For the past one hundred years, the National Museum of Agriculture has been collecting objects, stories, and knowledge pertaining to various areas of agriculture. Its subject is agriculture in a broad sense, that is, including forestry, fisheries, food production, gastronomy, rural development, landscape creation and maintenance, and closely related topics. These include for instance food self-sufficiency and food security, sustainable agriculture, landscape care, and protection of soil and water resources as part of the national wealth. Our aim is to present all these subjects to families with children, schools, and everyone interested in discovering and experiential learning in our exhibitions, expositions, and at various events organised by our museum. Our results are presented in this publication, which marks one hundred years of existence of our museum and one hundred years of existence of our independent republic.

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2018

Národní
zemědělské
muzeum

100
1918—2018

1918
100
2018
CZECH AND SLOVAK
CENTURY

NMA — 100 — YEARS

100
years
OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM
OF AGRICULTURE

1 | **Postage stamp.** To mark the centenary of foundation of the National Museum of Agriculture, the Czech Post issued a special postage stamp. Its authors are the artist Josef Dudek and engraver Bohumil Šneider. The stamp depicts the main building of the museum, in front of which the author placed one of the rarest items from our collection: the Přemysl steam plough.

2 | **Memorial medal.** To mark the centenary of the National Museum of Agriculture, Zbyněk Fojtů, a graphic artist, produced a design of a memorial medal. The obverse side combines the history and future by depicting the main building of the museum and a portrait of Josef Kazimour. The reverse hints to the development of agriculture.

100 years

OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AGRICULTURE

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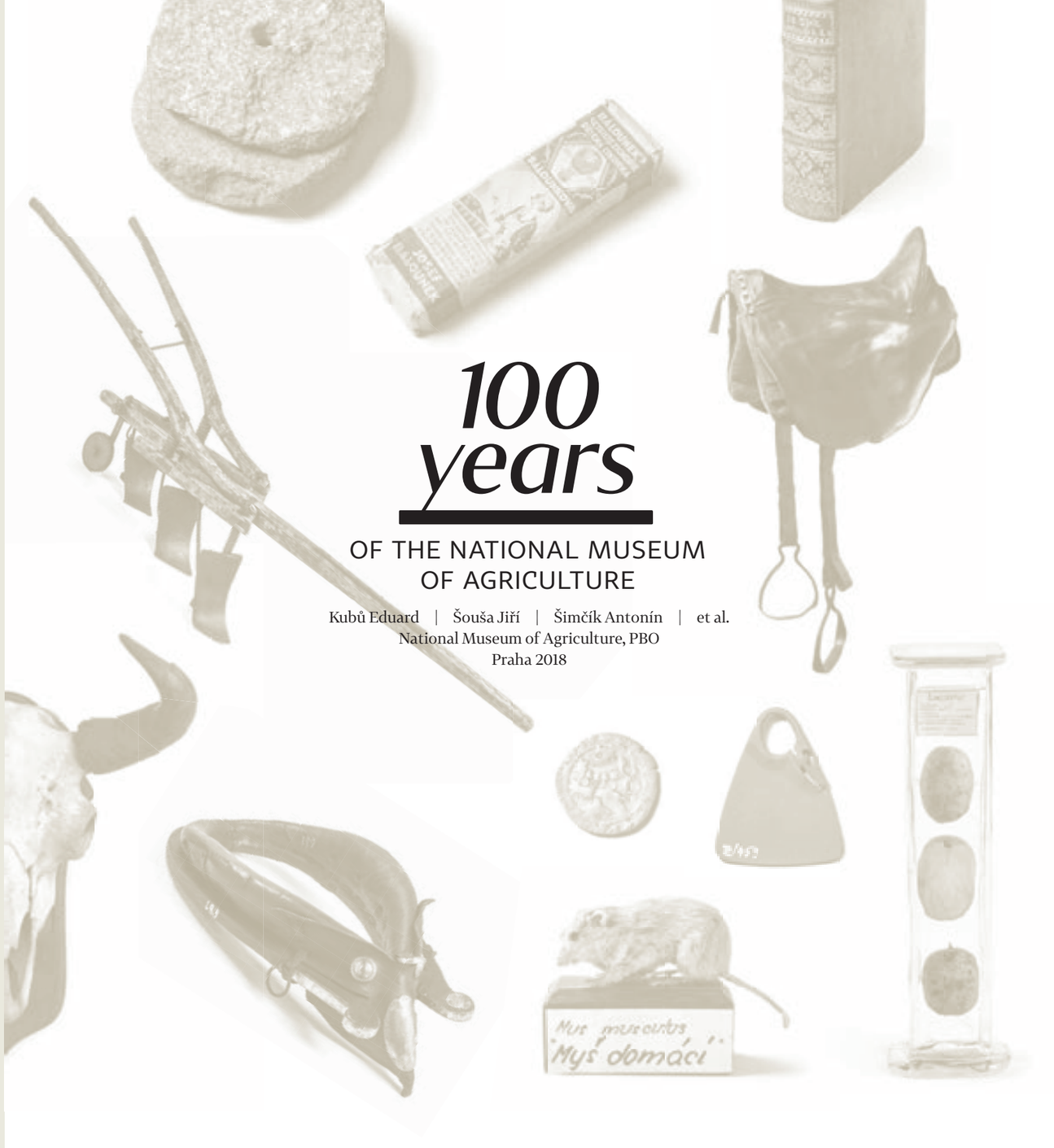

100 years

OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AGRICULTURE

Kubů Eduard | Šouša Jiří | Šimčík Antonín | et al.

National Museum of Agriculture, PBO
Praha 2018

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A Word to the Reader

Dear reader,
You hold in your hands a book whose publication was motivated by two important anniversaries celebrated in 2018. The first was the centenary of foundation of the National Museum of Agriculture, a natural milestone at which every institution feels the need to evaluate its past activities. The other was a centenary of establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic. Numerous cultural projects and events, including this jubilee publication, were supported to mark this occasion.

The origins of the National Museum of Agriculture go back to 28 September 1918, when the institution was officially established by the foundation of Association for a Czech Agricultural Museum. Although the roots of the museum's collections reach all the way back to 1842, when a Museum of Hunting and Forestry opened in Ohrada, the museum as such was founded in 1918.

In accordance with its foundation charter, the National Museum of Agriculture acquires, collects, permanently keeps, registers, expertly manages, and makes accessible to the public a collection of material evidence pertaining to the development of agriculture, forestry, hunting and gamekeeping, fishing and fisheries, zoology, horticulture including fruit and vegetable farming, as well as floristry, viticulture, botany, processing of agricultural produce, food production and gastronomy, evidence linked to the development of rural areas and rural traditions, and the development of environment and cultural landscape, both in the Czech Republic and abroad, but with emphasis on the territory of Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia. The museum views agriculture as a phenomenon that brought many innovations used until the present day, a phenomenon which had a large influence also on our perception of time. This book is the result of work undertaken by employees of the museum and its publication was supported by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic, institutional support MZE-RO0818.

The history of our museum has been full of dramatic developments and changes. This is also why we are so happy to celebrate, thanks to the support of our founder, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic, our centenary in a recently renovated main exhibition building in Prague–Letná, a place purpose-built for the National Museum of Agriculture but for decades occupied by other institutions. Now, finally, we are able to fully use it again.

We wish you pleasant and inspiring reading.
Your National Museum of Agriculture

Introductory Address by the Minister of Agriculture

Dear Readers,
You are holding a representative book published to mark 100 years of the National Museum of Agriculture. Its history has been full of changes, relocations, and transformations. It reflects the development of our state, which, too, celebrates 100 years of independence.

Czechoslovakia was created in 1918 based on ideas promoted by Tomáš Garrique Masaryk, its first president, and other great politicians of the time. One of them was the idea of independence, because for our ancestors, having a country of their own was a basic need. In the globalised world of today, where we often hear people speak of being citizens of the world and one can live and work anywhere, it is important to remember our roots. We should keep in mind where we came from and the legacy left to us by our ancestors. This legacy should be remembered both on a regional and state level, and the National Museum of Agriculture has been doing this for the past 100 years.

Thanks to outstanding museological work of Josef Kazimour and political support of Antonín Švehla and other notable personalities, the Museum of Agriculture became one of the most progressive museums of interwar Czechoslovakia. Efforts to create a central agricultural museum and a network of regional institutions were greatly aided by the Museum Commission of the Regional Association of Czech Rural Youth and its municipal branches, which closely cooperated with the Agrarian Party. These efforts were disrupted by the First World War, so the Czech Agricultural Museum opened only on 28 September 1918. Soon after the creation of independent Czechoslovakia on 28 October 1918, it was transformed into a Czechoslovak Agricultural Museum, Institute for the Study and Improvement of Countryside. It enjoyed generous support of the Agrarian Party and popularity with the public.

I mentioned Antonín Švehla, head of the Agrarian Party, supporter of the agricultural museum, and an important personality whose work greatly contributed to Czechoslovak independence. He can be seen as a unifier of rural areas in the 1920s. Švehla was the main author of the first land reform and he tried to make policies of the Agrarian Party acceptable both to large landowners and small farmers. For me personally, Švehla' main legacy was his tireless diligence. He also knew well that in a democratic state, politics is about negotiation, about finding a compromise that would benefit the state. A list of functions he held, from MP to government minister, all the way to prime minister, and his contributions to the formation of Czechoslovakia all clearly show he was an experienced politician. This is why I am happy to see that Antonín Švehla was selected the most notable personality of agriculture in the past century and this year, he received the Order of the White Lion in memoriam. In short, that his legacy is remembered and, in this way, his influence stretches to the present day.

The National Museum of Agriculture tries not only to follow up on its interwar tradition but to apply the most up-to-date museological trends. It develops in a direction taken by many international museums. It works, as witnessed by significant increase in visitor numbers: in 2017, the museum received almost half a million visitors, which is about 160,000 visitors more than a year earlier. This is happening thanks to efforts to revive the museum, thanks to new exhibitions and numerous special events.

100 years after the foundation of the National Museum of Agriculture, we can thus welcome you in a reconstructed building in Letná, where visitors can enjoy not only new exhibitions but also an unforgettable view of Prague from its roof terrace.

I hope that in years to come, interest in agriculture will grow thanks to exhibitions presented here and that the National Museum of Agriculture becomes a place where people like to meet, where children and adults alike like to spend their time.

Miroslav Toman
Minister of Agriculture of the Czech Republic

1

Why we Need a National Museum of Agriculture

Why we Need a National Museum of Agriculture

The Czech society nowadays perceives itself as a modern society belonging to Western culture, a society whose civilising influence is based on the growth of industry and related consumption of goods and services. On the other hand, modern consumerism, while legitimate, tends to overshadow the importance of countryside and agriculture in forming the foundations of economy, culture, and survival of the Czech nation, and its transformation into a self-confident national community.

We often forget that until **several generations ago, Czech society was mainly agricultural**, and agriculture formed the basis for its industrialisation and social as well as economic emancipation, which crucially contributed to its ability to compete with other European nations. In other words, the history of the Czech nation is indelibly connected with agriculture as a way of food production, and with countryside as a public and cultural space. Even in the 20th century, agriculture and farmers played an important historical role in the development of modern Czech society: both after the creation of independent Czechoslovakia and in late 1940s and 1950s, agriculture co-determined the direction of social development. Even today, in early 21st century, we cannot be indifferent to the state of countryside, to agriculture, or the way in which land is managed. It has a fundamental impact on our environment as a whole. Land remains the determining factor of the space we live in, it influences the air we breathe, the aesthetics of environment we live in, and the quality of everything we eat or drink. Especially water is now an urgent global problem, both in terms of its quality and, above all, availability. Without water, agriculture cannot produce food, and without water, there is no life. Awareness of these facts makes the work of the National Museum of Agriculture meaningful and endows it with a wider, even global importance.

A MUSEUM OF AGRICULTURE — SERVICE TO CZECH COUNTRYSIDE, SOCIETY, AND NATION

The National Museum of Agriculture was not created by accident: it exists thanks to enthusiasts who realised the social importance of agriculture and wished to share this insight with the public. The museum's foundation is rooted in the development of agriculture as a specific human endeavour, in rural life and work, village communities, and society as a whole. In the following, we want to explain the connection between the idea of creating a museum of agriculture and the development of Czech society, as well as the reasons why our museum bears the proud epithet 'national'.

The agrarian history of humanity is older than its memory. Thanks to archaeology, we can trace the origins of farming ever deeper into the past. Nowadays, it is believed that agriculture originated about 10,000 years ago. Various nations moved through Europe, but cultivation of land remained. Even the first Central European states were closely connected with the development of agriculture. Of key importance was its ability to feed a growing population, including people who did not till the land and could thus engage in crafts, trade, but also war and state administration. As late as in the 12th century, sovereigns ruled more from the horseback than from a palace. They travelled between places, all the while collecting agricultural produce as part of sovereign's tax.

In the 13th century, agricultural revolution increased agricultural productivity in the Czech Lands, thus enabling the rise of towns, which became centres of trade and crafts. Even so, until the 18th century, most people were farmers and agriculture drove the economy. It was therefore in state's own interest to pay attention to it. State administration tried to assess the productive potential of agriculture, because land tax and tax on farming produce were the main source of treasury's income. The state supported agricultural improvements and education, introduced measures aimed at improving hygiene, fire safety, and animal health, and ordered the creation of reserves to prevent famines. In times of war, food supplies to armies played a strategic role. Prevalence of agriculture in the economic structure of the Czech Lands is apparent until the late 19th and early 20th century.

AGRICULTURAL COUNTRYSIDE — THE FOUNDATION OF CZECH MENTALITY

In multi-ethnic Central Europe, each nation formed its own profile of economic life, structure of occupations, use of productive factors, i.e. its own way of being part of a wider economic system within the state and even on a transnational level. In the Czech Lands, accumulation of capital as a basic precondition of formation of a capitalist market, technological modernisation, and the first stage of ndustrialisation, was since late 18th and even more so since the 1820s driven by German and German-Jewish communities.

The nationally Czech society was until mid-19th century mainly rural. Cultural, political, social, and economic pressures on the population of the Czech Lands in the aftermath of the devastating Thirty Years' War and especially during the period of Enlightened Absolutism led to a Germanisation of larger towns even though the modernising measures introduced by Empress Maria Theresa and Joseph II were not meant to have a Germanising influence. Even so, Czech-speakers were not rep-

resented in higher social classes, there was no Czech-speaking nobility that would nationally identify with the Czech environment, and the same applied to rich burghers and the nascent bourgeoisie. Czech language survived in common use only in the middle and lower rural classes, on which the Czech revival then drew strength and inspiration in its efforts at cultural, and after 1848 also political and social emancipation.

Czech-speaking rural population contributed to the industrialisation of the Czech nation.

We often forget that the foundations of industrialisation of the Czech Lands were bolstered also by surplus generated by Czech-speaking rural population. Since the 1860s, small savings' banks enabled accumulation of nationally Czech monetary reserves and for the financing of small and middle-sized Czech companies. Živnostenská banka was founded in 1868 as the most important nationally Czech financial institution, established as the focal point of small mutual savings' banks. The 1890s then witnessed a sharp rise of Czech rural banking in the form of 'Raiffeisenbanks' and 'Kampeličkas', which importantly contributed to the development and modernisation of farming and rural life in general. Although few people realise how important a role Czech countryside played in the revival of Czech nationality, the agrarian past of the Czech society is imprinted in Czech mentality. It is apparent in the Czech language, its sayings, folk tales, fiction, and art in general.

FARMERS ARE FREED

The first stage of industrialisation coincided with the second agricultural revolution, characterised by a transition from the medieval three-field system to new crop-rotation techniques, but also by mechanisation, use of chemicals, intensification of animal production, and introduction of new crops, such as potatoes, sugar beet, malting barley, and forage crops (clover, alfalfa). State intervention in agriculture intensified. Productivity of agriculture dramatically increased, and farming could thus release labour force which drove the development of towns and urban conglomerations.

Farms are transformed from the means of subsistence into objects of enterprise.

With the abolition of serfdom, farmers were gradually transformed from unfree into free people, members of nascent civil society. People who farmed to make ends meet, to pay their taxes and other duties, became self-confident farmers, and farms were turned into small private enterprises aiming to make profit.

The development of agriculture in the 19th century did not, however, bring only these advances. The abolition of serfdom in September 1848 brought about not only the end of the feudal system, but also release from the corvée and other duties towards landowners. This release was paid for in instalments covered partly by the state, partly by local authorities, and partly by farmers themselves. It led to long-term financial obligations of farm owners towards their former manorial lords.

BIRTH OF THE CZECH AND GERMAN AGRARIAN PARTY

In the countryside, ever more children were surviving to adulthood, but they also had to be provided for (schooling or craft for sons, dowry for daughters). This development was accompanied by a long agricultural crisis and increasing land prices. Prices linked to improving land productivity by meliorations, artificial fertilisers, machinery, or planting stock and sow stock seeds were also on the rise. As a result, many farmers accrued high debts and rural population was getting poorer. Land plots were due to splitting among heirs, getting smaller, and the gap between the prices of industrial goods and farm produce was increasing – to the detriment of agriculture. Measures against the import of cheaper foreign grains, meat, and other foods did not work. The Habsburg Monarchy was incapable of dealing with all these challenges.

Farmers feel ever more politically, socially, and culturally marginalised.

People in towns had a better life and viewed the rural population with a degree of contempt. Czech national politics was determined by the urban population. Farmers, smallholders, and other rural classes felt politically, socially, and culturally isolated. This, together with the need for effective representation of the rural population in higher political bodies and the parliament, led to the establishment of a Czech Agrarian Party (1899) and, in the German-speaking milieu, the Deutsche Agrarpartei in Böhmen (1905), which focused on defending farmers, smallholders, and their interests. These at first marginal movements soon grew into large and highly influential political parties. A group of agrarian politicians around Antonín Švehla, which under a slogan 'Countryside is one family' focused on the middle and lower rural classes, united the Czech agrarians around an agrarian ideology whose aim was to foster solidarity among the rural classes, to promote cooperative mechanisms, and, above all, to represent the rural population within the wider society and politics.

IMPACT OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

The First World War had a vast impact on farmers: breadwinners and their sons had to join the army and opportunities to buy farm machinery or artificial fertilisers were limited. At the same time, however, it gave farmers unprecedented prestige. They became strategic players who were feeding the nation. Social stability and ability to engate in war depended on them. Their value increased both in the eyes of the state and in the eyes of the society as a whole.

The First World War gave farmers an unprecedented amount of prestige.

Increasing shortages led to state intervention in agriculture, which took the form of forced crop purchases, controlled slaughter of farm animals, and controlled distribution of agricultural produce. War shortages led to the appearance of black market, in which most rural producers profited. They sold food for exorbitant prices, thus gaining the means needed to pay off their

3 | Agricultural crops exhibition in the pavilion of Count J.A. Schwarzenberg, Jubilee Land Exhibition in Prague, 1891

4 | The fishing pavilion of Count J.A. Schwarzenberg, Jubilee Land Exhibition in Prague, 1891

5 | Exhibition of the first Czech forestry school in Písek in the forestry pavilion, Jubilee Land Exhibition in Prague, 1891

debts. It is a sad chapter in the history of farmers that they were able to pay their debts thanks to general deprivation and need, which affected above all the urban population. State's attempts to supress the black marker were inefficient.

LAND REFORM — STABILISATION OF THE COUNTRYSIDE

After the First World War, Czech agrarian politics was in a better shape than ever before. The Czech Agrarian Party won all elections, except for the very first municipal and parliamentary ones, and soon became the dominant power in Czechoslovak politics. It produced prime ministers, ministers of interior and of agriculture. It used its influence to improve the situation of rural population, especially its middle and lower-middle classes. In the second half of the 1920s, however, this had a general negative effect on the balance between agrarian interests and the interests of industry and services. Agrarian interests always tended to prevail.

On the other hand, the agrarian lobby was also responsible for one fundamental step leading to social and economic modernisation: the land reform. This reform had broken the post-feudal structure of land ownership, hitherto dominated by former aristocracy and partly also the Catholic Church. Most of these owners did not farm the land but merely leased it. The reform boosted small and middle-sized land ownership, improved farmers' social security, and contributed to better effectivity of their farms. It became an important factor in stabilising the countryside. It also led to machinations with 'leftover' farms (i.e. the economic centres of former estates), but its overall positive impact is undisputed.

Land reform improved social security of small and middle-sized farmers.

From state's perspective, agriculture during the interwar era changed profoundly. After the First World War, this strategically important economic sector, which in the wartime struggled to supply the population with food, started a period of transformation. By mid-1920s, supply caught up with demand and by late 1920s, the market once again struggled with overproduction. This once again led to impoverishment and increased debt burden of farmers. Since mid-1920s, agrarian structures tried to deal with the surplus of farming produce by import duties designed to improve the situation of domestic producers. Even so, improvements in the agrarian sector came, especially during the Depression, through maintaining food prices above world levels: reciprocity in trading relations then boosted industrial export.

Prague becomes the centre of international agrarian movement.

The 1920s represent the peak of farmers' emancipation in the Czech Lands. This was largely due to the political agrarian movement, which transcended Czech borders. Czech agrarianism spread also in Slovakia and in 1928, Prague became the seat of the International Agrarian Bureau, a world-wide organisation sometimes also called the 'Green International'.

THE ARRIVAL OF NEW INSTITUTIONS

The state supported agriculture in many ways. This was reflected not only in economic interventionism promoted in the Parliament but also in its support of economic and social institutions. The cooperative movement flourished and so did various rural associations. We witness a boom of agricultural education, research, and public awareness campaigns. Various institutions are created: the Agricultural Archive, which gathers written materials on the development of agriculture, Czechoslovak Agricultural Academy as the focal point of agricultural research, but also the Agricultural Library, House of Agricultural Instruction, Farmers' Radio, or the Free Farmers' School, opened to the farming masses. Agricultural education of all levels, from training courses and winter schools, all the way to university courses is booming. Agricultural research is on an internationally competitive level.

Museum should also promote agrarian awareness and instruction.

Among the new institutions and organisations aimed at improving agricultural production and the lives of rural population, foundation of an agricultural museum played a key role. This is reflected also in the fact that creation of the museum as an institution took place already in September 1918, that is, still during the war. This was enabled by the fact that within the Czech agrarian movement, the notion of establishing an agricultural museum found very wide support. It was a natural product of its ideology and its practical needs. A museum was supposed to promote not only awareness of agriculture but also agrarian propaganda.

ORIGINS OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AGRICULTURE

In the Czech Lands, realisation of the idea of an agricultural museum was the result of a complex and long-term development, which started with various attempts to gather documentation concerning plant and animal production. These were soon supplemented by collections focused on forestry, horticulture, and viticulture. The earliest collections date to the 18th century. They are linked to the work of learned societies and later the foundation of the first museums in the Czech Lands, especially the Silesian Museum in Opava (1814) and the Moravian Museum in Brno (1817). These museums gathered literature on agriculture and created collections of farming tools, machinery, seeds, and wax models of fruits.

