

CONFERENCES AND REPORTS

Professor Michal Tomášek Received the Josef Hlávka Award



Photo: Czech Academy of Sciences

Professor Tomášek with his son, his book and his award

Czech Literary Foundation together with Hlávka Foundation organized on June 19th, 2023 an annual ceremony of awards for scientific publications. The ceremony was held at the castle of Lužany near Pilsen. The castle was bought in 1867 by the Czech architect and patron of arts and literature Josef Hlávka (1831–1908) who in 1904 established Hlávka Foundation in order to support education and cultural development of the Czech nation. Since 1992, the Josef Hlávka award for scientific publications has been granted to top Czech scientific monographs. This year, the book written by Professor Michal Tomášek¹ *Právo na Hedvábné cestě* (Law on the Silk Road) was chosen as the scientific

¹ Professor JUDr. PhDr. mult. Michal Tomášek, DrSc. Vice-Dean and Head of Department of European Law of Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic. Vice-President of the Science Council of the Czech Academy of Sciences.

monograph of the year 2022. It is worth noting that in the thirty-year history of the Josef Hlávka Award, this is the first time the Award was granted to a representative of juridical science.

The winning book was published in 2022 by Karolinum Press, the publishing house of Charles University, and is not merely about the mutual influence of legal cultures, but also spiritual and scientific values. Thanks to the Silk Route, Chinese society was influenced by Buddhism as well as Islam. The overland Silk Route was used by the Chinese to exert influence in Tibet, Central Asia and Mongolia, while the sea route brought Europeans to China. The scholar explores the success rate of different European nations, including Czechs.²

Dr. Jan Svoboda from the Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences in his *laudatio* for the book noted historic parallels of relations between China and the rest of the world. China offered to us not only silk and porcelain but also noodles and contagious diseases. “In order to consider future relations with China we have to know historical backgrounds”, Dr. Svoboda concluded in his *laudatio*.

Congratulations to Professor Tomášek were presented by Professor Václav Pavlíček, President of the Hlávka Foundation, dr. Ivo Purš, Director of the Czech Literary Foundation and Professor František Vyskočil, Chairman of the evaluation panel.

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² Michal Tomášek: *Právo na Hedvábné cestě* [Law on the Silk Road], Prague: Karolinum Press 2022. 359 pp. ISBN: 978-80-246-4970-2. *The Lawyer Quarterly* 2022, Vol. 12, No. 3, pp. 302–304.

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