment, which is more effective and less expensive than institutional care. The next contribution, by *Jiří Oplatek*, describes the system of care for seniors in Switzerland, where care for older citizens is based on three pillars: their own flats, flats for seniors, and seniors homes. The third pillar, the concept and the financing of it, receives the most attention, including an example of a specific seniors home in Münchestein. The third chapter closes with an article by *Naděžda Menšíková* on the theme of caring for the elderly and needy citizens in Germany, where a major role is played in care for seniors by associations, foundations, and charities.

The author of the fourth and longest chapter, **Flats, Homes, Institutions, and Centres**, is *Dagmar Glosová*. The readers learn about housing options for seniors that, in terms of services provided, their form, quality, and necessary intensity, take the following form: individual housing, supervised housing, housing in homes with care services, institutional housing in retirement homes and senior citizens homes, and housing in centres for seniors. Individual housing for seniors, i.e. housing in their own homes, is of considerable significance for the overall satisfaction of a senior, but it needs to be adapted to the senior's specific needs. Supervised housing, where a group of seniors can live together in one large modified flat that is part of regular housing and in which necessary services are provided, is not a very well-known form of housing. Non-institutional housing for seniors represents a transition point between individual housing and institutionalised living: the Czech Republic primarily builds homes with care services, which offer independent elderly people comfortable flats with easy access to assistance; but seniors who are no longer able to take care of themselves are required to move out. One form of housing for seniors in the Czech Republic is retirement homes, which offer accommodation and services for pensioners (e.g. house-cleaning, laundry, window washing) whose state of health is such that they do not require intensive care. Senior citizens homes' offer complex care services but are usually institutional facilities with a large capacity. The final form of housing is known as a seniors centre, which is a complex facility where all the above-named types of housing for seniors are brought together in one location. The author expanded this overview with examples of proposals to redesign individual housing, proposals relating to supervised housing, and specific examples of buildings intended as housing for senior citizens in the Czech Republic. In the second part of the chapter Dagmar Glosová presents readers with examples of housing for seniors in other countries, in particular noting the architectural arrangement of the buildings. The chapter is accompanied by numerous photographs.

In the final chapter, **How to Design a Home for Seniors**, *Dagmar Glosová* and *Hana Zbyszek-Štolcová* share practical advice on how best to design or modify housing for senior citizens so that it accommodates their specific needs and requirements. The authors start by focusing on public and semi-public spaces (sidewalks, parking spaces, ramps), then proceed to semi-private spaces, such as the entranceways to private property, to buildings, foyers, stairwells, and elevators, and end with a look at private spaces (flats and rooms). Most seniors live or long to live in their own flat, but standard flats are unsuitable for many of them. Adequate modifications and flat reconstruction combined with a functioning network of domestic assistance and professional care could limit the unpleasant effects of natural ageing and thus enable old people to remain in their own homes.

Although at first glance it may seem that this book is intended mainly for students of architecture, this is not the case. The book is accessible to any reader – the problem of ageing and life in old age affects us all.

*Kamila Svobodová**)*

***) Direct all correspondence to: PhDr. Kamila Svobodová., Research Institute for Labour and Social Affairs, Palackého nám. 4, 128 00 Praha 2, Czech Republic, kamila.svobodova@vupsv.cz