At first, museums focused on issues of agricultural development and instruction. Collections were not created systematically in the sense considering cultural history or aesthetics. New inspiration for collectors came with the rise Czech nationalism. Its roots were deeply rural, though in late 19th century its focus shifted to cities and towns. In this milieu, ethnographic material became highly attractive: alongside folk costumes and vernacular pottery, even objects of daily use, which documented the variety of farming life, became interesting.

6 | Agricultural Museum in Opava, Blücher Palace

7 | Festive opening of the Czechoslovak Museum of Agriculture in Opava, 29 May 1927

8 | Museum of Agriculture in Brno, Haupt Palace

9 | Czechoslovak Museum of Agriculture in Brno, Department of root crops with potato, sugar beet, and mangold exhibits

THE SHOP WINDOW OF CZECH ECONOMY

A milestone in the development of Czech museography came in 1891 with the Jubilee Exhibition in Prague. Due to limited participation of Czech Germans, this event became a presentation of nationally Czech enterprise and craft. Its showed not only the best current production but also historical items, so as to highlight Czech economic progress of recent decades. Countryside was represented by a Czech cottage, a mill, and an agricultural exposition.

The Jubilee Exhibition presented the achievements of nationally Czech enterprise.

Items exhibited at the Jubilee Exhibition were to be inherited by a planned agricultural museum. To this purpose, a preparatory committee was formed, headed by Bedřich II Prince of Schwarzenberg from the Orlík branch of the family, president of the Central Economic Society for the Kingdom of Bohemia, member of the Bohemian Land Diet, member of the Imperial Council, president of the Agricultural Council of the Kingdom of Bohemia, and president of the Society of the National Museum. The committee also included František Sitenský, professor of botany, plant breeder, economist, and editor of Otto's Dictionary, and Jan Radimský, deputy of the Imperial Council, estate owner and influential entrepreneur from Kolín. The committee secured from the exhibitors many exhibition items as well as some financial means.

THE FIRST MUSEUM EXHIBITION OF AGRICULTURE

Formation of a preparatory committee and acquisition of exhibits is often seen as amounting to establishment of the museum as such. This was not the case. In 1893, when the committee applied to the Bohemian Land Diet for space suitable for storing the exhibits, the Diet recommended cost-cutting measures, namely to 'refrain from establishing a special museum society and to hand over museum collections to be administered by the Central Economic Society for the Kingdom of Bohemia'. Renewed interest in the countryside came a little later with the Czechoslavic Ethnographic Exhibition (1895), whose aim was not only to present of vernacular architecture but also to ensure its permanent housing in a new Czechoslavic Ethnographic Museum, which opened in May 1896. In January 1906, the Viennese Ministry of Agriculture then provided the funds needed to establish in this museum also a department for agriculture. Alongside state and provincial institutions, the nascent museum of agriculture also received support from organisations linked to the Czech Agrarian Party (Farmers' Association, Central Union of Economic Societies and Cooperatives, etc.). Preparations were unsystematic but even so, the department for agriculture opened its first exhibition in the former riding hall in Kinsky Garden in May 1908.

INTEREST IS GROWING, PREMISES ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY

In early 20th century, the earliest specialised agricultural museums are established. Among the first were a dairy museum at the Provincial School of Dairy Farming in Kroměříž (1908), which featured mainly various teaching aids, a museum of beekeeping, and others. Agriculture was to some degree also documented in museums of national history (local, regional, etc.). Interest of museum curators in agriculture grew, but the basic collection intended for a Central Museum of Agriculture fared poorly: it still did not find facilities where it could be permanently stored.

The first specialised agricultural museums appear in early 20th century.

The Provincial Association of Czech Rural Youth, which was part of structure of the Agrarian Party, had established a museum commission in 1911. Its secretary and main mover was Josef Kazimour, a theorist of museology, economic historian focused on the history of the countryside, and employee of the agricultural department of the Ethnographic Museum. The commission's aim was to create collections documenting the history and current state of Czech agriculture and eventually to form an autonomous museum. Kazimour promoted these aims in *Venkov*, the main journal of the Agrarian Party. Thanks to his efforts, some 115 district branches with a centre in Prague were established in three years. In April of that year, the museum commission organised a congress of museum officers. It was addressed by Adolf Prokůpek, president of the Czech Section of the Agricultural Council for the Kingdom of Bohemia, who spoke of the importance and need of an agricultural museum. Unfortunately, these widely supported efforts to turn the agricultural department of the Ethnographic Museum into a separate museum were halted by outbreak of the First World War and revived only in 1918, the last year of the war.

NOT ONLY DOCUMENTATION BUT IMPROVEMENT OF THE COUNTRYSIDE.

On the 17 August 1918, office of the Governor of Bohemia gave its consent to the establishment of an Association of the Czech Agricultural Museum in Prague. Composition of its preparatory committee reflected the prestige and strong political and financial backing of the project: its president was Antonín Švehla, head of the Agrarian Party, its vice-president was Adolf Prokůpek, and its secretary Josef Kazimour. The Agrarian party was represented by another seven members: František Hybš, Rudolf Beran (both secretaries of the Agrarian Party), František Dostál, Jan Dvořák, Josef Hucl, and Josef Vraný, all men who went on to have careers in the parliament, economy, and press of the Czechoslovak Republic.

The founding general assembly of Association of the Czech Agricultural Museum met on St. Wenceslas Day in 1918. In December 1918, the association changed its name to Czechoslovak Agricultural Museum, and since Švehla found the name too vague, a subtitle 'Institute for the Study and Improvement of the Countryside' was added. This specified that the aim of the organisation was not only to present historical development of agriculture but also to be highly relevant to current affairs. Wide scope of the assiciation's activities was also reflected in a clause according to which 'any farmer and any person with interest in improving rural life' could join the museum association.

10 | Dr. Josef Kazimour

11 | Antonín Švehla

12 | Entrance and gate of building No. 97 in the lower part of Kinsky Gardens in Prague-Smíchov.

13 | The Museum of Agriculture in the Kinsky Gardens, Prague, 1928

CATCHING UP WITH EUROPE

The foundation and definition of Czechoslovak Agricultural Museum's mission corresponded to developments in advanced European countries, where for almost a century, museums have been part of cultural life and documented the development of various parts of economy. Establishment of the Prague museum reacted to the abovementioned development of rural areas and Czech society in general and reflected the strong influence of the Czech Agrarian Party (later renamed Republican Party of Farmers and Smallholders). It also it expressed a desire for the Czech Lands to 'keep pace with western Europe'.

The museum is to present agriculture as a reliable foundation of the economy.

As a cultural, scientific, and educational institution, the museum was supposed to present agriculture as a reliable foundation of the new state's economy and to explain the objectives of agriculture. Initially, it thus focused on exhibiting material and written artefacts which could serve farmers as a source of reliable and practical instruction. The museum also tried to present the historic development of the various kinds of agricultural activities and to inform the non-farming part of the society about the demanding but praiseworthy work of people in agriculture and their often hard life.

THE CREATION OF REGIONAL BRANCHES

To reach its goals, the Agricultural Museum cooperated with the abovementioned Agricultural Archive and Central Library of Agriculture. Its aim was also to connect Czechoslovak farmers with international partners. International cooperation was to provide comparative and educational materials, and travelling exhibitions offered comparisons with agriculture abroad.

The state, in particular the Ministry of Agriculture, supervised the functioning of the museum and supported it financially. Museum collections, while formally belonging to the museum association, were treated as unalienable public goods. In case of demise of the association, its property would, according to its statutes, pass to the state. In terms of organisation, however, the association was self-ruling. Its activities were directed by trustees and later by a management committee, in which the Museum of Agriculture was also represented.

In 1925, the museum was reorganised. Alongside the headquarters in Prague, branches were formed all over the state. A grandiose conception led to the foundation of agricultural museums in Brno, Opava, Frýdek, Bratislava, and Mukačevo. In 1930 started a process of organising district branches belonging to the regional museums. During the interwar era, the museum's headquarters were located in Kinsky Gardens No. 97 in Prague-Smíchov. Composition of the management committee changed but its prestige was preserved, and it included not only representatives of the agrarian movement but also of the Catholic countryside. In 1928, the number of individuals, institutions, and organisations (physical and legal persons) who contributed to the museum's budget exceeded three and a half thousand.

THE MUSEUM NEEDS ITS OWN BUILDING

By early 1930s, the museum's dynamic development was hampered by shortage of storage and exhibition spaces. In 1931, the museum started to collaborate with the Technical Museum in Prague on a project of a shared museum building in Prague-Letná, a modern building with potential for further technical adaptations and annexes. Plans for a shared building were abandoned in 1936.

The construction of a large, five-storey building of reinforced concrete, which considered the demands of contemporary museology and was comparable with museums in other developed countries, started in July 1937. By the time in was completed in autumn of 1939, Czechoslovakia was already under Nazi occupation and the new, spacious, versatile, and central building soon attracted the attention of occupation authorities, which forced the museum association to sign a lease that freed the building for military use.

During the Nazi occupation, museum's ability to work was limited, almost paralysed. It lost contact with border areas annexed by the German Reich, including the regional museum in Opava. Occupation of the Czech Lands and establishment of a fascist regime in Slovakia led to a separation of the Bratislava branch. The Prague headquarters, now housed in inadequate spaces in Prague-Smíchov, focused on organising short-term exhibitions documenting current agricultural production.

HESITANT POST-WAR RENEWAL EFFORTS

After liberation in 1945, the museum tried to return to active work. Unfortunately, the Ministry of Agriculture, headed by Julius Ďuriš, a Communist, supported it much less than before the war and there was little money to prepare a new exposition. Nonetheless, the building in Prague-Letná was returned to the museum association.

Relocation and care of museum's collections and preparation of a permanent exposition started in 1946. The ground floor was dedicated to temporary exhibitions, the first floor to Czechoslovak agriculture, its results, organisation, and management, while the second and third floor were to present agricultural production, forestry, hunting, and horticulture, including their historical development. The museum renewed its collecting activities. Political developments focused on the border areas, which Czechs had to leave, and which were now being resettled. Anti-capitalist moods in post-war Czechoslovakia produced new partners, including the United Association of Czech Farmers, which was part of the National Front.

1948 — INTERVENTIONS OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE

The shift of museum's focus on private farming to villages fragmented by the second land reform, which produced small plots of 12 to 13 hectares, took place gradually. The arrival of the Communist regime in February 1948, on the other hand, had an immediate impact on the museum's work and management. The

14 | Construction of the Czechoslovak Museum of Agriculture in Prague-Letná, 1937

15 | Building of the National Museum of Agriculture, 1947

16 | Czechoslovak Museum of Agriculture in Prague-Letná in 1948 with museum employees

goal of this shift was to disrupt continuity with pre-war work. An Action Committee was formed to 'purge' the museum's management committee and member base.

The museum is to create politically motivated expositions about the building of socialism.

Interventions into the museum's work did not end there. Pressures grew, and the museum gradually lost its facilities to other institutions. Instead of expertly curated exhibitions, it was asked to produce propagandistic exhibitions about the building of socialism in Czechoslovakia and other Eastern Bloc countries. In 1950, the State Dislocation Commission decided that the museum's headquarters would be given to a newly created state construction company, the Stavoprojekt. Spaces offered in return were inadequate. After viewing 14 chateaux, the museum had to move to a small part of the Konopiště Chateau near Benešov and the whole of Kačina hunting lodge. In Prague, it got just three rooms in Střešovice.

THE END OF CONTINUITY

In 1952, the museum is nationalised and as of the 1st of January 1952, it becomes part of the newly established Czechoslovak Academy of Agricultural Sciences. Its new goal is to 'present the rich cultural heritage of our ancestors regarding agriculture, forestry, and food production to the broad public'. Despite continuing difficulties, the museum continues its scientific activity by increasing its collections. Without it being explicitly formulated, its focus shifts from providing service to agriculture and its modernisation to historical documentation. In the 1950s, however, even that had to be presented through a prism of Marxist theories.

The 1960s brought a thawing of political situation and the Museum of Agriculture could once again work to achieve its mission. A team of agrarian historians had formed, who 'hidden under this roof' laid the foundations of modern, fact-based post-war study of agrarian history with connection to pre-war tradition. This team included František Kutnar, František Lom, Vratislav Šmelhaus, Josef Tlapák, Zdeněk Tempír, and others, whose works are still relevant and republished.

Since the 1960s, the museum starts meeting its goals through the work of a team of agrarian historians.

The museum publishes *Scientific Works of the Museum of Agriculture* and *Sources and Studies*. In the 1960s, it also develops international connections, becomes a co-founder of the International Association of Agricultural Museums (AIMA) and publishes its bulletin, the *Acta Museorum Agriculturae*.

After the dissolution of the Czechoslovak Academy of Agricultural Sciences, the Museum of Agriculture in 1961 became part of the newly formed Institute of Scientific and Technical Information and in 1975, part of Institute of Scientific and Technical Information for Agriculture, under which it remained until 1992. Since early 1970s, the museum develops another important regional office: alongside its Prague headquarters and older centres at Kačina and Ohrada hunting lodge, it now establishes a centre at Lednice Chateau in Moravia.

COLLECTIVISATION OF AGRICULTURE AND ITS LEGACY

Forty years of the socialist experiment, that is, the time between February 1948 and November 1989, had a vast impact on the work of the Museum of Agriculture. Its focus narrowed to study of the history of agricultural production. Nonetheless, already in the 1980s, the museum's production reflected current technical innovations in agricultural production. This presaged a return to the museum's original mission and interdisciplinary scope, although farmers, as a segment of society and its culture, were almost totally left out.

Collectivisation led to disrespect to private property, land, and nature.

In an era marked by the myth of scientific and technological revolution, collectivised agriculture – in the 1950s moreover suffering from production failures – occupied a position of a mere appendage to urban life, which rural lifestyle was supposed to increasingly resemble. Collectivisation brought about rank disrespect to private property and indifference on the part of members of the united agricultural coops to land and nature. Both state and society abused natural environment and while productivity in agriculture in the 1960s and 1970s slowly grew, the quality of production was barely average. Rural areas and their social contribution were neglected.

A NEW CHANCE, NEW ROLES

With the Velvet Revolution in 1989 and subsequent economic transformation came a return to civic society and private farming, which were both supressed by the Communist regime. The need to reflect upon the past and the traditions of interwar Czechoslovakia, but also the liquidation of farmers as a social class after 1948, highlight the importance of agrarian museology. The Association for the Museum of Agriculture was restored and in 1994, its members negotiated with Josef Lux, a Minister of Agriculture for the People's Party, return of the originally purpose-built headquarters to the museum.

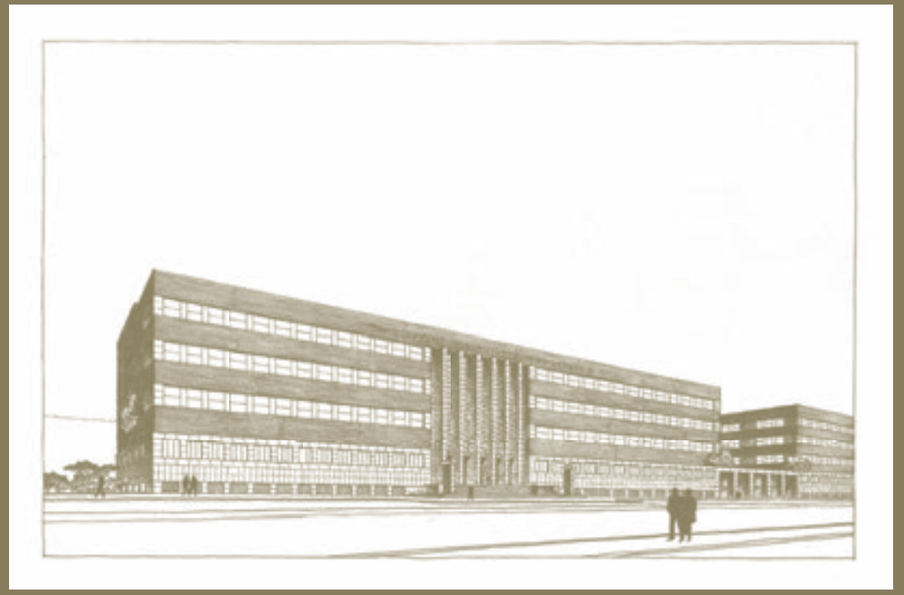
Until 1989, museums and galleries belonged under the Ministry of Culture and its Department of Environmental Protection, Heritage Care, Museums, and Galleries. After 1989, environmental protection was transferred under the Ministry of Environment, and museums and galleries came under the auspices of a Section for Museums and Galleries, which now manages 44 museums and galleries. In 2006, however, the Museum of Agriculture was in recognition of its social importance exempted from the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Culture and is now managed by a public-benefit organisation, the 'National Museum of Agriculture'.

17| Collecting items for the museum collection – loading a lorry, 1973

Alongside agriculture, humans, the environment, and countryside are now the main focus of attention.

In 2006–2015, the museum was searching for a new direction that would reflect the cultural, social, and economic realities of present day. A new phase of museum's development started in 2015. It is expressed in the creation of attractive, dynamic exhibitions, quite unlike the earlier static, traditionalist presentations. People, the environment, and rural life are alongside agrarian production and technologies at the centre of attention. Agriculture, farmers, and environment rehabilitated in the society as a whole. The museum is once again becoming an important research and publication centre, but most importantly, the numbers of happy visitors are growing, attesting to success of the museum's new direction. 1

1 The establishment, development, and operation of the NMA has been the subject of continuing research of both its workers and external agrarian historians. Recent studies which also offer overviews of earlier works include Zdeněk Tempír, Zemědělské muzeum 1891–1981 [Museum of Agriculture, 1891–1981], *Vědecké práce zemědělského muzea 21*, 1981, p. 35–97; Vratislav Šmelhaus, Vědeckovýzkumná a publikační činnost Zemědělského muzea [Research and Publications at the Museum of Agriculture], *Vědecké práce zemědělského muzea 21*, 1981, p. 99–116; Jiří Pernes, Nejstarší pokusy o muzejní dokumentaci zemědělství v českých zemích [The Earliest Attempts at a Museal Documentation of Agriculture in the Czech Lands], *Vědecké práce Národního zemědělského muzea 30*, 1993, p. 13–29; Otakar Kokeš, Zakladatelé našeho zemědělského muzejnictví [The Founders of Agrarian Museology in Our Country], ibid., p. 31–37; Antonín Kubačák, Vývoj Zemědělského muzea v Praze v letech 1891–1989 [The Development of the Museum of Agriculture in Prague, 1891–1989], ibid., p. 39–71; Jiří Pernes, Vznik a působení poboček Československého zemědělského muzea v letech 1924–1945 [The Foundation and Operation of Regional Branches of the Czechoslovak Agricultural Museum, 1924–1945], ibid., 1993, p. 73–92; Pavel Novák, Zemědělské muzeum Kačina [Agricultural Museum Kačina], ibid., 1993, p.105–115; Václav Kasal, Činnost Zemědělského muzea Ohrada v letech 1961–1990 [Activities of Agricultural Museum Ohrada, 1961–1990], ibid., 1993, p.117–129; Vítězslav Koukal, Zemědělské muzeum v Lednici na Moravě [Agricultural Museum in Lednice in Moravia], ibid., p. 131–144; *Prameny a studie 38, 115 let NZM* [115 Years of the National Museum of Agriculture], Praha: Národní zemědělské muzeum Praha 2006, p132; Šárka Steinová, *Osudový příběh Československého zemědělského muzea (1891) 1918–1952* [The Story of Czechoslovak Museum of Agriculture (1891) 1918–1952], Praha: Národní zemědělské muzeum 2013.



18 | **Southern facade of the museum.** The museum was designed by Ing Dr. Milan Babuška. Budget for the whole building was 8,750,000 CZK, the building plot cost 1 million CZK.

2

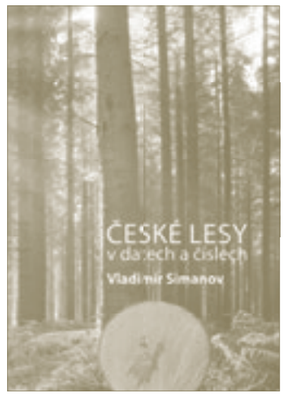
Science and Research in the Museum at the Beginning of the Twenty-First Century

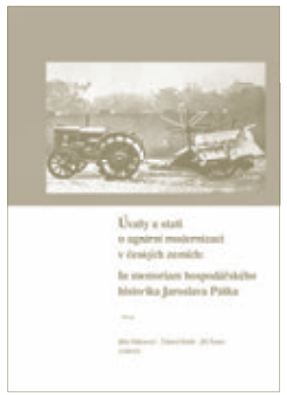
Science and Research in the Museum at the Beginning of the Twenty-First Century

Science and research are a source of innovations in all areas of human life. The twenty-first century brings changes to which society has to react to successfully face challenges to its development. In agriculture, research focuses on providing food and raw material self-sufficiency by adopting suitable methods based on the basic natural resources and modern technologies. The goal is to improve the overall production capacity of agriculture, forestry, and timber industry. Multidisciplinary agricultural research, however, also has other important functions. It is relevant to biomedicine, ecology, energy production, water protection, and other areas of human activity.

The main motto of agricultural research in early twenty-first century is long-term sustainability of agriculture, forestry, and water management, i.e. systems which protect and maintain soil, water, and genetic variety, without degrading the environment. The National Museum of Agriculture (NMA) reacts to tasks of agricultural research defined in the Czech Republic by the Ministry of Agriculture and adopts the principles of modern agricultural science. The goal of historical research at the NMA is to investigate phenomena in a comprehensive context so as to facilitate the application of new knowledge in current and future practice, especially with respect to traditional approaches and sustainable farming methods. The museum thus helps to reveal and mediate the various locally specific approaches as a source of inspiration for future development. Our research aims thus fully correspond to the abovementioned goal of current agricultural science, that is, sustainability.

❷ A research organisation is any subject that meets the conditions defined in §2 par. 2) letter d) of Act on the Support of Research and Development (Act No. 130/2002 Coll.).



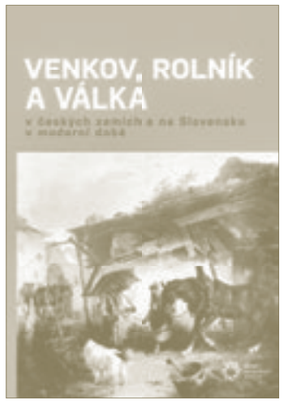


As a research organisation, ❷ the NMA is a traditional centre of science and research comparable to similar state institutions. It presents agriculture as an important sociocultural phenomenon that continues to shape our society. NMA's research is designed to encompass a maximally wide range of agriculture as an essential human activity indispensable to society's growth and maintenance. According to its Founding Charter, the NMA creates collections of material evidence pertinent to the development of agriculture, forestry, hunting, fishing, horticulture, processing of agricultural products, evidence of development of Czech countryside and landscape of both domestic and international provenience. The NMA focuses its research activities on expert processing of items from its own collection and on investigation of the environment, phenomena, and relations from which this evidence of natural, technological, economic, sociocultural, and political phenomena is derived. The aim is to fully use our collection and achieve a fuller understanding of the individual subcollections. A comprehensive collection is a unique source of information, which can be used not only in research and popularisation of various areas of agriculture, but also in identification of traditional, sustainable approaches to production in agriculture, forestry, fishing, food production, and landscape care.

One of the main aims of NMA's research is to mediate, based on the research of a wide range of historical, archaeological, ethnographic, and other sources, a historical legacy. This message can take the form of, e.g., descriptions of agricultural methods, production technologies, machines, varieties of fruits, vegetables, and other crops, or the form of presenting farmers, foresters, or pond managers as architects and creators of the rural environment. Results of research conceived of in these terms have a wide range of applications. Principles of sustainability draw on the legacy of experience of previous generations. The NMA is a valuable partner to anyone who is trying to apply these historical methods and approaches to increase the sustainability of agriculture and related areas.

The NMA defines the subject of its research, i.e., agriculture and related areas, not only as a historiographic subject linked to the protection of cultural and natural heritage, but also as part of national economy, since without agriculture, rural life and food self-sufficiency would be destroyed and social structure of our country destabilised. The museum therefore focuses on traditional areas of Czech economy, such as fishing, beekeeping, animal keeping, viticulture, fruit farming, hops production, and beer brewing, which are of special importance to local economies. In this context, agriculture is presented as an area suitable for social enterprise. Social enterprise in agriculture, forestry, fishing, etc. is linked to sustainability of these activities and even maintenance of rural life as such.

The NMA provides facilities for historical research of agriculture and related areas. Its scientific and research activities currently fall into three main research areas described in the 'Scientific Valuation of Collection of the National Museum of Agriculture I, II, and II'. This document emphasises research of technologies which could offer inspiration for future and thereby contribute to sustainability. Thirteen areas of research are then based on NMA's subcollections and needs of the museum: Museology; Countryside, agriculture, ethnography, and tradition; Development of the countryside and regional development; Forestry, forest economy, and hunting; Aquatic

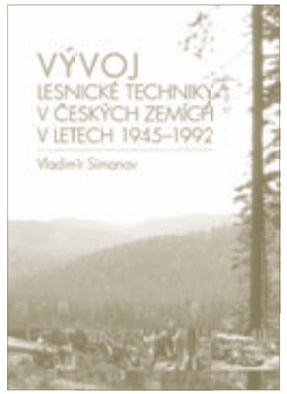


ecosystems, pond management, and fishing; Horticulture (fruit, vegetable, and flower farming), viticulture, and beekeeping; Mechanisation in agriculture and forestry; Agricultural, forestry, and other operation-related buildings; Food industry and other agriculture-related industries; Animal production; Culinary heritage of the Czech Lands; Countryside in arts; Personalities of agriculture, forestry, fishing, horticulture, agricultural enterprise, and related areas; Archaeology of agriculture.

To meet these research goals, NMA's experts use a comprehensive approach based on analysis and interpretation of various information sources including archive materials, museum documentation, sociological and statistical research, economic data, etc. This helps them to identify important evidence pertaining to the studied phenomena, their presentation, interpretation, popularisation, and use in education. This approach is hermeneutic, subjects are investigated in their context and researchers use methods of historical sciences, cultural history, archaeology, art history, sociology, economy, environmental science, etc.

As a national institution, the NMA wants to contribute to the development of expert activities in its field throughout the Czech Republic. With full awareness of the extraordinary importance of Professor Josef Kazimour's work, the museum develops the principles he defined. It creates and supports a network of collaborating subjects who focus on agriculture. The museum is a rich source of information for other research bodies, an important link in a nascent research network whose aim is to foster cooperation in research relevant to agricultural sciences. The NMA uses to this purpose its rich collection of material evidence. In addition to a large collection, it also has a unique photo archive and a specialised library and archive, which add to NMA's scientific potential. The museum is thus an attractive partner for various national and regional institutions but also individual researchers. In this way, it uses also the previously neglected potential of its regional collections. Collaboration offers an opportunity to develop positive synergic reactions, thus contributing to scientific understanding and popularisation of agriculture and landscape management. This cooperation takes place on an open platform, which enables participation of further collaborators and institutions which deal with agriculture. This increases interest in agriculture-related subjects. The platform was established in 2016 and is named after Professor Kazimour. Its main function is to create a network of museums, other research institutions, and individual scholars, administer an internal system of grants, and help participating partners present their research results via the NMA.

In press, the museum presents the results of its research on agriculture-related subjects in their historical context in the form of scientific articles, reports, and monographs. Researchers discuss their research at conferences, seminars, and workshops. The NMA uses the results of its research projects in preparing exhibitions and accompanying catalogues. This contributes to popularisation of science, which is a highly relevant issue given the low number of people active in the agrarian sector. Given the extent of this publication, we introduce in the following only three areas corresponding to the abovementioned presentation of research results. The NMA publishes journals and scientific books, organises conferences on agrarian history, and engages in popularisation of science among broad public, thus hopefully inspiring young scientists.



In the past, the museum published a journal called *Vědecké práce Zemědělského muzea* [Scientific Works of the Agricultural Museum]. It appeared in Czech under various names: *Scientific Works of the Czech Academy of Agricultural Sciences from the History of Agriculture and Forestry* (1959–1960), *Scientific Works of the Agricultural Museum* (1961–1965 and 1972–1991), *Scientific Works of the Czechoslovak Agricultural Museum* (1966–1971), and *Scientific Works of the National Museum of Agriculture* (1992–1993). Currently, the NMA publishes one non-impact peer-reviewed journal, *Prameny a studie* [Sources and Studies]. With the exception of the period of 1993–2005, this journal is published since 1966. Its original name, *Prameny historie zemědělství a lesnictví* [Sources of the History of Agriculture and Forestry], changed in 1978. The journal appears twice, sometimes even three times a year, and offers articles on various subjects that contribute to a better understanding of the wider context of development of agriculture, forestry, etc. Journal content is supervised by an editorial board in collaboration with the editor-in-chief, as defined by NMA's current conception of science and research. In 2018, the editorial board included PhDr. Jitka Balcarová, Ph.D., Professor Ing. Ivana Boháčková, CSc., Professor PhDr. Jana Burešová, CSc., PhDr. Pavel Douša, Ph.D., PhDr. Miloš Hořejš, Ph.D., Professor PhDr. Irena Korbelářová, Dr., Mgr. Lucie Kubásková, Professor PhDr. Eduard Kubů, CSc., doc. Ing. Michal Plaček Ph.D., M.Sc., doc. PhDr. Jiří Šouša, CSc., doc. PhDr. Miroslav Válka, Ph.D.

Current rich publication activities reflect a successful operation of the platform of Professor Kazimour. Our books regularly compete for Museum Publication of the Year award in the Gloria musealis National Competition and sometimes also for the Most Beautiful Czech Book award. Successful nominations attest to the quality of scientific presentation of current and socially relevant subjects.

Employees of the NMA actively publish, as attested by their entries in the Registry of Information about Results. In terms of registered results, our museum ranks among the top comparable bodies in our country. Our publication activities reflect the main research directions, which correspond to the organisational structure of the NMA and its division in regional branches: Čáslav – Museum of Agricultural Machinery and Equipment, Kačina – Czech Countryside Museum, Ohrada – Museum of Forestry, Hunting, and Fishing, Valtice – Museum of Viticulture, Horticulture, and Landscaping, Ostrava – an exposition on food industry and agricultural archaeology, currently in preparation.

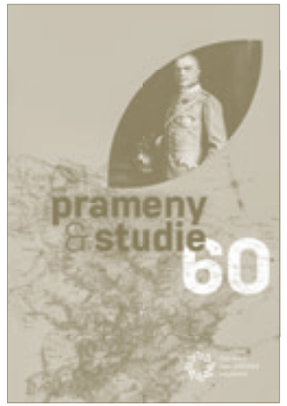
In 2016, the NMA decided to continue in the tradition of organising an international Agrarian History Conference Prague. These conferences take place every two years and continue in a tradition of agrarian symposia organised since 1990 at the Museum of Moravian Slovakia in Uherské Hradiště. The last such meeting took place there in 2012, at which point the facilities of this regional museum turned out to be exhausted. A subsequent conference on the History of Countryside in the Czech Lands in Eighteenth to Twentieth Century: Historiography, Methods, Issues, was organised by the Museum of Eastern Bohemia in Hradec Králové and the Faculty of

Philosophy of the Charles University in Prague in 2014. The first conference organised by the NMA in 2016 focused on mutual relations of farmers, countryside, and war from the Thirty Years' War until the Cold War. In 2018, the conference was dedicated to agrarian awareness campaigns and modern agrarian education. By organising these conferences on agriculture, we hope to create a stable scientific platform of historic agraristics and to expand its research scope into technological progress, social relations in the countryside, rural culture, and agrarian enterprise. Such wider scope naturally requires an interdisciplinary approach. Conference organisers therefore aim at fostering collaboration among specialises from a wide range of social and natural sciences. Alongside historians, we also find here agrarian sociologists, demographers, ethnologists, lawyers, economists, environmentalists, geographers, agronomists, cattle breeders, pomologists, and others.

To popularise science in order to improve general awareness of research, technology, and their methods and achievements, the NMA uses a museum infrastructure which fully meets the demands of modern presentation and popularisation of science. Alongside spreading information about agricultural science, our aim is also to inspire interest in agrarian sciences, encourage future scientists, and attract financial resources for further development of the NMA. NMA's popularisation activities follow several directions: the museum produces books of popular science, organises series of lectures on popular science (both on the results of its own research projects and in collaboration with other research institutes), it organises its own competition **Science for Earth**, which supports young scientists and encourages them to publish, and participates in national and European science festivals, such as the **Night of the Scientists** and **Science and Technology Week.** Our target groups are the general public, scientific public, nurseries, kindergartens, elementary, and secondary school, and in the case of the abovementioned competition and some lecture series also university students.

The content and quality of research at the NMA are supervised by the Scientific Board of the National Museum of Agriculture, a consulting organ of NMA's director. The board discusses long-term plans of scientific, research, educational, and other activities of the museum, helps prepare NMA's long-term science and research conception, approves regular reports on the use of institutional support for long-term development of research organisations, and expresses its views on other issues presented by the museum's general director. Activities of the Scientific Board are defined in its Rules of Procedure, adopted in 2016. In 2018, the Scientific Board included doc. PhDr. Miloslav Lapka, CSc. (head), PhDr. Jitka Balcarová, Ph.D. (secretary), PhDr. Petr Blažek, Ph.D., Ing. Jiří Boháček, Ing. Václav Hrubý, CSc., PhDr. Bronislav Chocholáč, Dr., Professor PhDr. Eduard Kubů, CSc., Professor PhDr. Eduard Maur, CSc., Ing. Jan Navrátil, CSc., PhDr. Pavel Novák, CSc., doc. Ing. Michal Plaček, Ph.D., M.Sc., Professor PhDr. Jan Rychlík, DrSc., Mgr. Antonín Šimčík, doc. PhDr. Jiří Šouša, CSc., Ing. Hana Urbancová, Ph.D., and Professor Ing. Jan Vašák, CSc. Further information regarding the Scientific Board is included at the end of this chapter intentionally, because they are the persons we ought to thank for the current systematic development of research and science in the National Museum of Agriculture.

19 | **Prameny a studie** – The National Museum of Agriculture publishes a non-impacted journal, *Prameny a studie*, which usually appears twice a year. The museum also organises an international conference and participates in events such as Week of Science and Technology or the Scientists' Night.



3

Subcollections of the National Museum of Agriculture

20 | **Praha-Letná.** The museum's building in Prague–Letná was built in 1939.

21 | **A collection of hooves and horseshoes** in the exhibition hall of the museum's building in Kinsky Gardens, 1928

20 21

Subcollections of the National Museum of Agriculture

The NMA is a universal rather than specialised museum. Its subject is agriculture in the Czech Lands, though within a broader context given by agriculture's global impact. Its collections document not only partial phenomena but also the key trends which contributed to the formation of our civilisation. Agriculture is thus perceived as one of the most important socioeconomic processes which have been affecting not only our past but also our present and future. The museum has been aiming at creating a comprehensive collection covering not only items pertinent to cultural history but also issues of natural science, environment, and technical sciences. One of the museum's main goals is to acquire, collect, preserve, administer, study, and make accessible to the public a museal collection.

NMA's collection is created in accordance with Act No. 122/2000 Coll. on the Protection of Collections of Museum Nature and on Amendment to Certain Other Acts, as amended. Via its collection, the NMA contributes to the formation of society's objective relation to various areas of agriculture and their tradition in the Czech Lands. Its aim is to emphasise the importance of agriculture, landscape, and rural areas in the life of current society. It focuses on gathering items that document material and spiritual culture relevant to agriculture, including animal and plant production, forestry, fishing, horticulture, food production, trade, gastronomy, as well as historic and contemporary technologies and agricultural machinery.

22

22 | **Ploughs in Kačina.** Former exhibition documenting the development of ploughs.

The conception of creation, protection, and use of NMA's collection follows the current Strategy of Development of the National Museum of Agriculture for 2015–2020, the Conception of Science and Research of the National Museum of Agriculture, 2016–2022, and wherever possible, the museum also implements new scientific knowledge and trends..

In this context, it should be noted that the NMA also administers a collection of written materials of archival nature in the sense of Act No. 499/2004 Coll. on Archiving and Records Management and on the Amendment of Selected Acts, a historic literary collection, and a specialised museum library in the sense of Act No. 257/2001 Coll., on Libraries and Conditions of Operation of Library and Information Services to the Public, as amended.

HISTORY OF THE COLLECTION

The long and complicated history of the institution is reflected in the development of the various parts of its collection. Its oldest part consists of items from the Schwarzenberg public museum of forestry and hunting, which was established at the Ohrada Chateau already in 1842. These items are extraordinarily rare, since this was probably the first specialised museum of its kind not only in the Czech Lands but in the world. Its importance thus ought to be viewed in the context of historical museology.

The core of NMA's collection includes items collected for the Jubilee Land Exhibition (1891) and the Czechoslavic Ethnographic Exhibition (1895), preserved thanks to the efforts of the Ethnographic Society. After the creation of the museum in 1918, they were acquired for the new museum. Highly important are also collections of teaching aids, such as models of machines and equipment from farming schools, especially the Agricultural Academy in Tábor. Later, the museum managed to acquire further items or whole collections by donation, confiscation, escheat, and collecting activities of the museum. Josef Kazimour, an important museographer and museologist, contributed to the creation of NMA's collection by introducing a number of innovative elements to collection management.

After the Second World War, the museum opened new expositions in 1948 but soon faced attempts to confiscate its main building in Prague-Letná. These pressures culminated in 1950, when the building was impounded and the museum forced to move to Kačina and Konopiště chateaux. The relocation had severely compromised the collection. After nationalisation in 1953, the situation stabilised and the museum restarted its research and acquisition activities. It acquired further branches, such as the Ohrada Chateau and facilities in Lednice and Valtice. Changes also took place after 1989, when first the Ministry of Culture and in 2006 the Ministry of Agriculture assumed the role of NMA's founder.

DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION OF THE STATE OF THE COLLECTION

From the perspective of Act No. 122/2000 Coll., the NMA manages one collection, a collection registered in the central collection registry of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic under number NZM/002–05–10/225002. The collection is divided in subcollections (24+1), which are currently located at NMA's branches, partly according to the focus of the branch in question:

— Prague — photo archive, archival materials, and gastronomy
— Kačina — plant production I, animal production, ethnography, food production models of buildings, numismatics, trade, paintings, crafts, and books
— Čáslav — plant production II, transport, and energy sources
— Ohrada — forestry, hunting, fishing, and zoology
— Valtice — viticulture, vegetable growing, fruit growing botany, horticulture, environment.

NMA's collection currently runs to 99,457 inventory numbers. It includes mainly authentic, relevant items which are gathered, scientifically processed, stored, and protected. It also includes some substitutes, mostly copies or scaled models of large, costly, or rare items which did not survive in their original state. All collection items have to be appropriately and permanently registered and linked to eventual further documentation. Other materials related to collection items are considered auxiliary: they help mediate the rational or emotional qualities of authentic items by supplementing or describing their contents.

Items in our collection form two basic groups, namely man-made items (artefacts) and naturally occurring objects (naturefacts). Artefacts form a larger group, amounting to app. 80% of the collection. The rest are naturefacts. Care of the collection is entrusted to curators whose rights and responsibilities are since 2016 defined by the Guidelines for Handling the Collection of the National Museum of Agriculture. Management of collecting activities proceeds along a line including a curator (who proposes and realises acquisition), advisory council for collecting activities (evaluates), and general director (gives consent). Acquisitions and decommissioning of collection items, their registration, protection, and use is also regulated by the abovementioned guidelines.

Care and protection of the collection is currently severely limited by storage in depositories located in historic facilities of the various branches of the NMA, where storage conditions mostly cannot be improved. While efforts to improve the storage situation go back to the 1980s, a central depository still has not been built. Highly promising, however, are some planned and in part already implemented investments which should improve conditions of collection storage not only in Prague, but also in Valtice, Ostrava, and Ohrada, and especially a planned construction of a low-cost operation central depository, which would radically improve deposition conditions for items from Čáslav and Kačina. Further development of the Čáslav compound is now the most important activity aimed at improving conditions under which the collection is administered. On top of building this central depository, whose capacity should enable permanent storage of large part of the collection by modernising existing exposition and deposition halls for large items, we also want to create facilities for conservation, restoration, and curators' work. We realise that the goals of our institution can only be met if its collection is correctly created, protected, and used.

23 | **Creating a taxidermic specimen.** Work on the stallion Gradiva at Kačina Chateau, 1963.

24 | **Exhibition in Prague.** An exhibition of the Czechoslovak Museum of Agriculture, 1928.

25 | **Ohrada Chateau** – branch of the Czechoslovak Museum of Agriculture in Ohrada Chateau, the original exposition, 1960

26 | **Timber rafting.** Turning a raft on Otava River near Zvíkov, 1960.

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EVOLUTION OF THE COLLECTION'S ORGANISATION

In the past, the management of NMA's collection had undergone various changes. Until the post-war era, there was still in evidence the original classification into subcollections of plant production, horticulture, plant product processing, forestry and hunting, animal production, animal product processing, and farmers' life. In the 1950s, the museum was divided in ten specialised departments whose structure was reflected in the collection:

— General agriculture: natural conditions, agricultural enterprise, and agricultural complex
— Plant production: plant production in general, field and meadow management, horticulture, and special cultures
— Animal production: animal production in general, large animals, small animals, animal breeding
— Processing of agricultural produce: processing of plant and animal products
— Farmers' life: housing, social, cultural, and social development
— Forestry: forest growing and protection, logging, transportation, and processing of timber
— Hunting and fishing
— Written materials on the development of agriculture and forestry
— Specialised library
— Photo and video archive.

In the second half of the 1960s, this classification was changed and collection was divided in 21 parts forming four general sections:

— Section I: plant production with subsection of agricultural crops, forestry, and horticulture
— Section II: animal production
— Section III: processing of agricultural products and human nourishment
— Section IV: organisation of agriculture and forestry.

These changes were linked not only to the creation of three new departments in Lednice, but also to the new focus on phytopathology, animal pathology, processing of agricultural products, and food industry.

27 | **Lednice.** Domestic honey processing, Czechoslovak Museum of Agriculture in Lednice, 1985.

28 | **Field work.** Transporting agricultural tools collected in Moravia, 1956.

29 | **Experimentation.** Measuring effort expended during experimental ploughing at Kačina Chateau, 1956.

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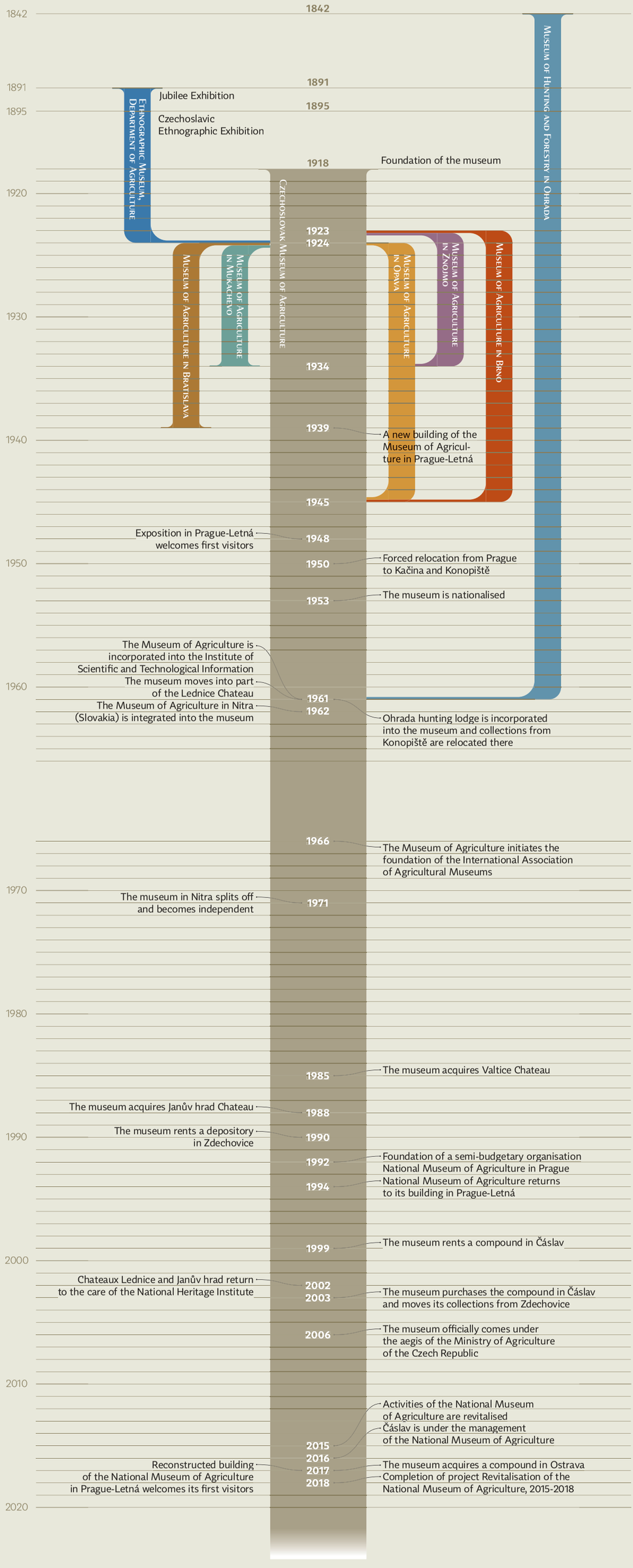
Since 1980 and until early 1990s, the collection was managed by ten specialised departments, while photo archive and museum library operated independently. The departments were:

— Department of natural conditions in agriculture: collection of mineralogy, geology, pedology, meteorology, climatology, melioration, and flora and fauna
— Department of history of plant growing: collection of phylogeny of cultural plants, basic and special agrotechnology, fertilisation, nourishment, genetics and breeding, phytopathology and plant protection, development of technologies and systems of plant production
— Department of history of animal farming: collection of phylogeny of domestic animals, general and special zootechnics, feeding and nourishment, genetics and breeding, animal pathology and veterinary care, facilities for animal keeping, and use of animals as a source of power
— Department of history of horticultural production: collection of general gardening, vegetable growing, fruit growing, viticulture, decorative horticulture, garden architecture, phytopathology, and protection of garden plants
— Department of history of forestry: collection of forestry equipment and nurseries, logging, timber transport and processing, forestry phytopathology and forest protection, collections on other functions of forests
— Department of history of hunting and fishing: collection of hunting, game keeping, fishing and pond keeping, hunting weapons, specimens of animals and fish
— Department of history of transport and energy: collection of energy sources and energy use, transport and means of transportation, roads and vehicular communication, manipulation of materials
— Department of history of food processing industry: collection of industries processing plant and animal produce, animal feed industry, and rational diet
— Department of history of agricultural enterprise and settlements: collection on agricultural settlements, enterprises, and farm households, work clothing, social development, and village crafts
— Department of history of organisation of agriculture and forestry: collection of written documentation on the development of science, politics, management, culture, and education, socioeconomic structure of agriculture and forestry.

With transfer under the Ministry of Culture, organisation of activities of the NMA started to approach current museum standards. In 2000, the NMA defined a new concept of its future development with a long-term vision. It highlights presentation and focus on visitors, rather than research activities. In connection with Act No. 122/2000 Coll., the museum collection was in 2001 divided in subcollections and registered in the Central Registry of Collections. On the basis of *Renewal 2015–2018* project, the museum had taken steps which should lead to improved care of its collection and achievement of standards fitting a national institution. The current state of the museum collection is described below.

Evolution of the museum collection



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30 | **Hops transportation boxes.** Hops was usually transported by rail and if headed across the ocean, by ship. It was therefore important to choose suitable packaging.

31 | **Emmer wheat.** Domestication of emmer wheat is attested since 6th millennium BCE.

32 | **Hops.** Reproduction of an engraving from Andreas Glorez's *Haus und Land Bibliothec*, Regensburg, 1701, Vol. II, p.

Plant production I

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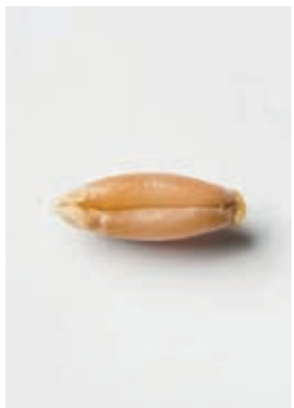

Historically, this subcollection is closely linked to Plant production II, from which it separated in 2001, when NMA's collection was restructured. Given the importance of plant production in basic agricultural production, it is unsurprising that the first attempts to document these activities date to the 1890s, when they were undertaken in connection with the Jubilee Exhibition and the Czechoslavic Ethnographic Exhibition in Prague. The museum of agriculture then purchased this older body of items in the 1920s from the Ethnographic Society. In the following years, the collection grew rapidly thanks to active museum collaborators, including members of the Agrarian Youth who were active in the regions. Another expansion came after 1945, when the museum acquired Moravian and Silesian artefacts from the closed regional agricultural museums in Opava and Brno. In the 1950s, the most important acquisitions included various materials from a closed agricultural academy in Tábor. Later on, the subcollection grew rapidly mainly thanks to collection activities of museum's own workers. Curators involved in the creation of this subcollection include Ing. Zdeněk Tempír, CSc., who was active in this area since the 1950s. Later on, the subcollection's development was directed by Ing. Antonín Hájek and until 2017, by Ing. Dana Strnadová. Her

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work is now continued by Mgr. et Mgr. Martin Kopeček. The subcollection documents all of the historic Czech Lands but due to limitations in acquisition activities, curators tended to focus on Bohemia. The subcollection includes items pertaining to plant production, botany, chemistry, phytopathology, melioration, and pharmacy practice. The subcollection of agricultural plants documents plants commonly grown in the Czech Lands, mainly cereals and root crops. Represented are mainly varieties grown in the 1920s–1930s and in 1970s–1980s, with later periods represented sporadically. Documented are also almost all the basic kinds of fertilisers except for modern complex products. Crop protection chemicals used to fight plant diseases, pests, and weeds are represented unsystematically and date mostly to the 1950s-1980s. The collection of plant diseases and pests consists of wet and soft-bodied specimens with focus on root crops and hops. Manual tools, at least the best-known kinds, are represented well and the collection covers the period between 1850s and the time of collectivisation, with individual items dating up to the 1990s. For some types of manual tools, we do not have particular kinds and special varieties. In tools used in caring for special crops, mainly hops, the collection includes mainly implements used for soil preparation, construction of hop fields, and hop harvest. Other special group consists of melioration tools, such as melioration spades, hoes, cutters, hooks for laying pipes, and melioration pipes, which do not, however, document the developmental timeline and date almost all to one period. The subcollection also includes instruments and equipment from laboratories used by sciences related to agriculture. Specific in this subcollection are items related to the processing of healing plants. This group includes unique items which document the development of material culture and reflect changing attitudes, individual approach of individual craftsmen, breeders, farmers, and ongoing innovations.

The subcollection is divided in the following units:

- crops
- industrial fertilisers
- crops protection chemicals
- manual agricultural tools and implements: for soil cultivation / for crop sowing and planting / for care of growing plants / plant protection tools / tools used in harvesting and post-harvest processing
- hop-growing tools
- melioration tools
- instruments and teaching aids used by sciences involved in agriculture
- items relevant to laboratory use in plant and animal production
- universal laboratory instruments and equipment
- tools and instruments used in pharmacies
- containers used to store medicines and raw materials
- commercial packages of medicines

The subcollection currently includes 6,548 items. Among the most important are manual agricultural tools (pins for binding sheaves, soil cultivation tools) from late 19th and early 20th century, a collection of melioration tools, and equipment used until mid–20th century to build hop fields and grow hops. Extraordinarily interesting is the collection of pharmacy containers used to store medicines and raw materials used in their production.

Plant production II

33 | **The turning plough of Cousins Veverka.** This plough cut into the soil, crumbled, and turned it. It was an extremely important invention.

34 | **Wunderlich's seeding machine.** In 1774–1777, Josef Wunderlich from Budweis constructed a horse-drawn sowing machine for cereals. It was an important innovation because from one container, the machine sowed grains in several rows. Although in a modified form, this principle is used by all modern sowing machines. This full-sized model was made for the Museum of Agriculture by Josef Kučera from Kutná Hora.

The history of this subcollection is closely linked to Plant production I described above, from which it split in 2001. The separation was motivated mainly by the need of special care of some large items, such as plant production machinery and equipment kept in the NMA's Čáslav branch, where conditions allow for better care of such items. Of fundamental importance for the creation of predecessors of the current subcollection, i.e., the Department of plant production and later Department of the history of plant cultivation, especially soil cultivation, was the work of Ing. František Šach and Ing. Zdeněk Tempír CSc. Their systematic acquisition efforts and research led to the creation of a unique collection of original ploughs, one of the largest of its kind in Europe. Since 2005, this subcollection's curator is Ing. Jan Láznička. In terms of provenance, the subcollection focuses on machines and equipment used in the Czech Lands, produced both here and abroad. The largest and highly valuable group of items in this subcollection consists of ploughs, mainly traditional wooden, 19th and in some cases late 18th century ploughs. Less represented are iron animal-drawn ploughs from the first half of the 20th century. Insufficiently represented are tractor ploughs from the second half of the 20th century. The group of harrows, rollers, and cultivators is also less numerous and except for harrows includes mostly more recent items. The subcollection includes 45 sowing and planting machines and another 80 in the form of models. The earliest sowing machines date to the second half of the 19th century, but most machines in this group are from the interwar period. This group is supplemented by technical details of modern sowing machines. The group of pre-1989 sowing machines includes, except for machines used in no-till seeding and seed drills with added fertilisation, all of the important types used in the Czech Lands. Less represented are machines used for fertilisation and irrigation, such as animal-drawn machines for manure spreading all the way to universal broadcast spreaders. Machines and tools used in care of growing crops are represented poorly with the exception of a rich collection of weeders. Harvesting machines are documented relatively well. This group includes several dozen reapers, animal-drawn reaper-bunchers, and bunchers. In harvest of root crops, the collection is focused on potato and sugar beet harvesting. Machines dating to 1948–1989 are represented well, from two-row lifters all the way to potato harvesters. The collection of post-harvest processing machines is, with over 80 threshers, some 20 balers, one of the largest. In addition to these, this groups also includes about a dozen machines for seed cleaning.

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The subcollection is organised in units according to the type of agrotechnical operation:

- machines for soil preparation and cultivation
- sowing and seeding machines
- fertilisation and irrigation machines
- crops protection machines
- cereal and forage crops harvesting machines
- root crops harvesting machines
- machines involved in post-harvest processing

The subcollection includes app. 1,200 machines and tools, other items are mainly models. In total, the subcollection includes 1,855 items. Current acquisition priority is to add modern, post–1989 machines and equipment, either the original machines or at least models or documentation.

Unique items in this subcollection include the original turning plough of Veverka cousins, a full-scale model of Wunderlich's seeder, and combined harvester SM–500.

Animal production

35 | Figural beehive with a motif of St. Margaret, patroness of farmers, shepherds, and crops. The beehive was created by adapting a wooden statue.

Given the key importance of animal production, it is natural that this subcollection is among the oldest parts of NMA's collection. Its origins go back to the Ethnographic Society's early attempts to document agriculture for the Jubilee Exhibition and the Ethnographic Exhibition in the 1890s, and some of its items belong to the oldest part of NMA's collection, the collection of the former Schwarzenberg Museum of Forestry and Hunting. A turning point came with the purchase of items from the Ethnographic Society soon after the foundation of the museum of agriculture in 1918. Other acquisitions were related to collection activities of the regional branches and members of the Agrarian Youth. After 1945, the collection received the remains of collections of regional branches in Opava and Brno and items from the closed Agricultural Academy in Tábor and a specialised school in Chrudim. Later on, the NMA acquired further items or entire collections by donations, confiscations, escheat, or collecting activities of its own workers.

The following people importantly contributed to the collection's creation: Ing. Lumír Loudil, CSc., after 1983 Ing. Vladimíra Růžičková, and since 2017, the subcollection has been managed by Mgr. Jana Jírovcová. The subcollection covers the entire territory of the Czech Republic.

It is divided in the following areas:

Animal breeding: plaster models (portraits) of cattle, horse, sheep, and pig breeds — taxidermic specimens — instruments used to identify animals and animal tags — insemination instruments — facilities for hatching and care for young poultry — instruments used for describing animals' exterior — instruments for milk productivity assessment

Animal yields: raw sheep wool — collection and storage of eggs — cattle yokes and harnesses — horse yokes and harnesses — samples of original animal yields

Animal care: tools for cleaning animals and stables — tools for animal cleaning and grooming — horse and ox shoes — collection of animal protection: instruments of veterinary medicine — collection of medications — vaccine collection — collection of foreign objects from animal bodies — wet specimens of animal diseases

Household processing of animal yields (dairy production): milk and cream containers — containers for cow, sheep, and goat milking — butter churns — cream separator — quark presses — milking aids — product processing aids — milk cooling aids

fodder preparation and fodder: — roughage crushing — forage cutting — drinking basins — troughs and mangers — washers, graters, steamers, and pressers for root vegetables — feed samples

Apiculture: beehives — honey extractors — small tools and instruments — brood frames and boxes for bees — bee breeding tools

Osteology

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The subcollection contains 3,949 items. Among the most valuable are historical beehives, including the 'tenfold' hive from Fulnek dated to 1673, which was according to a legend used by John Amos Comenius, and taxidermic specimens of stud bull Cesar, English thoroughbred Gradiva, and other mounted specimens of farm animals.

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36 | **Saddle, late 19th century.** In the 19th century, horses played a key role in farming.

37 | **Horse yoke, late 19th century.** Yoke increased the efficiency of animal work, because it did not choke the animal and its placement made better use of their draught power.

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38 | Factory series of tractors

39 | **One of three surviving prototypes of SM 500.** A prototype of thresher harvester SM 400 was completed in 1970. In the following year, three functional prototypes SM 500 were tested. The project's aim was to take the next step in the development of combined harvesters. The production, however, never took off and the project was within the COMECON handed over to the GDR. One of the prototypes of SM 500 is kept in the museum depository in Čáslav.

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Transportation and energy sources

The origins of this highly attractive subcollection go back to 1950s, when the NMA acquired a unique Praga K5 motor plough. This was followed by many other, oftentimes unique acquisitions, such as the Fordson tractor acquired in 1970 from Václav Lír in 1970 and two Svoboda tractors purchased in 1971. The iconic Fowler steam ploughing engine, now called 'Přemysl and Libuše', came into the collection in 1972 from Katusice state farm near Mladá Boleslav. At first, the collection was located in the compound of the Research Institute of Agricultural Machinery in Prague-Řepy, but as it grew, the space became insufficient. In 1991, the NMA acquired new facilities in the former car-park of the Soviet Army in Zdechovice near Kačina and the collection was relocated there. These halls were large enough to house both a depository and permanent exhibitions. Nonetheless, a new relocation came in 2003, when the rented Zdechovice compound no longer met the museum's needs. The collection was moved to newly acquired facilities in Čáslav, where it is housed at present. In terms of territorial scope, this subcollection documents the development of transportation in the whole Czech Republic but many items were imported from abroad. The subcollection's curators include Ing. Pavel Müller and since 1993 Ing. Vladimír Michálek.

The subcollection is divided in the following two groups, which are further subdivided:

Energy sources and towing equipment: engines relying on muscle power, water, wind, steam, combustion, electricity — tractors

Transport vehicles: manual — draught — towed — trailers — engine-driven

The subcollection sufficiently documents the area of energy sources. The collection of tractors is unique as to its extent and requires extraordinary care. The collection of energy sources is relatively representative in terms of muscle-driven, combustion, and electric engines. In terms of size, it ranks among the largest in the Czech Republic. It not only includes items attractive for visitors but is also a valuable source of information about the variety of production in the territory of former Czechoslovakia. In the group of engines driven by muscle power, neither stationary nor mobile horse-mills are represented. Among water engines, we miss the Pelton and Kaplan's turbine and all wind-driven engines. Difficult are also acquisitions of steam engines and some types of engines are almost unobtainable. We also have no steam tractor: very few were produced and we have not been able to find them. Given the inaccessibility of older machines, our collection features relatively few tractors produced before 1930. In the 1930–1952 group, we have almost all tractors used in our territory. The group of 1952–1989 is gradually supplemented by further tractors, but we are still missing for instance small tractor T–4K–10 and one-axle tractor TAP, while in the higher class, we miss tractors from unified front-drive series I (e.g. 3045), unified series II (e.g. 16045), and tractor Ursus C–355. Modern, post-1989 tractors are currently beyond our financial possibilities, so we will have to purchase or make models. We also try to continuously enrich other parts of the subcollection, both by original machines and by models or documentation. Our goal is to improve the documentary value of the subcollection and encompass all the main directions of development of agricultural machinery, so as to enable comprehensive study and research in this area. Among the 400 items included in this subcollection, many are unique, for instance the Fowler steam ploughing machine, Praga and Excelsior motor ploughs, or the prototype of Škoda HT 25 tractor.

Food industry

40 | **White glass Lacrum cream bottles, first half of the 20th century.** Lacrum dairy plant in Brno-Židenice started operating in 1912. In 1925, two then largest dairy companies merged and formed Central Farmers' Dairy which sold its products under Lacrum brand. After nationalisation in 1951, the dairy became Lacrum National Enterprise, which also started to produce frozen creams.

41 | **Liqueur bottles**, Art Nouveau, 1920s. Liqueurs are distillates with relatively high sugar content made from pure alcohol with added essences, extracts, or infusions.

42 | **Container for ice cream preservation and sale.** A wooden box, into which a porcelain container with ice cream was placed and ice packed around it.

43 | **Wooden crate for 20 bottles of Zátka lemonades.** In 1877, JUDr. Ferdinand Zátka started selling bread in Prague-Karlín. Later, he focused on the production of sodas, lemonades, mustard, ketchup, and coffee substitutes. In 1932, he built a new factory which also produced also long-lasting baked goods and waffles branded as Meteor.

44 | **Beer barrels and kegs.** A wooden and an aluminium beer container. In 1960s, wooden barrels were replaced by aluminium kegs, which were in most breweries used until 1990s, when they were replaced by stainless steel kegs.

45 | **WECK preserving pot with accessories** – thermometer, spoon, opener, springs, and preserve jars. Preserving jars by the German company J. Weck & Co. in Öflingen-Baden (founded 1900) appeared on the Czech market before the First World War.

Although it contains numerous items which came into the NMA collections early, some were acquired even before the museum's foundation by the Ethnographic Society in the 1880s, this subcollection has been systematically built only since the 1960s. A significant part of it consists of items and models from the Agricultural Academy in Tábor, which date to the 1930s. The subcollection is focused on manual or industrial processing of agricultural products with some overlap to domestic methods of processing. The items document the situation in food industry in the Czech Lands mainly between the 19th century and the present. In terms of territorial range, it covers the Czech Lands with emphasis on Central Bohemia. In late 1960s and in the 1970s, Ing. Dr. Zdeněk Kuttelvašer, CSc. worked tirelessly on its improvement, collecting mainly items related to milling, baking, viticulture, and the meat industry. He forged links with existing dairy and meat processing companies and acquired from them for the subcollection many packaging and wrapping items. Another development of this subcollection came in late 1980s with the new curator, Ing. Jan Maňas, who focused mainly on canning, preservation, and brewing. In 1990s, the subcollection had no curator and stagnated. It started developing again only in 2005 with the arrival of its current curator, Mgr. Lucie Kubásková (Dolanská).

The subcollection is structured according to the areas of food industry:

— milling
— baking (incl. confectionery)
— butcheries (incl. smoked goods)
— dairy processing (incl. butter and cheese production)
— brewing and malting
— sugar production
— starch industry
— vinegar production
— oil production
— production of coffee substitutes and other stimulating foods
— fruit and vegetable preservation

These areas are represented in the subcollection unevenly, which is and has been determined by possibilities of their 3D documentation. One of the limiting factors which set food industry apart from domestic food processing is the large size of machines. Since the mid-20th century, moreover, industry tends to work with production lines which can hardly be placed in museum depositories. Old workshop equipment and equipment of small companies, meanwhile, fell prey to gradual modernisation.

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The aim of our collecting activities is to document the development of food industry since the 19th century until the present. Our priority is to catalogue all items currently registered only chronologically, to actively acquire items which are still missing, and to present the subcollection and involve it in scientific projects. In general, the largest gaps in the subcollection are related to the documentation of particular parts of food industry. In some cases, we cannot acquire the original large production machines, so we should focus on a different form of documentation, collect small appliances and tools, but also packaging related to various kinds of food industry. We need to improve documentation and acquire new 3D collection items pertaining to vinegar, yeast, sugar, and starch industries as well as distilleries, which have so far been overlooked. It will be necessary to start documenting current production methods using company documentation, photo and video documentation, eventually also models. At the moment, we witness highly varied and changing production of various products and this should also be captured. Perhaps best suited to that purpose is photographic documentation.

The subcollection includes app. 2,500 items and various areas are unfortunately documented to a different degree. This should change. The most valuable items in this subcollection include models of old Bohemian milling set-up, proso millet husking mill, and unique stamp mills.

Olericulture

46 | **Triple skimmer plough, late 19th century.** This machine was constructed by inventor František Horký, whose innovation enabled better use of draught power and regulation of ploughing depth. In the NMA, this plough belongs to subcollection Plant Production II.

47 | **Heavy plough, 18th–19th century.** In the Czech Lands, this plough spread in the 13th to 14th century. This technical innovation brought about better breaking up of the soil.

48 | **Wheelbarrow seeder.** This wooden seeder, produced probably before the Second World War, was donated to the museum in 2004. This principle helped to speed up sowing and made it more efficient.

This subcollection documents another traditional plant-growing activity, namely vegetable farming. The collection started to develop in early 1960s, first in Lednice and now in Valtice. Its aim is to document the development of olericulture in the Czech Lands. For many years, the collection was built by Ing. Vítězslav Koukal and Ing. Lydie Oukropcová. After their departure in 1999, it was managed by Mgr. Kamila Svobodová, Ph.D., and since 2010, its curator is Ing. Vilém Křeček.

The most important and largest group of items in the subcollection are those related to vegetable growing proper, i.e. seeding facilities and tools for seed germination, hoeing, weeding, and thinning of the growing vegetables, but also to harvesting, packaging, storage, and speeding of crops maturation. A second large group includes items linked to fertilisation and plant protection, such as fertilisers, chemicals used for spraying and spraying equipment, and items related to irrigation. A third group includes items used in vegetable conservation, drying, and freezing. Since these activities are related to subcollection on fruit farming, some of the relevant items are located there. The last group in the subcollection is a large collection of paraffin models of various vegetables and their varieties.

These four groups are represented unevenly. Missing are mainly items related to industrial production or recent innovations. Since these are mostly large artefacts, it may be useful to acquire their models or to deposit originals in a suitable depository. In the first group pertaining to vegetable farming, i.e. seeding, weeding, harvest, etc., we miss again especially larger seeding machines, mechanical and powered weeders, as well as sod cutters. Regarding vegetable harvesting, the subcollection includes mainly hand tools. Entirely absent are harvesting machines, pullers, diggers, and transporters. Even among hothouses for speeding vegetable maturation, the subcollection includes only one, a wooden one. Due to their size, we also miss various kinds of irrigators. In the second group of items, those linked to fertilisation and plant protection, most items are of older date. Modern fertilisers and spraying chemicals are absent. The third group, focused on vegetable preservation, drying, and freezing, is relatively comprehensive, but current trends need to be followed and new items added continuously. The last group, a collection of paraffin models, contains models of various varieties of vegetables which appeared prior to 2001. At that point, the production of models in Valtice had after Dušan Kachyňa's departure stopped. Missing are thus models of newer varieties of vegetables and some previously less common vegetables, such as broccoli, sugar melon, but also spinaches and salads, which are hard to model. Entirely absent are turnips, spring onions, and artichokes. The subcollection currently consists of 987 items. Its rarest artefacts include a wooden hoe with metal fittings, a set of asparagus bells, and a Vajma buncher for producing pre-packed planting stock, which was donated to the museum by the breeding station in Valtice.

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Fruit farming

This subcollection was created by a transfer of items from the Kačina Chateau and by museum workers' collecting activities during the entire existence of NMA branch in Lednice and later in Valtice. The large number of items in this subcollection testifies to our efforts to document this area of agriculture as thoroughly as possible.

The subcollection's aim is to document fruit farming in the whole territory of the Czech Lands. Past curators include Ing. Zdeněk Tempír, CSc., Ing. Vítězslav Koukal, and Ing. Lydie Oukropcová. In 2000, Ing. Jaroslav Pokorný was appointed its curator and in 2009, the subcollection was briefly managed by Ing. Vilém Křeček. Since 2014, it has been curated by Mgr. Kamila Svobodová, Ph.D.

The subcollection has no formal subdivisions but it does form two main groups. First consists of items related to fruit farming, the second of those related to its processing. The subcollection thus includes, e.g. tools for soil cultivation, care of fruit trees, chemicals (both fertilisers and chemicals for plant protection), instruments and facilities for fruit processing, and various supplementary materials. Of extraordinary importance is a collection of paraffin and plaster models of fruits. Nonetheless, fruit farming evolves and models of older fruit varieties should be supplemented with newer ones. Absent are also some sets of items whose use overlaps with other subcollections, e.g. soil cultivation tools. To make the subcollection more comprehensive, we should thus add further items documenting the development of fruit farming and fruit processing. Moreover, the subcollection lacks newer instruments and tools. One could also consider expanding the collection of chemicals used in protection of fruit and fruit trees against pests and diseases. At the moment, the subcollection consists of 1,982 items. Its most valuable part is the abovementioned collection of paraffin models of fruits, especially apples and pears. Many models represent old and nowadays rare varieties. This collection of paraffin models has been created since 1980s at the Kačina Chateau by Mrs. Eva Beňáčková, whose work was until 2001 continued in Valtice by Mr. Dušan Kachyňa.

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49 | **Paraffin fruit models.** The museum has in its collection 505 models of apples, 121 pears, 78 plums and damsons, 62 strawberries and the same number of cherries and sour cherries, 45 peaches, 32 apricots, and several dozen models of other small fruits.

Viticulture

This subcollection partly overlaps with subcollections Food production and Plant production. Even so, it has been built as a separate collection since early 1960s, first in Lednice and later in Valtice. It was created by transferring earlier acquired collection items from the Kačina Chateau and then by consistent, over 50-years long acquisition activities of South Moravian branches of the NMA. In the past, the subcollection has been curated by, e.g., Ing. Zdeněk Tempír, CSc., Ing. Vítězslav Koukal, and Ing. Janina Tržilová. After their departure, it was in 2000–2009 managed by Ing. Jaroslav Pokorný and since 2009, its curator is Mgr. Kamila Svobodová, Ph.D. In terms of territory, the subcollection's focus in on Moravia.

The subcollection has no formally defined subdivisions but its items form two main groups. The first includes items that document viticulture, meaning the growing of wine grapes. The other is related to wine-making and cellar management, i.e. the processing of wine grapes and wine production, packaging, and transport. Prevalent in the subcollection are items related to cellar management, which uses more specific tools and implements than wine growing, where most tools and implements overlap with fruit farming or production of field crops, such as tractors, weeders, hoes, scissors, saws, etc. Even so, the subcollection does include some tools used in soil cultivation, in care for the vines, and chemicals (fertilisers and plant protection chemicals), as well as tools and implements used in grape processing, equipment for wine distribution, and specialised supplementary materials. Some kinds of items are unfortunately still absent in the subcollection. First of all, we miss some historical items, such as wine filters, comprehensive sets of vineyard knives, or historical wine bottles. Insufficiently represented are also modern machines and tools used in wine growing and wine processing and unsatisfactory is the documented range of chemical fertilisers and grape wine protection chemicals. Our acquisition priorities include a comprehensive documentation of modernisation in viticulture, in some cases at least in the form of photo and video documentation. The subcollection includes 498 items, including a set of unique historical wooden grape and fruit presses.

50 | A barrel for wine crushing with wine-punching implements
51 | Demijohns
52 | Portable sprayer
53 | A hoe and a spade for working the vineyard
54 | Handheld bellows sprayer

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Botany

55 | Part of collection of seeds of old varieties of trees belonging to genus *Prunus*

56 | **A specialised agricultural monthly** named *Milotický hospodář* appeared since 1896. It was published by Arnošt Dadák from Milotice nad Bečvou.

The subcollection started forming already in 1961, first at the Lednice, then Valtice branch of the NMA. An important impulse for its development came with a collection of seeds donated in 1971 by the gardener J. Prokop, who worked at the Botanical Garden of the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the Charles University in Prague. Other important items came into the collection in 1974 by donation from the Department of Dendrology of the Agricultural University in Brno. Most of these seeds were acquired by exchange between botanical gardens and research institutes from all over the world. A small part of seeds in the collection came from the Central Institute for Supervising and Testing in Agriculture in Podivín, from the agricultural cooperative Tršicko, and from Velké Losiny Breeding Station. Part of the collection, such as fruit stones and seeds of cereals, vegetables, legumes, and forage plants, oil-bearing plants, and ornamental garden plants, were acquired by collecting activities of NMA workers. To a smaller extent, the subcollection also includes wood cuttings, fern spores, cones, and dried samples of herbs. In the past, the subcollection was managed by Ing. Antonín Hájek, after its relocation to the Valtice branch by Ing. Vítězslav Koukal, and since 2000 by Ing. Jaroslav Pokorný. In 2004, management of the subcollection passed to Ing. Vilém Křeček and since 2005, it has been curated by Mgr. Dominika Švédová. The main area where samples come from is southern Moravia and main emphasis has been on economically important, thermophilic plants.

The subcollection is not formally divided in parts but its items naturally form a number of groups. The most important and largest group consists of plant seeds, pips, stones, and nuts. Dominant in this group are varieties of decorative and fruit-bearing plants and vegetables, especially peas, hazelnuts, peppers, and apple, plum, and apricot trees. Less well represented are the seeds of some endemic herbaceous plants, such alpine hawkweed or perennial honesty. Another group of fifty items consists of cuttings from the trunks of some of our naturally occurring, decorative, and fruit-bearing trees. A fourth group, which includes cones of decorative and endemic conifers also numbers fifty items. The smallest but no less important group consists of dried specimens of stems and leaves of the most common herbs (summer and winter savory, rosemary, oregano). The subcollection includes 2,353 items. Its most important part is the extensive collection of plant diaspores (seeds, stones, nuts, cones, etc.), which offer a good insight into differences between various species and varieties.

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Zoology

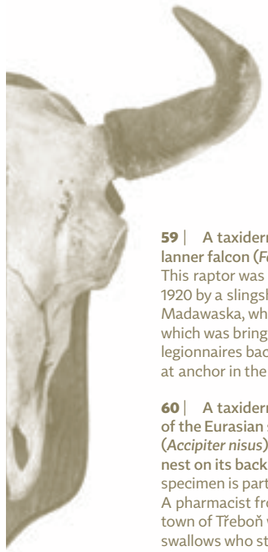
This subcollection was created in 2015, which makes it one of the newest ones, but it reflects collecting activities spanning almost 180 years. Its formation was inspired by efforts to create a zoological collection that would map Central European fauna as a whole, not only game species. The NMA therefore gradually created a collection of fauna from the Czech Lands as well as some other parts of Central Europe. Especially in relation to birds, this collection's extent, completeness, and variety of species goes beyond the interests of hunting. These valuable groups of items have inspired the creation of a separate subcollection curated by Mgr. Marie Voldřichová. This subcollection should gradually absorb many items from the subcollections of Hunting (mounted specimens of mammals and birds, furs, excrements and pellets, nests, skeletons, ethanol-preserved specimens, models, anomalies, antlers which do not qualify as trophies, etc.) and Forestry (especially entomology).

The subcollection currently includes 3,731 items transferred from other NMA's subcollections. The long-term plan is to collect zoological material related to all species of mammals and birds living in the Czech Republic. The subcollection is currently divided in sections of mammalogy, ornithology, and entomology. In future, old mounted specimens which survived poorly should be supplemented with newer ones, better suited for display by preservation of diagnostic characteristics and natural looks, while the historic originals would undergo a sensitive re-preparation. We also want to document species which are either not represented sufficiently, such as small mammals (rodents such as the bank vole, water vole, common vole, yellow-necked mouse, field mouse, and various small insectivores such as the common shrew, mole, or bats), or are missing altogether, such as some predators (American mink and the jackal), large mammals (wild goat), and among birds for instance the sand martin, Eurasian blackcap, Canada goose, Eurasian blue tit, Eurasian oystercatcher, etc. For some zoologically and culturally important species, we should acquire more specimens (roe deer, beaver, red deer). We also want to systematically expand other parts of the subcollection (furs, skulls, eggs, nests, casts of tracks, etc.). Of unique value within this subcollection is Sallač's collection of deer antlers and bovid horns, which includes e.g. the antlers of Schomburgk's deer (*Rucervus schomburgki*). The subcollection also includes a unique ornithological collection with some of the oldest items in NMA's collection. The origins of this group go back to 1839, i.e. a time before the foundation of the Schwarzenberg forestry museum, when Václav Špatný, assistant forest manager, was instructed by Count Johann Adolf II od Schwarzenberg to prepare, assisted by head forester Franz von Feldegg, mounted specimens of the first birds. These items later served as a valuable information source to our leading ornithologists, such as A. Frič, F. Bayer, and J. Janda. It is one of the largest and most complete collections of birds in the Czech Republic and it is often exhibited in and outside our museum. The subcollection includes 296 species of birds and a total of 2,456 specimens. Its most valuable item is probably the marbled duck (*Anas angustirostris*).

57

57 | **A taxidermic specimen of female European mink (*Mustela lutreola*).** The animal was trapped near the Nadýmač pond in Hluboká nad Vltavou in 1843.

58 | **The ornithological collection of the museum** includes app. 300 species of birds in 2,500 specimens, which makes it one of the largest and most comprehensive in the Czech Republic.



59 | **A taxidermic specimen of lanner falcon (*Falco biarmicus*).** This raptor was killed on 8 April 1920 by a slingshot from USS Madawaska, while the ship, which was bringing Czechoslovak legionnaires back home, was at anchor in the Red Sea.

60 | **A taxidermic specimen of the Eurasian sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*) with a swallow nest on its back.** This 19th century specimen is part of a curious story: A pharmacist from south Bohemian town of Třeboň wanted to scare off swallows who started to build a nest above his door. To this purpose, he purchased a mounted sparrowhawk to frighten the birds. It did not work. The swallows built a nest on the stuffed raptor's back and twice reared their young in it.

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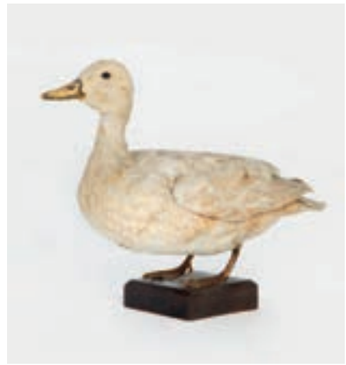

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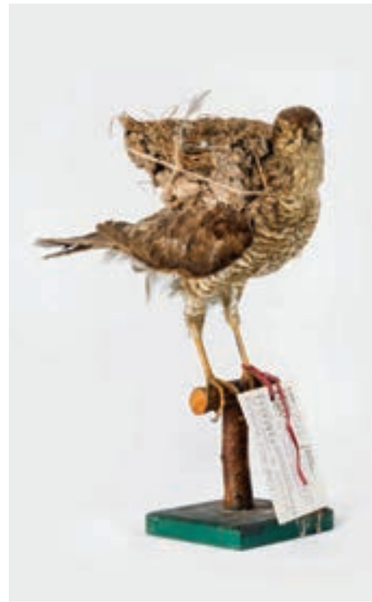

Forestry

This subcollection belongs to the oldest parts of NMA's collections because it includes artefacts and naturefacts from the former Schwarzenberg Museum of Forestry and Hunting, which was founded in 1842. In the NMA, this subcollection has formed since 1920s with the aim of documenting contemporary forestry as a dynamically developing area of human activity. Its parts were located at all the NMA's regional branches. Those which survived the Second World War were gathered and relocated first to Prague, in 1950 to Konopiště, and from there in 1961–1964 to the Ohrada Chateau. At that point, they were joined with items from the abovementioned Schwarzenberg museum at Ohrada and Schwarzenberg assessment office. Many items from this subcollection have also been acquired by NMA's own collecting activities since 1961. Though unevenly, the subcollection documents the territory of the former Czechoslovakia with emphasis on southern Bohemia. The subcollection was created by a number of workers and curators. Its oldest part is largely the creation of Václav Špatný (1807–1882), during the interwar period, its curator was Ing. Josef Nýderle, and in the 1980s, it was built within the Department of the history of forestry by Ing. Václav Kasal and Ing. Marcela Andresková. In 2007–2009, it was managed by Ing. Hana Schejbalová, in 2010–2014 by Ing. Lenka Levá, and since 2015, its curator is Ing. Jana Melcrová.

61

61 | Czechoslovak Museum of Agriculture in Bratislava, Museum of Forestry and Hunting, 1939

62 | **Xylotheque.** A unique, 200 years old dendrological herbal which describes 68 species of woody plants growing in our territory. Each box contains samples of leaves, fruits, and seeds, as well as a hand-written description of properties of the tree.

This subcollection is large and highly varied, spanning from naturefacts (herbals), to work tools (for forest logging, growing, and protection), instruments (for timber assessment), all the way to maps and video and film material. It also partly covers wood processing and includes some wooden objects. It is divided in sections according to forestry activities: botany and dendrology, forest pedology, forestry land surveying, economic forest management and dendrometry, forest creation and growing, forest protection, forest logging, timber transport and storage, forest meliorations, auxiliary forestry production, paintings, and forest community. Until 2018, it also included an entomological section, but that was now relocated to zoology subcollection. The subcollection includes items dating from late 18th century until the present. Its variety places high demands on item classification and registration. Problematic is also care of large items, mostly of technical nature, which require special storage facilities and their conservation and restoration is technically demanding. The subcollection consists of 8,765 items. Its most valuable parts are a set of timber assessment instruments from Prof. Haša's collection, a dendrological herbal (xylotheque) from the forestry school in Zlatá Koruna, forestry decrees of Empress Maria Theresa, a trunk slice from the second oldest spruce in the Bohemian Forest, and some of the oldest power saws made in Bohemia.

62

Hunting

63 | **A late 16th or early 17th century hunting gun.** Muzzle-loading rifle with a wheellock. The butt is inlaid with ivory and features motifs of deer, fox, hare, and dog.

64 | **A leather falconry lure with feathers.** Such lures are used in raptor training, in this case in the training of kestrels.

65 | **A late 17th century meat-carving set** includes a carving knife, fork, and a trussing needle.

Like the forestry subcollection, this subcollection is one of the oldest in NMA's collection. Its oldest items cone from the Ohrada collection, which started forming in 1842 when the public Schwarzenberg Museum of Forestry and Hunting was established. This collection includes, e.g., mounted specimens of mammals and birds created by the museum's first administrator, Václav Špatný. Later on, this hunting-related collection was supplemented by zoological collections, hunting weapons, trophies, and rarities either from Schwarzenberg estates or acquired by hunting activities of aristocratic families from the Czech Lands and other parts of Central Europe (especially hunting trophies). Curators of the Ohrada museum aimed at creating zoological collections mapping Central European fauna in general, not only game species. The NMA acquired this collection in 1961. In the same year, it also acquired a collection from the Lednice Chateau, where a State Teaching Museum for Hunting was established in 1955. Its collection included mainly mounted specimens of birds and mammals and a set of historic weapons. Another important group of items related to hunting was acquired by active, passive, or rescue collections of NMA's workers. Many valuable items (hunting weapons, works of art) were acquired after the war via activities of the National Cultural Committee (they were brought from collections at Czech and Moravian chateaux). An important part of the subcollection is the Sallač collection of deer antlers and bovid horns, which was donated by the Czechoslovak Hunting Association. A merger between the collections of the Ohrada Hunting Lodge and NMA's collections created a unique collection documenting the history of Czech and Central European hunting. Over time, the collection had been managed not only by Václav Špatný (1807–1882), but after 1945 also by Ing. Josef Nýderle and in the 1980s at the former Department of history of hunting and fishing by Ing. Jiří Andreska, CSc. In 2005–2017, it was curated by Mgr. Martin Slaba, and since 2018 its curator is Ing. Jana Melcrová.

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This is one of the largest subcollections of NMA's collection. By provenience, it covers not only the Czech Lands but also other parts of Central Europe and even beyond. It is further subdivided as follows:

Hunting cynology: models of dogs — mounted specimens of hunting dogs — items used in the breeding and training of hunting dogs

Hunting trophies: red deer — roe deer — fallow deer — other species of deer — chamois — bovids — wild boar — other furred game — feathered game

Hunting weapons: cold weapons — firearms — firearm accessories

Hunting tools and instruments: hunting traps — hunting nets — bird trapping — hunting models — other

Hunting accessories and aids clothing and accessories

Artworks: paintings — statues and reliefs — applied art

65

Since 2015, items of a zoological nature (mounted specimens, skeletons, bones, skins, eggs, nests, etc.) have been gradually transferred into a newly created Zoology subcollection. This process was completed in 2018 with the transfer of the remaining parts (Sallač collection, mounted specimens of birds and game). This internal reorganisation created space for focused work with specifically hunting-related material, including planning of expansion of the already rich collection of trophies, which has to be built in a well-considered way. The group of cold arms and firearms should be expanded so as to document technological development and cultural history. We also want to add to our unique collection of poaching weapons both historical and contemporary items. Hunting equipment is collected as opportunities arise: we search for items that document the daily life of gamekeepers not only in the past but also in the present. Individual items are also added to a collection of uniforms from all over the Czech Republic. We want to acquire missing uniforms from Schwarzenberg states and state and military forests. Another long-term priority is to enrich our collection of relevant artworks. In general, our goal is to create a maximally comprehensive series tracing the development of particular groups of items so as do document the development of hunting and game keeping in the Czech Lands. The subcollection currently includes 7,573 items. Some of the most unique are a former world's best red deer trophy, the last Czech bear (1856), the last Czech wolf (1874), 19th-century antler furniture, historical hunting weapons, and paintings by Jiří Židlický and Zdeněk Burian.

Fishing and Fisheries

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This subcollection has a rich history. Its oldest items came from the Schwarzenberg forestry and hunting museum at Ohrada. These include dried fish specimens created after 1842 by the museum's manager Václav Špatný. Almost equally old are fishing collections acquired at the initiative of Antonín Fryč for the 1891 Jubilee Land Exhibition and purchased after the museum's establishment in 1918 from the Ethnographic Society. After NMA's forced relocation from Prague, these collections were stored at the Kačina Chateau. In the 1960s, they moved to Ohrada, which led to a unification of the two fonds. A large expansion of the collection, there came plans to create at Ohrada a permanent **installation on fishing and pond management.** In the 1970s, this led to intensive collecting focused on tools used in pond management and equipment of the last professional fishermen at Vltava and Labe Rivers. Further collecting focused on the history of trout fishing, sport fishing, and pond management education and research. The exposition opened in 1977. Afterwards, the subcollection grew slowly, mainly by accidental acquisitions. After 1988, specimens of missing species of fish and other water fauna started to be added systematically. In addition to the abovementioned personalities, the subcollection was also curated by Ing. Jiří Andreska, CSc. and after 1988 by Ing. Miroslav Čeněk.

67

Large part of this subcollection was acquired directly for the abovementioned exposition. It therefore contains few duplicates.

It is divided in six sections:

— Pond keeping: ponds and their parts — pond building tools — fish harvesting — upkeep — hatcheries — fish nurseries (except for Salmonidae) — important personages of pond building and documents
— Trout farming: tools and equipment — images of trout hatcheries, ponds and spawning
— Open water fishing: prehistoric fishing — traditional, professional fishing — sport fishing
— Fish farms with controlled environment
— Hydrobiology: lampreys — fish — amphibians — reptiles — invertebrates — plants and microorganisms — diseases of fish and other water fauna
— Fish management and farming education and research

In the pond keeping section, we have wooden pond pipes and their sections, as well as models of pond outlets and other parts of pond construction. They are of different origin, on different scales, and in various visual styles. Tools used in pond construction at the time of its greatest boom in the Czech Lands did not survive: they are represented by similar tools from the 19th and early 20th century. Dominant in this section are fishing tools decommissioned in the 1970s in connection with mechanisation of fish farming and arrival of new materials. Traditional tools and instruments are well represented in this section but often only in one exemplar. Newer pond management equipment from late 20th and early 21st century is mostly missing. A small group of items related to artificial fish breeding contains nursery tools, containers for roe and hatchling transfer, and baskets for attaching zander roe. The trout farming section features older types of nursery tools and instruments. In the area of prehistoric fishing, the museum has no archaeological collection of its own. It uses replicas and depictions. Traditional fishing and professional fishing is represented comprehensively. The subcollection also documents efforts to save the salmon in Bohemia by artificial breeding in late 19th and early 20th century. This includes plaster casts made by Antonín Frič, Kuffer's fish hatching mugs, and nets for salmon fishing in lakes. Another unique part of the subcollection is the collection of fisherman J. Hulík which includes e.g. a vertical net, a throwing net, a large bag-shaped net, a large net attached to two poles, and an oak boat.

This subcollection is the only one of its kind in the Czech Republic. Its aim is therefore to document the history and current state of fishing and fisheries in the whole territory of the Czech Lands.

68

66 | **Obůzka** was a type of seine net used for night fishing on the Elbe until late 19th century. The net was stretched across the river, on the one side attached to the boat, on the other a wooden bucket served as a float. Then it floated downriver and fish caught themselves. This unique collection item was acquired by the museum in 1971 from fisherman J. Janda of Dolní Beřkovice.

67 | **Fishing:** the history of fishing is documented also in subcollection Photo Archive of the NMA.

68 | **Atlantic salmon, spawner.** This plaster cast was made by Antonín Frič for the 1891 Jubilee Land Exhibition in Prague. The fish was caught during spring migration in March in Litoměřice. It was 97cm (3.1ft) long and weighted 12kg (26.5lbs).

Gastronomy

69 | **Kitchen implements:** tin coffee mills by the Leinbrock Company, enamelled sugar container, and wall containers for various spices, all from the first half of the 20th century.

70 | **M.D. Rettigová's cookbook,** 1906 edition. The cookbook was donated to the museum as part of project Culinary Heritage of the Czech Lands: Memory, Presentation, and Education.

71| **Jug with a handle.** This 14th century jug is decorated by numerous parallel grooves.

This is the newest subcollection of the NMA. It complements the existing rage of subcollections by focusing on human nourishment. In accordance with the museum's current collecting policy, it builds on older subcollections and draws on their hitherto little used potential to document the development of gastronomy. The pyramidal structure of subcollections rests on the foundation of primary resources, which are documented e.g. in subcollections on plant and animal production, botany, fruit and vegetable farming, and fishing and fisheries. The next level, at which these resources are processed, is treated in a subcollection on food production, which however focuses on industrial processing of yields of a cultural landscape. The Gastronomy subcollection then focuses on the upper level, i.e. the stage where the pre-treated (or directly acquired) resources are processed in the kitchen, served, and consumed. This in a sense 'crowns' the whole complex process of agricultural food production. The subcollection was created mainly by the efforts of Mgr. Ondřej Burian and since 2018 by Mgr. Michaela Zeinerová Brachtlová, Ph.D. It documents the whole area of the Czech Republic with partial overlaps to other countries.

69

This new collection naturally draws on existing subcollections and their items. The 'gastronomic' status of individual objects is defined by their relevance to cooking and consumption in rural or urban households. The subcollection thus includes various containers used for keeping cooking ingredients in pantries, cellars, or kitchens (ceramic, stoneware, metal, wood, or straw containers), cooking implements, machines, and other instruments used in food preparation. In future, we would like to acquire also an inventory of a medieval kitchen, as well as dishes, pots and pans, cutlery, and dishes used to serve and consume food and drink. Still considered is the inclusion of items related to some processes which precede cooking, such as domestic butter and cheese making (now included in Animal production), tools and containers for grating and preserving cabbage, domestic slaughter of animals and subsequent processing of meat (all these are now in subcollection Food industry). The subject of gastronomy, or rather sitology, i.e. the science of human nourishment from its material foundations all the way to the cultural importance of food, is, however, wider than the areas just mentioned. In future, the subcollection should include not only material objects but also touch upon the sphere of intangible heritage.

We have also analysed the Ethnographic subcollection, which includes many items related to gastronomy: its second section, Household, contains many dishes and other kitchen equipment. This section consists of some 200 items, including various machines, coffee roasters and mills, mostly well preserved. Some items which could be transferred into this subcollection are now located in the Animal production subcollection (domestic production of butter and cheese), in Food production (domestic slaughter of animals and meat processing), as well as subcollections on Viticulture and Fishing.

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Environment

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This is a relatively new subcollection, currently managed in the Valtice branch. In part, it evolved from earlier subcollection on natural conditions, science, and education, which was housed at Kačina. Many items in this subcollection date to the 19th century and in terms of territory, the subcollection unevenly maps the territory of the whole Czech Republic. In the past, the collection was managed e.g. by Ing. Antonín Hájek. In 2009, it was relocated to Valtice and Mgr. Dominika Švédová was appointed its new curator.

The subcollection is not further divided but it does form several logical groups. The largest group consists of pedological items represented by instruments (sets for gathering of soil samples, soil thermometers, drills, analytical weights, etc.) but also a group of soil monoliths and rocks. Another group is formed of herbals which focus on Czechoslovak grasses, forest and meadow plants, plants growing around villages, field and garden weeds, decorative bushes and trees, and leaves of fruit-bearing bushes and trees. Notable is a group of items related to land surveying and meteorology. Of interest is e.g. a meteorological station and a model of cloud seeding cannons. The subcollection also includes several instruments used in analysing agricultural products, such as a laboratory cereal dryer, germination containers, or instruments measuring fat content in milk.

These groups currently only very unevenly cover the subject of environment. While some groups of naturefacts (rocks, soils, and plants in herbals) are represented sufficiently, other groups are absent (e.g. entomofauna, malacofauna, minerals, fossils, etc.). Some naturefacts are kept also in other subcollections, e.g. herbals and entomological collections related to forestry are kept at Ohrada, but all in all, the NMA's collection does not cover our nature comprehensively. Interesting is the group of instruments used for assessing the environment: this could be expanded and newer technology added. We should also acquire new types of items, because at the moment, the representation of various areas is uneven, which detracts from its documentary value. Acquisitions should not be limited to items coming from the Czech Republic, because documentation of international trends could be informative for our visitors. The third segment of the subcollection, plans and animals closely linked to humans, should, on the other hand, stay focused on the Czech Republic, because anthropogenic activities in nature and their impact on the landscape and the variety of species are region-specific. Detailed knowledge of the Czech conditions is more valuable than superficial familiarity with a wider area. The subcollection currently includes 662 items.

73

72 | **An obelisk from 1887.** John Francis Campbell gained fame as an expert in Celtic history and collector of stories from the western Scottish Highlands. He saved hundreds of tales from oblivion.

73 | **Campbell-Stokes's sunshine recorder with registering tapes.** This is a heliograph, an instrument that measures the duration of sunshine. It was constructed in 1853 by John Francis Campbell and further improved in 1879 by the Irish mathematician and physicist George Gabriel Stokes. This principle of measurement is still used today.

74 | **Expedition:** museum's workers during a research trip at Kriváň, 1960.

74

Floriculture

This subcollection started emerging in early 1960s, first in Lednice, later in Valtice. In the past, it has been curated by e.g. Ing. Zdeněk Tempír, CSc., Ing. Vítězslav Koukal, and Ing. Janina Tržilová. In 1999, its care was entrusted to Mgr. Kamila Svobodová, Ph.D., and since 2010, its curator is Ing. Vilém Křeček. The subcollection represents a rare collection documenting the development of floriculture in the whole territory of the Czech Republic. Unfortunately, it is still rather incomplete. It is not internally divided but its items form several groups. The first large group contains items linked to the growing of ornamental flowers, their planting and seeding (dibbers and planting spades, seeding machines), transplanting (transplanting dibbers and trowels), harvesting and drying (garden scissors), and preparation for sale (equipment for packaging flowers for transport). An important subgroup within this group is formed of items related to growing of decorative flowers in hothouses, models of flower gardens, and equipment for hydroponic flower growing. Hydroponic methods are linked to a set of items including substrates, containers, and large systems for growing flowers in nutrient solutions. Another important group of items includes flower arranging aids, which serve for preparation of foundations, tying and propping the flowers and greenery in flower arrangements. A third group consists of items related to flower nutrition, fertilisation, and protection. This means mainly fertilisers: organic and inorganic, growth regulators, and various sprays used for protection of decorative flowers against pests.

The abovementioned groups are currently represented in the subcollection highly unevenly. Those related to growing of ornamental plants are documented relatively well, with some shortcomings in the area of tools for transplantation of plants, special scissors for flower cutting, and some newer items, such as dibblers for bulb planting. Items related to hothouse cultivation of decorative (but also other) plants are absent almost entirely. Parts of heating systems, irrigation systems, hothouse covers, and instruments for monitoring hothouse climate are likewise missing, though this could be somewhat compensated for by models of various kinds of hothouses. With respect to flower arranging tools, the basic ones are documented. Missing are only some newer items and specialised binding aids as well as some chemicals used for extending the longevity of cut flowers. In the group of fertilisers and plant protection chemicals, the subcollection misses newer items and growth regulators are completely absent. Given possible toxicity of some chemicals, this gap could be filled by acquiring just their packaging and containers. Our long-term goal is mainly to acquire missing tools and instruments used in growing, arranging, and presenting decorative flowers so as to document all areas of floristics by items characteristic of various time periods. This would make the subcollection whole. We must also continuously follow new trends. The subcollection consists of 359 items, most valuable of which are flower vases from Delft faience, 3D models of chateau gardens, and a set of paintings on glass depicting manorial and urban gardens.

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75 | **From the museum's photo archive.** Photographs document park arrangement and composition of plants and trees.

76 | **A 3D painting** of the Telč chateau. A series of paintings on glass positioned on top of one another create an illusion of plasticity.

76

Ethnography

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This is the oldest part of NMA's collection. First items now belonging to it were collected already for the Jubilee and later the Ethnographic Exhibition in the 1890s. After the establishment of a Museum of Agriculture in 1918, these items were purchased from the Ethnographic Society, which makes them the oldest core of the museum's collection. Over time, this collection grew. Especially important were the activities of museum groups of the Agrarian Youth, which were formed by the initiative of Dr. Josef Kazimour, long-time secretary of the Association of the Czechoslovak Agricultural Museum. Items of ethnographic interest were collected during the entire interwar period together with artefacts documenting agricultural production. Further large expansion of the department Farmers' Life, as this subcollection was called, came with the Slavia Agricultural Exhibition in Prague in 1948. After that date, the subcollection grew very slowly. In the 1980s, it was managed in the Department of agricultural enterprise and settlements headed by Vratislav Šmelhaus, CSc. A significant renewal of work on this subcollection came with a change in the conceptual approach in the last decade. Gradually, artefacts documenting household furnishings were added, including some early 20th century furniture. In the past, this collection was curated by PhDr. Pavel Novák, CSc., RNDr. Roman Bortel, PhD., Mgr. Martin Vlček, and Mgr. Jana Jírovcová. Since 2018, its curator is Mgr. Klára Linhartová. The subcollection covers the entire area of the Czech Republic with focus on Bohemia.

It is divided in the following sections:

— Household furnishings: documents the basic types of household contents, especially 19th to mid-20th century furniture
— Household: includes various kinds of instruments and equipment from almost all decades of 19th and 20th century it is divided in subsections, the most numerous being cookware, tableware, and other kitchen furnishings
— Clothing and textiles: includes dozens of original complete folk costumes and festive attire including accessories from all the Czech Lands and Slovakia, as well as folk embroidery, cloth samplers, baize, doilies, and bed linens
— Linen washing and repair: includes a large group of washboards and washing paddles, several types of mainly interwar washing machines, pressing irons from late 19th century until 1960s, and manual laundry mangles
— Hygiene: this section is small and incomplete
— Heating and lighting: the oldest part of this section are items used in caring for ovens, but it also includes several types of heaters and lighting objects from torch brackets all the way to electric lamps
— Time measuring instruments: includes several wall and table clocks used in households
— Entertainment and leisure: features mainly musical instruments, children's toys, but also radios
— Folk customs: includes Christian crosses, statuettes of Virgin Mary, several holy images, funeral-related items, but also Easter ratchets, trolleys, and coloured Easter eggs
— Tangible archaeological objects (from Palaeolithic to Middle Ages): the individual periods are represented by basic types of items and their plaster casts
— Others: items related to other subjects and activities, such as preservation of privacy, various memorial flags, flag masts, and wall signs.

77 | A festive female folk costume from early 19th century.

78 | Detail of a female folk costume, late 19th century.

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Since the form and function of artefacts changes over time, objects are selected so as to capture the original construction types and to document changes in materials and forms. With respect to household furnishings, we need to bring together the individual periods with their social and cultural varieties and add some types of folk furniture such as wooden dressers, book shelves, and wall hangers. Kitchen equipment is represented plentifully but we still miss some newer, post-1950s types, such as a pressure cooker, low-energy cookware, new types of kitchen machines. In folk costumes, still absent is the work attire of various occupations (e.g. cooks, smiths, etc.) and ornamental patterns typical of most regions. In the linen washing and repair section, we need to acquire electric appliances used since early 20th century, such as washing and spinning machines, newer types of irons, and tools for manual sawing and darning. In the hygiene section, we miss mainly folk remedies for hand care. In the heating section, we miss petrol stoves, radiators, electric and gas oven, and post-war types of lighting. In time measuring, we miss some types of older table and wall clocks (cuckoo clocks), as well as sundials. In the entertainment section, we miss some folk games such as card games and other games, often involving agricultural symbols, as well as some types of toys (spinning tops). In folk customs, we need to add items related to traditional celebrations of Christmas, Advent, Easter, etc. and items from other cultures, religious communities, and folk magic in our territory. With respect to archaeology, we need to inspect the state of the replicas and acquire Slavic items related to agriculture (or their casts) as well as various depictions of agricultural activities. The subcollection currently includes almost 3,000 items. Its most valuable parts are a collection of hand-painted furniture, original folk costumes and their accessories, and items related to traditional funerals.

Models of vernacular buildings

79 | A model of no longer existing Moravian Slovak mud-brick cottar's homestead and a model of no longer existing mill in Semily, the birthplace of important 19th-century Czech politician František Ladislav Rieger.

80 | **A Baroque granary.** A model of granary such as were built in the Czech Lands mainly in the 18th and 19th century.

Origins of this collection date to 1891, when two models from the Jubilee Land Exhibition were preserved. Another two dozen models now in this subcollection were shown in 1895 at the Ethnographic Exhibition. After the creation of the Museum of Agriculture in 1918, the museum managed to acquire these models. They are among the most valuable items in its collection but newer models are added over time. After 1948, the collection was systematically expanded by models of farm buildings, especially those used for animal production. A separate subcollection was created in 2001 by gathering models of buildings from dissolved sections whose collections were kept at Kačina. Historic models of farms came from the Department of agricultural enterprises and settlements, buildings for animal production came from the Department of animal production, and several models came from departments on the history of plant production, food production, and natural conditions. Past curators of this collection include Vratislav Šmelhaus, CSc., who managed it at the Department of history of agricultural enterprises and settlements, and Ing. Lumír Loudil, who was in charge of the Department of history of animal production. After the creation of a subcollection of models of vernacular buildings, its first curator became PhDr. Pavel Novák, CSc. The subcollection covers the entire area of the Czech Republic with emphasis on Bohemia and is one of the smallest subcollections of the NMA. It includes models of buildings or their parts, eventually also some technical equipment.

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Its most valuable part consists of historical models of vernacular buildings from the 1895 Ethnographic Exhibition. Two models were shown already at the 1891 Jubilee Exhibition. After WWII, the collection of models of buildings has been systematically expanded. The other part of the collection consists of models of specialised agricultural buildings, dating mostly to the socialist period and documenting buildings for animal production. Part of this group documents village buildings and parts of landscape complete with meliorations and technical alterations. Only few models depict technical buildings, such as mills and drying facilities. The subcollection also includes models of building constructions and building accessories. From the perspective of composition of agriculture and typology of rural buildings, characteristic buildings are represented unevenly. There are too few buildings dedicated to plant production, crafts, and communal life. Insufficient is also the representation of various types of housing. About one third of models is to some degree damaged and requires conservation but also restoration. The subcollection includes 511 items.

Crafts

81 | An example of moulding and bossage at corners of Kačina Chateau which were created using templates and smoothing trowels.

82 | Smoothing trowels used to finish the stucco surface.

83 | Templates used to create mouldings on building fronts.

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This subcollection includes items collected since 1890s, mainly for the Czechoslavic Ethnographic Exhibition. They were acquired after the establishment of the Museum of Agriculture in 1918 by purchase from the Ethnographic Society. Since early on, the museum collection thus included items related to farmers' life. During the interwar period, the museum acquired a relatively comprehensive collection of items documenting textile processing. In 1948–1989, items related to various yet unrepresented crafts, such as belt making and glove making, were added. After 1989, efforts were made to systematically document still missing village crafts, especially those related to construction and construction materials. Until mid-1960s, items related to crafts were part of the Department of farmers' life, curated by Ing. František Šach. Then they were moved to the Department of agricultural enterprise and settlements and managed by prom. hist. Vratislav Šmelhaus, CSc. After his death in 1983, the department was managed by PhDr. Jan Rychlík, CSc. After his departure, collections belonging to this department were briefly curated by JUDr. et PhDr. Antonín Kubačák, CSc. In 1999, they were entrusted to the care of PhDr. Pavel Novák, CSc. In 2001, a separate subcollection was created from items related to rural crafts and PhDr. Pavel Novák, CSc. was appointed its curator. The subcollection covers the entire area of the Czech Republic with emphasis on central Bohemia. It is divided according to the particular crafts in seven relatively independent groups: items linked to wood processing, metal processing, textile processing and clothing production, leather processing, crafts working with soil and stone, crafts related to construction, and finally, domestically produced items. The state of the subcollection reflects the fact that during the socialist period, crafts were not promoted and museum just passively preserved older acquisitions. Renewal of work, including acquisition activities, came only in 1990s. Representation of the individual groups of crafts is thus highly unbalanced. Best represented are crafts which produce or work with textiles and rather well documented are also wood processing crafts. With respect to the number of items, metal working crafts are well documented but representation of particular crafts in uneven. Other crafts are documented only marginally and some are entirely absent.

With respect to documentation of current state of crafts, problematic is not only acquisition but also storage of larger machines. We should thus acquire not the originals but models, eventually technical documentation and photographs. The key criterion for acquisition remains its use by rural craftsmen. Machines and instruments should thus form majority of the subcollection, with raw materials and prefabricates represented only in well-justified cases. With respect to the origin of machines used by craftsmen, the subcollection focuses on Czech producers. Its aim is also to document repair activities carried out in agricultural enterprises and possibly acquire instruments used for repairs in agriculture. The same applies to construction teams of agricultural enterprises and their construction tools and instruments. These teams included not only bricklayers but also carpenters, wheelwrights, and other rural craftsmen. We would also like to acquire photographic documentation, eventually catalogues, of associated production of agricultural enterprises and document their products, and not just the technical equipment, which belongs to the relevant industries. This subcollection currently includes approximately 2,000 items, with collections of spinning wheels and traditional wood planes forming its most valuable part.

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Paintings

84 | Charles Joshua Chaplin, *Young woman with a Butterfly Net*, oil, canvas, 110 × 75cm

85 | Josef Lada, *An Old Cowshed*, distemper, sololite, 105 × 105cm

86 | Henri-Guillaume Schlesinger, *While the Master Is Away*, 1857, oil, canvas, 58 × 76cm

87 | Alena Čermáková, *Comrade Rajtora Tells About His Trip to the Soviet Union*, 1951, oil, canvas, 200 × 320cm

The first paintings and drawings came into the collection of the Czechoslovak Museum of Agriculture, Institute for the Study and Improvement of Countryside, already during the interwar period. Given the museum's focus, most of these artworks were inspired by agriculture. In 1937, the museum had acquired a unique collection of 157 paintings whose previous owner was the important interwar politician Vavro Šrobár. A disorganised development of the collection of paintings – largely due to the fact that until 2006, the museum did not employ any art historians – continued after the war. Most important post-war acquisitions include large series of ethnography-inspired drawings, etchings, and watercolours by three authors: Václav Šebele, Josef Grus, and Jaroslav Spirhanzl. In 1945–1989, the museum managed to acquire numerous paintings by donation from various state institutions, especially the Ministry of Agriculture. The artistic value of these acquisitions varies. Among the more valuable ones, we find a series of seventeen paintings by Josef Lada, originally intended for the Slavic Agricultural Exhibition, which took place in Prague in 1948. On the other end of the scale, we find painters of socialist realism, such as the monumental canvas of Alena Čermáková entitled *Comrade Rajtora Speaks about His Visit to the Soviet Union*, painted in 1951. The subcollection served as a storage of 'undesirable' artworks in some instances even after 1989. Since 2006, the subcollection's curator is Mgr. Martin Vlček. The subcollection forms four basic groups. The first consists of paintings, among which the abovementioned works from Šrobár's collection occupy a special place. This group also includes paintings by representatives of various directions in Czech 20th-century painting whose work was inspired by Czech landscape and rural life. The second and largest group consists of drawings. The oldest and largest subgroup in this set of items is a series of pencil drawings by Václav Šebele, which contains almost 900 sheets of paper. A third group within this subcollection consists of graphic art amounting to about 200 sheets of paper and executed by various printing techniques. Most of these prints date to the 19th century and dominant among their subjects are images of towns, castles, chateaux, scenes depicting various historical events, and reproductions of famous works of art. And finally, the fourth and smallest group within this subcollections consists of art posters. It includes only three poster proposals created by Czech artists for agricultural exhibitions which took place in the 1920s and 1930s. Long absence of an art historian in the NMA contributed to the sad fact that basic information about items from this subcollection, registered in acquisition lists or registries, is often incomplete or inaccurate. For this reason, we started correcting erroneous information and adding to existing descriptions. Items in this subcollection are in a relatively good state of preservation but bear marks of sometimes unsuitable storage or less than delicate handling, which is why individual items are now restored and conserved. The subcollection includes a total of 2,508 works of art and its most valuable part is the Šrobár Collection. This collection currently includes 153 paintings of mostly realist painters who represent important directions in European art of 16th until late 19th century. A smaller part of this collection is formed of high-quality copies of baroque masters such as Peter Paul Rubens, Anthony van Dyck, Jacob Jordaens, and Rembrandt van Rijn. Prevalent in this collection are, however, the works of painters linked to 19th-century academic art.

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Numismatics

88 | **Silver thaler, 1581.** This coin has a bail, indicating it was most likely worn on the neck.

89 | **Corvée tokens.** Embossed symbols indicated the type of work: hand means manual, scythe harvest work, wheel work with a wagon.

The origins of this subcollection go back to 1920s. The first medals were acquired in 1929, but acquisitions took place not only by purchase but also from donations. For instance in 1930, the museum received medals from the Ministry of Agriculture, but also from the Union of Czech Economic Cooperatives, Central Economic Society for Silesia, or the Agricultural Union. Later, it received donations from professional organisations such as the Society for Beer Brewing Industry, Regional Headquarters of Beekeeping Societies, etc. Gradually, it started also receiving donations from local institutions and organisations, such as the Farmers' Sugar Mill in Němčice, municipal authority in Nerejov, Town Museum in Pardubice, etc. Since 1930, the museum built its medal collections systematically, sometimes by purchase. A unique addition came to the collection in 1956, when the Ministry of Agriculture transferred to the NMA its collection of 132 numismatic items.

Numismatics is one of the smaller subcollections. It includes coins, badges, plaques, coins, hop and corvée tokens, as well as plaster models and dies. One of the largest and systematically created groups consists of coins with agricultural motifs. Most medals and plaques are from the former Czechoslovakia, only few are of a foreign origin. The subcollection includes some medals not related to agriculture. They were part of a collection created by the owner of the Smiřice estate, which came to the museum in the interwar period. It includes mostly Austrian and foreign medals with portraits of rulers from the 16th until the 18th century. This is the oldest and historically highly valuable part of the subcollection.

Based on the nature of items, the subcollection is further subdivided in:

— medals of merit
— exhibition medals
— memorial medals
— personal memorial medals
— other medals
— badges
— special-purpose tokens
— coins

Our aim is to document thematically relevant production of medals. The subcollection currently includes 2,244 items. In the past, it was managed by Mgr. Klára Linhartová or Mgr. Jana Jírovcová. Since 2018, its curator is Mgr. Martin Vlček.

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Trade

This subcollection has a relatively short history. It was created in 2006 in connection with efforts of the former management to create a museum of trade. It focuses on documenting this phenomenon as one of the key economic activities. The idea of creating a museum of trade is of a much earlier date but still bore no fruit. The NMA had gradually acquired artefacts linked to retail and sale of agricultural produce, which were incorporated into the exposition in the Kačina Chateau but managed within various subcollections. Active in the creation of this new subcollection were, e.g., RNDr. Michal Živný, PhD., RNDr. Roman Bortel, PhD., and Mgr. Jana Jírovcová. Its current curator is Mgr. Klára Linhartová.

The subcollection focuses on trade with agricultural commodities, their measuring and weighing, but documents also the nature of payment transactions. Since its beginnings, when it included just eight items transferred from other subcollections, several dozen more were added. At the moment, many items included in it document trade with coffee and coffee products (tin cans, mills, roasting instruments, but also advertisements) and pubs and taverns (beer glasses and coasters). It also documents some weight systems, guild symbols, and tin advertisements. Gradually acquired are weights and scales, period merchant inventories, various containers and packaging, advertisements, bills of sale, and other items used not only in shops and markets but also those which document the atmosphere of merchant life and types of retail mainly in the 19th and 20th century in the Czech Lands.

The subcollection is divided in the following groups:

— weights and scales
— shop equipment
— trade articles
— pubs and taverns
— coffee trade
— advertisements and guild items

The subcollection currently includes just 75 articles, which means that all areas are poorly represented. Our intention is to expand it and intensify acquisition activities not only in all of the abovementioned areas but also possibly in new ones, such as payment transactions and business administration. The subcollection should include not only items from general shops but also special shops such as vegetable sellers, butchers, bakers, garden shops, wine shops, fish shops, pubs and taverns, door-to-door and market selling.

90 | Advertisement posters, first half of the 20th century. While the first posters appeared over 500 years ago, a boom came after the invention of lithography in 1798. In the 19th and 20th century, poster was considered a specific art genre.

91 | Merchant's coffee container. The drinking of coffee started spreading in the Czech Lands in early 18th century.

Books

In 2007, the NMA started creating a subcollection of books and old prints to enable better care of these items. Books and prints are gradually selected and transferred from the NMA's library based on chronological criteria, so the subcollection would first include the most valuable prints published before 1700, and then those published before 1800. The subcollection is curated by Pavla Neumanová. It is built gradually and forms a small part of the NMA's library, which is a specialised agricultural library and a valuable part of the system of libraries in the Czech Republic.

The subcollection is not further subdivided. Given the low number of items, it is unnecessary. Its thematic focus can be found in the Clavius catalogue system under 'keywords'. The most valuable publications in this subcollection are the first edition of agricultural encyclopaedia *Georgica curiosa aucta* by the Austrian scholar Wolfgang Helmhard von Hohberg (1682) and Johan Georg Krünitz's *Oekonomische Encyklopedie*, which appeared in 242 volumes in 1773–1858. In NMA's library, one can study 125 of its volumes up to the entry 'Roche'. The group of old prints features mainly legislative, administrative, official, or church documents, documents relevant to the history of agriculture and countryside in general, history of human activities with focus on material culture and the culture of daily life. NMA's library has only one catalogue for all its books and prints and no special catalogue for old books. Old items thus do not have a privileged position, they are viewed as a study material. Each catalogue entry lists the author, an abbreviated name and publishing information, and selection information (keywords, rough contents), which will enable search in a future online catalogue.

92 | **Georgica Curiosa.** A leather-bound book, text in two columns was supplemented by copperplates and woodcuts, front page is a copper engraving.

Photo archive

This unique and largest of NMA's subcollections has been built since the museum's creation in 1918. It used to be viewed as supplementary but over time, the importance of the visual documents it contains grows. A number of NMA's workers contributed to the expansion of this archive: Ing. Zdeněk Tempír, CSc., Ing. František Šach, or Alena Němcová. In 2014–2015, the archive was curated by Mgr. Jana Jakubská, in 2015–2018 by Mgr. Ondřej Burian, and since 2018, by Mgr. Michaela Zeinerová Brachtlová, Ph.D.

The photo archive documents not only the development of agriculture, food industry, forestry, and fishing, but also the work and way of life of villagers. A large collection of negatives is supplemented with reproductions of historic documents and parchments, plans, maps, town chronicles, and books. The subcollection contains photographic material (black and white or colour negatives and positives, with the earliest dating to app. 1900, i.e. including glass negatives) and audiovisual materials (mainly film copies from 1950s and 1060s, videotapes and CDs).

The archive is further divided as follows:

- natural conditions
- plant growing
- forestry
- animal husbandry
- hunting
- fishing
- processing of agricultural produce
- agricultural settlements
- transport and energy sources
- organisation and administration of agriculture and forestry
- farmers' life
- non-agricultural production in villages
- production of tools and equipment for agriculture and forestry
- important personages and personal mementos
- agricultural museum
- other museums

At the moment, app. 50,000 negatives and positives are processed and listed in a paper catalogue. 48,363 are registered in the CES. Of these, 27,000 negatives and positives were processed in the ProMuseum program. We also keep identifying and reidentifying further photographic material, especially from NMA's regional branches, which is likely to run up to app. 90,000 items. Audiovisual material still has not been processed, we have only 1980s typewritten descriptions of 4,500 films. The volume of work required is extraordinary and full processing of newly acquired materials will take years. The most valuable part of the subcollection are glass negatives from 1900–1930. We also aim at documenting the present and in 2018, we started collaborating with photographers who will focus on the subject of agriculture over the coming years. The first photographer cooperating with us on this project is Professor Jindřich Štreit.

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93 | Timber rafting, 1940
94 | Transplanting seedlings, Šumperk Research Station, 1950
95 | Maize harvest, JZD Slavkov, 1959

Archival materials

Origins of this subcollection reach to the beginnings of the agricultural museum, which aimed at documenting the history of forestry, agriculture, and food production. Early on, the museum had also acquired some personal fonds and smaller collections consisting of e.g. series of posters or clippings. In 1930, the Prague headquarters of the NMA created a Central Research Archive of Agricultural History and research archives were established also at regional branches in Opava, Brno, and Bratislava. The main donors of documents include the Ministry of Agriculture, the Czech branch of the Agricultural Council, and the Central Headquarters of State Forests and Farms in Prague. In 1932, Jan Fryč, an expert in the history of forestry, was appointed head of the archive and library of the Museum of Agriculture. Thanks to his efforts, the handful of documents, at first registered unsystematically in acquisition records, were integrated into a systematically administered and continuously enlarged Collection of written documents. It incorporated the archives of museum branches and independent museum sections, i.e. the Forestry and Gardening Museum. In 1946, the by now rather large collection split from other collections and received a separate registry and its own classification scheme. By 1948, it included 1,030 items. Frič divided the collection by the type of material in the following groups: official documents (land registries pertaining to land leased to serfs, urbaria, files and fragments of estate owners' registries), fragments of association registries (mainly foresters' associations), personal fonds, and miscellaneous items pertaining to the history of agriculture and forestry. After museum's relocation in 1950, the collection was moved to Kačina. In 1962, materials pertaining to official activities of estate owners were separated from it and handed over to the Archive Administration of the Ministry of Interior. In the 1960s, the collection of written materials was integrated into the Department of organisation of agriculture and forestry, and in 1980, it was integrated into the Department of the history of organisation of agriculture and forestry administered by Dr. Josef Tlapák, CSc. In 2003–2004, the archive was moved from Kačina to NMA's headquarters in Prague. Since 2008, all written documents are kept in a specially adapted depository and since that time, we have been working on professional archival processing according to valid laws (Act No. 499/2004 Coll. on Archiving and Records Managemen).

The subcollection includes documents which originate from 1850 onwards. Only some files include earlier materials, mainly diplomas, apprenticeship certificates, or gubernial instructions, circulars, and directives from the 18th and early 19th century. The most extensive and comprehensive units are the personal fonds of Jan Frič, Milan Jurkovič, Josef Kazimour, Otakar Kokeš, Jiří Koťátko, František Lom, Jiří Židlický, František Thomayer, Josef Kumpán, Josef Minnibergr, and František Bílek. The subcollection contains materials pertaining to forestry, hunting, food production (bakeries, milling, sugar production, beer brewing, distilling, etc.), beekeeping, agricultural and horticultural education, land surveying, pedology, botany, animal breeding, pomology, horticulture, garden architecture, history, material culture, fishing, vegetable growing, cynology, etc.

96 | From the collection of apprenticeship certificates. Certificate of gardener Jan Bílý, issued on 22 October 1817.

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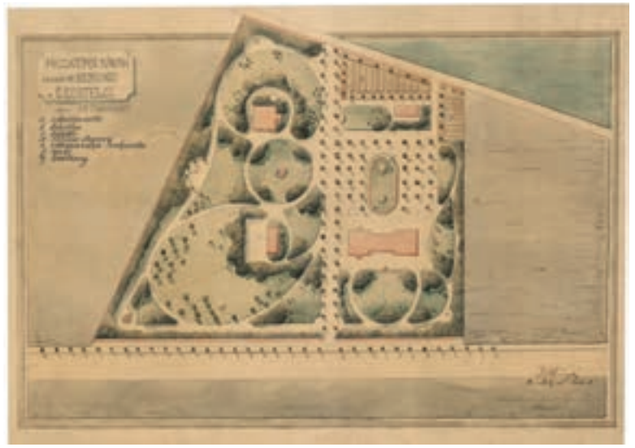
The archive, amounting to 500 linear meters, is divided in the following subgroups:

— Fonds: personal fonds (250 items) — fonds of institutions (written documents of associations, dissolved companies and organisations, specialised schools, state forestry offices, etc.; 60 items) —
— Collections: diplomas (19th to late 20th century; 80 items) — posters (19th to late 20th century; 100 items) — maps and plans (garden plans, forestry maps, etc.) — books (accounting books, memorial books, chronicles) — company literature — collection of documentation — various (apprenticeship certificates, instructions, etc.)

The contents and quality of this subcollection importantly contribute to full appreciation and oftentimes even scientific evaluation of NMA's collection. Care for the subcollection currently focuses on improving the low quality of classification of the fonds and collections in the past. Written documents were at first registered unsystematically as acquisitions together with 3D objects under one inventory number in the acquisition registry. Sometimes, a registration unit consisted of one item, at other times of an entire fonds or its part dedicated to a particular subject. Only gradually was an archive separated from this general registry and until early 1990s, written documents were organised by subject in groups, each of which represented one inventory number. Later on, a provenience principle was adopted, i.e. each fonds was organised by its origin and its original registration structure was preserved.



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In this manner, personal fonds, fonds of institutions, and documentation fonds were separated out. Since 2007, archival fonds are organised according to valid norms, registered in the PEVA database, and gradually integrated into the corpus on National Archival Heritage of the Czech Republic in accordance with Act No. 499/2004 Coll. on Archiving and Record Management. This ensures a standardised and more efficient access to archival materials for editing, research, exhibiting, etc. Some plans and maps are also accessible through the www.starelesnimapy.cz website. Personal fonds are not integrated into this organisation scheme. On the one hand, there are the 'classical' fonds, i.e. a collection of written documents related to the life and work of a particular person. On the other hand, there are also manuscripts, diaries, notes, and partial correspondence preserved probably accidentally. Such documents are related to particular persons but their extent does not correspond to classical personal fonds. Many researchers, however, seek them out, which is why they are for easier access classified as classical fonds. During the over 100 years of existence of this archive, its curators accumulated a varied and unique collection of fonds and collections. In addition to abovementioned museum workers, the following people have also been in charge of the archival documents: PhDr. Pavel Novák, CSc., and ThDr. Šárka Steinová, Th.D. Since 2015, archival materials are managed by Bc. Jana Jakubská.

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97 | **Poster collection.** Poster 'Corn is our gold', 1960s

98 | **Poster collection.** Poster 'Regional Agricultural exhibition', 1960s

99 | **Collection of garden plans.** Proposal of an orchard by a hospital in Černý Kostelec, František Thomayer, 2nd half of the 19th century

100 | **Collection of old forest maps.** Wiehl's map of Hradiště forest, 1818

101 | **Collection of shares.** Shares of 5,000 Czechoslovak krones of Shareholders' Brewery in Prague-Smíchov, 14 March 1937

4

Museum Communication

Museum Communication

AGRICULTURE: IDENTITY REDISCOVERED IN THE CONTEXT OF CHANGING WORLD

In 2015, the National Museum of Agriculture (NMA) in its Vision 2020 [3] adopted an approach based on a combination of innovative and traditional values. It expressed an ambition to become "*an internationally respected national museum focused on agriculture, forestry, hunting, fishing, horticulture, food production and gastronomy, development of the countryside and cultural landscape, but also science, research, and technology linked to these areas. In relation to agriculture as an economic sector, it expressed its intention to become the shop window of the Ministry of Agriculture and centre of popularisation of subjects connected with it*". At the time, few people believed that agriculture is of much interest to twenty-first century society.

In 2018, the NMA celebrates 100 years of its existence and the number of visitors of the revived museum in Prague had since 2014 increased multiple times. [4] And while visitor numbers are not the sole measure of museum's quality, hundreds of thousands of people see our museum as a pleasant place they want to revisit. Why are they interested in an activity in which so few people nowadays engage? Why do they want to spend time in museums? Why is the public interested in the NMA?

For one hundred years, the NMA has been presenting agriculture as one of the most important human activities, one that that had fundamentally changed human society. Agriculture is one of the greatest discoveries of mankind: it inspired the development of new technologies, shaped our perception of time, and impressed order on society and our lives. The NMA presents agriculture as an important sociocultural phenomenon. It is its pertinence to individual lives, a natural relation we all have to this activity without which our planet could not support over 7 billion people, which gives meaning to stories our museum tells.

Our museum communicates with the public mainly in the newly reconstructed museum building in Prague-Letná, which is finally becoming a truly modern museum, and in the gradually reconstructed branches of the NMA, which are thanks to investments transformed into spaces attractive for visitors. Aside from the exhibition spaces in Prague, visitors can also during the season visit the Museum of Agricultural Technology in Čáslav, Czech Countryside Museum in Kačina Chateau, the Museum of Forestry, Hunting, and Fishing in Ohrada Chateau, Museum of Viticulture, Horticulture, and Landscaping in Valtice, a Brewery Exhibition in Znojmo, and in late 2019 and early 2020, a new branch of the museum should open in Ostrava.

In 2015, the NMA started a process of *Revival of the National Museum of Agriculture, 2015–2020*, which defines becoming a museum of life as its main ambition. In new, dynamic installations, the NMA presents key exhibits in their historic context and places visitors into the role of discoverers. This concept is also used to present new museological knowledge and scientific findings. It emphasises sustainability and innovativeness and in line with this philosophy, we aim at lowering investment requirements and operating costs.

NMA's goal is to find new ways to view the relation between people and nature, risks and opportunities of sustainable development, our existence. We try to introduce subjects relevant to all of us because agriculture links our past, present, and future. We present agriculture, forestry, hunting, fishing, food production, and gastronomy as areas of key importance to the survival of individuals and the society as a whole. Agriculture is viewed not only in terms of food production but also as a sustainable lifestyle, a way of perceiving and transforming the landscape, a tradition, and a responsibility. With humility and respect, we also touch upon the stories of farmers affected by collectivisation whose fate still tends to be overlooked.

Museum communication is all communication aimed at the public, be it via permanent expositions, temporary installations, special events, workshops, lectures, or publications of scientific or popularising texts, which the NMA issues to supplement its exhibitions. The NMA communicates both at all of its branches and outside the museum.

102 | Agriculture exposition in the main museum building in Prague-Letná.

[3] Strategy of Development of the National Museum of Agriculture for 2015–2020

[4] Between 1 January and 30 December 2018, the number of museum's visitors reached 578,815.

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AGRICULTURE IS A MODERN, VISITOR-ORIENTED MUSEUM

'The National Museum of Agriculture is a memory and research institution with educative and popularising function, which mediates to its visitors a unique experience facilitated by expositions and exhibitions. Families with children, schools, and all visitors in general come to the museum to enjoy a unique experience facilitated by being in an attractive environment or by interactive and experiential exhibitions, events, and programmes, and that both in Prague during the whole year or at other branches during the season. Visitors who enjoy this experience will want to visit again, with their family or friends, and they will recommend us to their acquaintances.

The aim of educational, popularising, and research activities which take place via expositions, exhibitions, programmes, events, and publications, is to: 1) contribute to the formation of a positive relation to agriculture, forestry, hunting, fishing, horticulture, processing of agricultural products, cultural landscape, countryside, its development, evolution, and roots; 2) by appealing to common sense, [5] to promote interest in natural, technical, and social sciences related to museum's subjects, whereby it is important to develop the ability to view things in context and to understand the impact of local or regional conditions; 3) to cultivate appreciation of simplicity, truth, beauty, and harmony. A museum ought to be an institution that promotes a sense of joy from learning.

The National Museum of Agriculture aims at increasing the value of museum collections in the following three areas: 1) From the perspective of popularisation, we want to increase their value for visitors, i.e. we want to mediate an authentic experience based on our knowledge of collection items and their stories; 2) From a scientific perspective, we consider their value to current or future scientific research; 3) The third perspective is financial.'

[5] In this document, 'common sense' is understood to mean preference for what is correct and beneficial over what is likeable or populist and for methods well-suited to local conditions, which focus on addressing the causes rather than merely the consequences.

The NMA wants to be a modern museum. Its aim is to protect cultural heritage that should be preserved for future generations and to offer educational activities and popularisation projects to the general public. From this perspective, NMA's presentation activities belong to the following categories:

Informative and memory function – In contrast to traditional museums, memory function is gradually de-emphasised. It serves merely as a context, not the primary content. The informative level adds to the historical dimension a knowledge of the present and prediction of future. In the context of social developments, it will be a methodological challenge to document the present and to capture the perception of predictions communicated in our time.

Educational function – Educational programmes, programmes for schools, lectures, workshops linked to exhibitions.

Experiential function – One or two-day celebrations, festivals, and events for the public linked to exhibitions and installations.

The aim of educational and popularising activities is to contribute – via exhibitions, publications, educational programmes, and special events – to the formation of a positive relation to agriculture, cultural landscape, and important traditions,

103 | Gastronomical studio as an exhibit. A modern, fully furnished kitchen where demonstrations of cooking course and workshops for the public take place. Gastrostudio is part of the Gastronomy exhibition. Its programme is prepared in close collaboration between the museum and the Association of Chefs and Pastry Chefs of the Czech Republic.

104 | Workshops in the museum. Our workshops usually accompany popularisation campaigns for the public and tend to have a thematic focus (pig slaughter, herbs in the kitchen, hunters' feast).

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and to promote interest in natural, technical, and social sciences relevant to NMA's orientation. The main aim of our museum's communication is to promote the ability to see things in context, based on understanding regional conditions and social and historical settings. The NMA wants to be an institution which spreads the joy of knowledge, communicates with visitors and uses this dialogue to improve the quality of its collections. The new system of creating dynamic exhibitions seems to be highly attractive to visitors. It enables demand-based rotation of exhibits and inclusion of visitors in the creation and reformulation of exhibition concepts, thus creating new opportunities with respect to learning, information, and relaxation.

Exhibition activities are based on museum's main goals and follow an exhibition plan. Our aim is to offer professionally curated exhibitions which incorporate not only our own collections but also items loaned from other, including foreign, institutions. Exhibitions should be modern, inspiring, informative, but also entertaining. They should present not only the past but also outline future prospects. We believe that only projects which meet these demands can further knowledge and lead to a meaningful extension of our collections. A special category of exhibitions are those organised directly in connection with the results of research projects. At the moment, the NMA works on updates of exhibitions and new exhibitions dedicated to **Gastronomy** and **Fishing**, which will be based, e.g., on the results of projects *Culinary Heritage of the Czech Lands: Memory, Presentation, and Education* and *Cultural Traditions of Czech Fishing and Its Implications for the Travel Industry and Formation of Landscape.*

The NMA emphasises museum's learning function. Education is a fundamental part of what we wish to communicate. NMA's ambition is to create a partnership in the creation of museum products by forming broader teams which better reflect the needs of the individual target groups. We want to prepare all museum projects based on awareness of our visitors' expectations and we do not underestimate feedback. The number of lectures on offer is rapidly growing and so is the number of participants, both in Prague and in NMA's branches. Educational programmes are developed and improved in reaction to the needs and demands of schools and other target groups. We emphasise experiential learning and apply hands-on principles. A Discovery Room was established in the newly reconstructed building in Prague-Letná. It is equipped as a laboratory, lecture hall, and a place where all curious visitors can investigate and discover. It is a place of learning, experimentation, play, and entertainment. In 2017, the NMA also offered more lectures on subjects linked to agriculture, its history, and pressing current issues. NMA is becoming a platform for the sharing of information and experience. It newly hosts the **Scientists' Night** and the **Week of Science and Technology**. Our main target groups are children, seniors, and working-age visitors interested in knowledge. Our aim is to create a wide range of authentic experiences. 6 In 2018, the NMA became a hit on the Instagram. Pictures from our expositions, especially from the **Life** exposition on the roof of the building, are shared across target groups, which helps establish our institution's good reputation as welcoming place.

6 The NMA hosts a variety of special events, such as Letná Pig or Pig Slaughter in the Museum, Letná Carnival, Easter in the Museum, Herb Day, Letná Museum Day, Letná Is Growing, Agriculture Day, Prague Museum Night, Harvest Feast at Letná, The Secrets of Food: Do You Know What You Eat?, Scientists' Night, Biomarket, Hunters' Festival, Letná Goose and St. Martin's Wine, Advent Workshops, St. Nicolas at the Museum and St. Nicolas Fair, Security Day, Great-Grandfather's Tractor, Opened Gate to Historical Monuments, Rudolf Chotek's Chateau Travels, Open Gardens Weekend, A Night at Kačina Chateau, Kefir Festival, Wine and Corn Harvest at Kačina, Riding Festival at the Chateau, National Hunters' Festival, Festival of Forest and Wood, Pumpkin Museum Festival, Meeting the Ostrava Patriots of Moravian Silesia, etc.

The Branches

According to the founding charter, the basic parts of the NMA are its branches: Prague | Čáslav: Museum of Agricultural Machinery and Equipment | Kačina: Czech Countryside Museum | Ohrada: Museum of Forestry, Hunting, and Fishing | Valtice: Museum of Viticulture, Horticulture, and Landscaping | Znojmo: Exposition of Brewing Industry | a new branch in Ostrava.

The Prague branch — Main building in Prague-Letná

The iconic main building of the NMA in Prague was built in 1937–1939 based on a project of architect Milan Babuška together with the building which now houses the National Technical Museum. Since 2015, this functionalist building is undergoing gradual restoration, and the interior spaces are returning more or less to their original layout. Especially the restoration of exhibition halls in three storeys one above the other had a positive impact of museum presentation.

The story told by the NMA is about the relation between people and agriculture, about the power of innovations, and unending human desire for plenty. Exposition on the first floor reflects the survival strategies of our prehistoric ancestors. We are reminded that our earliest ancestors lived in migrating groups which survived by hunting, gathering, and fishing. Some 10,000 years ago started the agricultural revolution which gradually transformed life all over our planet. Exposition on the second floor therefore presents humankind's most important know-how, agriculture, whose development led to fundamental discoveries which shaped civilisations around the planet. Agriculture led to the abandonment of the nomadic and adoption of a settled lifestyle based on growing crops and keeping animals rather than hunting and gathering. Over time, improvements, innovations, and desire to minimise labour and achieve best results possible transformed agriculture into a subject of scientific interest. And finally, the third floor is dedicated to food. The **Gastronomy** exposition is an innovative cooking studio. Installation **Food Production**, which is currently prepared, will present food production technologies, their history, and modern trends. Symbolically on the top, we find a unique view of life. A roof terrace with flowerbeds and beehives offers a view of a town that would not exist without agriculture. This meta-exposition called **Life** reminds visitors that while 200 years ago 90% of people engaged in agriculture, now a tiny proportion of population feeds us all. Two thirds of Czechs live in urban areas and it is possible that the very concept of agriculture will be transformed by new technologies and trends. The roof terrace thus offers also a view into future.

The NMA currently offers a series of presentations based on exhibitions focused on nature and progressing to exhibitions dedicated to food and life. The first floor offers expositions **Fishing**, **Hunting**, and **Laboratory of Silence**. An exposition of **Forestry** is in preparation.

105 | **The Agriculture exhibition.** The motto of the exhibition is 'Moderation' or 'The Commonsense Way', indicating that the current generation, having learned from the past, has a responsibility to the future generations. This exhibition presents unique collection items including numerous mounted specimens of farm animals.

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Hunting and gathering

Fishing is a modern, interactive, and dynamic exposition which presents the tradition of Czech fish farming and fishing as one of the earliest ways in which people found food. Fishing and fish farming are presented as human activities that form and influence the landscape. The exposition features large fish tanks with freshwater fish, such as catfish, pike, carp, and roach, an interactive model of a pond system, and a diorama of fish harvest. In 2015, the exposition won the second place in the national competition Gloria musaealis in category of Exhibition of the Year. It is supplemented by lectures and pictorial statistics on fishing.

Hunting exposition uses interactive elements and authentic collection items, which can be dynamically swapped. It documents the history of hunting but also the obligations and privileges or hunters, and the of course, the hunters' year. The story of hunting is narrated using carefully selected collection items and virtual effects, creating an image of hunting as a lifestyle, occupation, and hobby of many people, a field of activity with a long tradition. Hunting is also presented as an economically profitable activity that can produce high-quality foodstuffs.

The **Laboratory of Silence** is a third installation on this floor. Modern technologies enable visitors a peek into the secrets of the forest biotope. This audiovisual installation was transferred to the NMA from the Czech pavilion at the EXPO 2015 World Exhibition. The project presents a living forest set into a futuristic laboratory. In addition to living plants, the installation includes interactive cameras, screens, and automatic watering and air-conditioning systems. This space responds to human need of being in nature and entices visitors to imagine themselves in a forest, surrounded by silence, and opening their minds to an extraordinary experience of forest in a museum.

The south-eastern exhibition hall will house a comprehensive exposition on **Forestry**, which is for technical reasons still in the planning stage. This subject is currently presented in an interactive, innovative exhibition run in cooperation with the Forests of Czech Republic.

106 | The Hunting exhibition. We tell the story of hunting using carefully selected collection items as well as virtual effects, which enable visitors to 'influence' and via mechanical elements steer what is happening. This exhibition opened in December 2016.

107 | Laboratory of Silence. This audiovisual installation was moved to the NMA from the Czech pavilion of the EXPO World Exhibition 2015. This multi-dimensional project, realised by Full Capacity Co., presents a living forest set in a futuristic laboratory. In addition to living plants, it also features interactive cameras, projection screens, microphones, and automatic watering and air-conditioning systems.

Agriculture

The second floor is dedicated to agriculture, which is presented in an eponymous exhibition, in an installation **Water in the Landscape**, and in part also in the **Discovery Room**. To supplement the communicative power of this section, we also organise large temporary exhibitions.

Agriculture is a dynamic, interactive exposition which forms the core of the presentation concept of the museum at Letná. In an area of nearly 600m², it brings to life the development of agriculture from its origins in the Neolithic to the present day. It is based on unique collection items including taxidermic preparations of farm animals. Audio sections where people can listen to stories of farmers offer a new experience. Highlights include Veverka cousins' original turning plough and a taxidermic exhibit of the famous stud bull César. The exposition's aim is to present agriculture as a relevant and important area of activity. The presentation is divided in three main parts: a timeline or a symbolic journey through the history of agriculture, which summarises the development of agriculture from prehistory until the present day, with all its key turning points. This section leads to a fantasy space dedicated to agriculture's future, which hints on the key questions regarding future development of the relation between agriculture and soil, chemistry, mutations, and especially humans. The third part is dedicated to the farming year, authentic tools, machinery, and farm animals. This part of the exposition focuses on the lives of people who for centuries respected natural resources, the soil, and family traditions. The exposition is based on current museological trends, which combine maximum protection of collection items in modern display cases with a comfortable viewing experience. Multimedia technology helps create an authentic atmosphere, and in several places enables visitors to look under the surface of the exhibits using extended reality. A 'children's line' weaving through the presentation enables children to actively participate in learning the story of agriculture. The exposition is supplemented by lectures aimed at children from kindergarten to high school age. The motto of the exposition as a whole is 'Moderation' or 'The Common Sense Way', emphasising that despite changes in technologies, we ought to respect nature and its sources as the foundation of sustainable and happy future. [7]

Water in the Landscape is an exposition which offers countless perspectives on water in the landscape, in rivers, and in human lives, but also basic information about soil and its importance for humans. The highlight of the exhibition is a plastic model of the Czech Republic which brings to life the main pond systems and river basins, explains the causes of flooding, and highlights the driest areas of our country. In glass tubes, visitors can experiment with various properties of water and its roles: its power, absorption, but also the ways in which we use and consume it. Interactive glass 'books' provide information about water, its circulation in nature, and the healing powers of mineral springs. All these aspects of the exhibition emphasise the role of people, whose activities can have both positive and negative impact on water economy, water resources in the landscape, and use of its energy. A series of accompanying lectures is aimed mainly at children aged 10 to 14.

[7] This exhibition opened on 13 March 2018. Authors: Mgr. Lucie Kubásková and Mgr. Antonín Šimčík. Supplier: 'M plus', Ltd.

108 | Winegrower's billhook, a replica of 8th-century knife. This specialised knife was used for cutting the vines. It is curved and on the side opposite the cutting edge, it has a protrusion which was used to remove old wood.

109 | **The Greatest Discovery – The Phenomenon of Agriculture in 100 Objects.** This exhibition was created to mark 100 years since NMA's foundation and was part of celebrations of Shared Century, 100 Years Since the Foundation of the Czechoslovak Republic.

Exhibition halls are the means of communicating subjects key to the mission of NMA. They feature exhibitions which expand the basic range of expositions available both in Prague and in NMA's regional branches.

To mark the jubilee year of 2018, the NMA prepared a participative exhibition **The Greatest Invention – The Phenomenon of Agriculture in 100 Objects**, which guides visitors through the history of agriculture using 100 objects, both rare and common. It makes us consider to what extent we are all farmers. Highlighting the discovery of agriculture as the most important event in human history, carefully selected items point to the key turning points in the story of agriculture and humans. Ants are presented figuratively as the first farmers on our planet, a grain of wheat symbolises the beginning of agriculture, and the journey ends with a showcase full of grain as a reminder of abundance which symbolises our current society. The concept works with ten categories which were of key importance in the development of agriculture: plant, animal, material, tool, safety, pests, storage, processing, innovations, and cult. Climate-controlled display cases, modern design of the installation, hyperbolic texts, and efforts to include visitors in the exhibition and find out about their attitude to the subject all contribute to the innovative concept of the exhibition.

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110 | **Fishing and Fisheries exhibition** is a modern, interactive exhibition which presents the traditions of Czech pond building and management. It reminds us that fishing was one of the earliest ways in which humans gained food. Fishing and fish farming are presented as human activities which also change and transform the landscape. In 2015, this exhibition was awarded second place in the national *Gloria musealis* competition in the category Exhibition of the Year. The exhibition opened in December 2015.

111 | **Water in the Landscape.** This exhibition presents water as the foundation of life, an element that shapes the landscape, and an elementary force that can be tamed to serve people. The central item of this exhibition is a 3D model of the Czech Republic in which visitors can follow the 'stories of water', bring to life the main pond systems, rivers, and their tributaries, and investigate the deeper causes of floods and draughts in the various parts of the Czech Republic. In glass cylinders, visitors can try out various properties and roles of water in the landscape and they can leaf through interactive glass books. The exhibition opened in July 2017.

Food

112 | **Gastronomic playroom for children** is a place where children learn how to prepare food, something about table manners, and that one should not waste food. They can also learn that in addition to taste, one can also tell foods by smell or touch.

The third floor is dedicated to food. **Gastronomy** showcases an innovative use of museum's collections. In museums, exhibits are usually displayed in cases. Here a special case protects not only the tools used in preparing high-quality food but also the know-how. It is located it in the exhibition hall as part of the **Gastronomy** installation and in it, we find a professionally equipped cooking studio, which serves as a training facility of the Association of Cooks and Confectioners of the Czech Republic. Visitors can thus observe the masters of their craft at work and sometimes even participate in cooking lessons, which take place in this studio and are run by top chefs from Marie Sandtnerová's Culinary Institute. Our intention was to bring here people interested in gastronomy and to offer lectures for students. In the remaining part of the hall, the installation offers much fun and information especially to our youngest visitors. In children's gastronomic playroom, kids can try out shopping, cooking, and manipulation with food. They learn to perceive food not only visually but also with other senses, and last but not least, they learn about table manners. Visitors big and small can inspect kitchens from the time of our grandmothers and great-grandmothers equipped with authentic items from museum's collections.

Food Industry, Beer Brewing, and Wine Making, currently in preparation, should acquaint visitors with food production technologies. Its aim will be to show how various kinds of food are and have been produced, to indicate their variety, and present interesting facts about foods, recycling, additives, and modern trends. The main motto of this installation is to point out that high-quality food can only be made from high-quality raw materials. Exhibition space will be divided in 10 + 1 separate parts, organised according to the types of foods people encounter. Large interactive elements, symbols of food industry, will be placed between these sections. Along the walls of the exhibition hall, a rounded stage with steps will provide space not only for large collection items but also for niches with small games, relevant journals, scientific discoveries, and even some 'food of the future'.

Emphasis will be placed on the spatial arrangement of the installation, meaningfully divided in subjects so that visitors could intuitively 'navigate' through it but also freely move around. This architectonic solution works with soft, rounded curves of medium-height columns and rings in various colours, spread around the exhibition space. The rings serve as presentation areas from both in- and outside, making sure they don't feel bulky or constricting. Important information will be presented in the form of schematic charts, notes on interesting facts, and statistics so that visitors do not suffer from information overload.

The concept of presentation of our subjects culminates in **Life**, a unique rooftop installation, which includes 21 panels for presenting current issues. The most admired exhibit, however, is the city itself, which makes visitors consider whether it could exist without agriculture.

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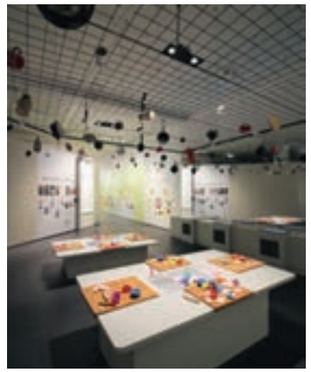

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113 | **Gastronomic playroom for children** is a space intended for the youngest visitors. In the playroom, children can practice food selection and shopping and learn where foodstuffs come from. The exhibition opened in October 2017.

114 | **Roof exhibition Life.** This exhibition symbolically crowns the sequence of the exhibitions and presents a very special exhibit: the city of Prague, which like many other things would not have emerged without agriculture. The exhibition includes flowerbeds, exhibition panels, picnic lawn, and beehives.

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8 *Garden Architecture in the Context of Realising the Goals of the Czech National Revival During the Interwar Era*. Provider: Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, Programme of Applied Research and Development of National and Cultural Identity (NAKI); Project duration: 2013–2017, DF13P01OVV003.

The main building of the NMA has, however, even more to offer. In the first underground floor, visitors find an exhibition **Tractor's Coming.** In an area of over 500m², visitors can view over 20 types of tractors, domestic and imported, made in 1917–1953. This installation offers a view of the best that was made during this period. The machines are part of subcollection Transport and Energy Sources: it is one of the most comprehensive collections of this kind in Europe and it is housed and presented in the Čáslav branch of the NMA. The whole underground space also serves as a playroom for children, offering a farming simulator, pedal tractors for the youngest visitors, and a unique simulator of tractor Zetor Major, which simulates driving on the road and work in the field. The installation is supplemented with a series of lectures intended for children aged 10 to 16.

Very popular meeting space is the museum's yard, which offers direct contact with living animals and plants. A farmyard with pigeons, ducks, rabbits, chickens, and goats adds a new dimension to a museum visit. It offers not only a space to relax and eat, but also interesting exhibitions. During the jubilee year, it offered a stylised interwar garden with places to sit and a historic merry-go-around and swings for little children. The Garden exhibition was based on the results of research project *Garden Architecture in the Context of Achieving the Goals of National Revival During the First Czechoslovak Republic.* 8

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115 | **Garden of the First Republic.** Using a stylised garden, we present the typical features of Czechoslovak interwar garden architecture, which drew on the rich forms of flower and rose beds and a variety of garden features such as gazebos, pergolas, and benches.

Museum of Agricultural Machinery and Equipment in Čáslav

This museum documents and presents historic agricultural machinery. The **Hard Work for the Machines** installation, opened in 2010, presents the development of agricultural machinery against the background of important Czech and international events. It shows not only the history of agricultural machinery, but also the development of energy sources used to power the machines. It was the need to alleviate labour and employ machines in human activities that drove the development of new technologies. Visitors can learn not only about the history of Czech agricultural machinery and its production but, based on examples of important personages and companies, also about the history of machine industry in general.

Further collection items can be viewed in the depository. From the perspective of visitors, important changes should come with a new exhibition of motorised ploughing in a reconstructed hall 'K'. Its highlight will be the Fowler ploughing machine, which currently cannot be shown in a realistic working position.

The museum regularly organises the 'Great-Grandfather's Tractor' event and participates in other events organised in its compound. It also presents items from its collections at select public events outside the museum, such as 'Steam Lovers' Embankment', 'Rotating Flywheels', various field days, tractor shows, etc.

IROP project *Low-Cost Operation Depository Čáslav*, approved for financing in 2018, should lead to a construction of a central depository for our collections. The NMA does not have a modern central depository and collections are housed at the individual branches. Current facilities are mostly inadequate and do not ensure effective protection of collection items. Construction of new depository facilities is therefore necessary.

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116 | Čáslav, Museum of Agricultural Technology.
This museum is located in a former military carpark and military equipment storage facilities from the 1950s. In 2010, the NMA had constructed here a new hall, in which it opened exhibition 'Hard Work to the Machines? Work to the Machines!'. Collection items administered by the museum show developmental series of historical machines of brands such as Zetor, Svoboda, Wikov, etc. The collection thus shows the way in which technology is employed in the service of people, be it to alleviate their work or to make it more effective.

Czech Countryside Museum at Kačina Chateau

The former Czechoslovak Museum of Agriculture acquired this iconic Empire-style chateau in 1950. Until 1995, it housed only some installations on agriculture and food industry. Then the museum started implementing a new concept of Czech Countryside Museum aimed at presenting the various social classes living in the countryside, including the nobility. Over time, it opened for the public Chotek's library, their theatre, and in 1997 also the large Chotek gardens. Exhibitions on agriculture were placed underground, in former service quarters.

Curators of the Czech Countryside Museum manage subcollections on numismatics, paintings, models of vernacular architecture, trade, crafts, plant, animal, and food production, household equipment, as well as the main part of museum's library.

The museum presents the service quarters of the chateau and chateau stables, living quarters of Counts Chotek, a library, pharmacy, theatre, gallery, chapel, and a hot house. Project 'Open the 13th Chamber' offers children and adults a special tour with a mysterious character.

Installation **Life of the Nobility**, housed in thirteen rooms on the ground floor of the chateau, includes representative salons and private apartments of the former owners. The **Service Quarters** exhibition is housed in the elevated underground floor of the chateau. It is a set of room which were dedicated to the daily operation of the chateau. They were reconstructed based on inventories of Chotek's estate using surviving items which Counts Chotek used at Kačina and supplemented by other 19th century items in museum's possession. The installation respects the original use of the rooms and forms a functional unit with the representative salons on the ground floor, thus allowing visitors to learn about the daily life in an aristocratic residence. Exhibition **Building a Chateau** documents, based on archival research, the construction of this residence in 1806–1823. Visitors can see not only contemporary archive materials such as plans, budgets, bills, and correspondence related to the construction, but – via further museum collections – also the crafts needed to construct the chateau, starting from diggers and bricklayers all the way to locksmiths and carpenters. Visitors can also investigate the process of preparing the project, meet the architects and builders, and appreciate Count J.R. Chotek's interventions in the planning process. The 'great secret' of the total cost of the chateau is also revealed. **Chateau Stables** installation is supplemented with animation and authentic sounds: visitors can look at horses while listening to the thudding of hooves, neighing, birdsong, etc.

117 | **Chateau stables.** The stables at Kačina Chateau are architectonically unique: they are an integral part of one of the colonnades of the chateau, i.e. they are not placed aside among the service quarters, as used to be the case. The stables are mostly sunk below ground, so horses could enter the stables straight from the chateau park.

118 | **Kačina Chateau.** This chateau is one of the most important examples of the Empire style in the Czech Republic. Its architectural purity is unique. The NMA had acquired it in early 1950s. The chateau is surrounded by a large garden, which visitors can visit using an educative trail.

119 | **Chotek library.** This library originally featured over 40,000 volumes of fiction and non-fiction, including old prints and maps, mostly from the 16th–19th century. It is a cultural monument in its own right.

120 | **Service quarters of the chateau.** This exhibition is located in the basement of the chateau building. It respects the original use of the individual rooms, spaces dedicated to activities necessary for the daily functioning of the chateau.

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The public can also visit the chateau gardens, which have in 2010–2012 undergone a thorough revitalisation. The park includes an orangery, an herb and vegetable garden, a rosarium, and an arboretum. Children, especially pre-schoolers and lower elementary school children, can enjoy educational programmes on country life, nature, forest, and crafts. The chateau is a popular place for weddings, hosting about 100 ceremonies each year.

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Museum of Forestry, Hunting, and Fishing

This museum is located in Ohrada, a Baroque hunting lodge at Hluboká nad Vltavou. A public museum of forestry and hunting was founded here in 1842 by Jan Adolf II, Count of Schwarzenberg, making it one of the earliest museums in the country and probably the oldest forestry museum in the world. A specialised library on forestry and hunting was then established here in 1842 and a zoo, now operated by the regional authorities, opened next to the museum in 1939. In 1961, the museum at Ohrada became a branch of the NMA, which opened here exhibitions on forestry, hunting, and fishing in the 1960s and 1970s. These installations are still here, albeit in a modified form.

Exposition **Hunting** maps the development of Czech hunting culture and its traditions. It incorporates examples of highly decorated hunting weapons made by well-known Czech gun makers. In the main hall, decorated by Georg Werle's ceiling fresco depicting Artemis, the Greek goddess of hunt, visitors can admire furniture made of animal antlers. In other rooms, they find a collection of deer trophies from the Bohemian Forest (from the original Ohrada collection), large native mammals, forest, water, and field fowl, as well as trophies of some introduced species. This is supplemented by explanations of hunting techniques, guns, and breeding facilities. **Sallač Collection of Cervids**, an internationally important collection of deer antlers and bovid horns, was created by Prof. Dr. Vilém Sallač in early twentieth century. It includes very rare antlers of Schomburgk's deer, which lived in Thailand and went extinct by the 1950s. Highly valuable are also the antlers of South American deer such as the Chilean huemul, pudú, Brocket deer, marsh deer, and pampas deer. The collection includes 400 items: 340 deer antlers and 60 bovid horns. This installation includes all cervid species and subspecies from the collection and the horns of 6 species of bovids. The project was supported by Forests of the Czech Republic. Installation of **Falconry** presents a unique, 4,000-years old way of hunting which relies on raptor's special abilities. Falconry is on the list on intangible cultural heritage of the UNESCO. The exposition informs not only about falcons and their life, but also their training and coexistence with humans. Installation of **Fishing and Fresh-Water Fish Tanks** maps the venerable history of Czech fish farming in man-made ponds. It features traditional tools used in fish harvesting and a unique collection of instruments used in traditional river fishing. Among its most valuable exhibits are plaster casts of salmon made by Antonín Fryč for the 1891 Jubilee Exhibition in Prague. A section called 'Life on the Water' presents water fowl, including their calls, as well as other animals living around water. This section includes five fish tanks with endemic and introduced fish species.

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121 | Ohrada is a Baroque hunting lodge on the banks of Munice Pond. It houses a museum of forestry hunting, and fishing.

122 | **The Hunting exhibition** presents the development of hunting in the Czech Lands, including its traditions and explanations of hunting techniques, all of which is supplemented by items from the museum's rich hunting collection.

Ohrada museum manages app. 20,000 items from NMA's subcollections on **Forestry**, **Hunting**, **Fishing**, and **Zoology**. In the northern part of the first floor, alterations were made in 2015 to prepare this space for a new exhibition of forestry. In 2017, we opened an exhibition called 'A Forest of Springs: Stories of the Forests', which uses collection items and artistic installations to tell, in an experiential form, the story of forestry, landscape, and water, which is also of essential importance for forests. The exhibition is the work of art collective mamapapa and was supported by Forests of the Czech Republic.

The museum organises various events for the general public. The largest of these is the National Hunting Festival, which culminates in the Czech Republic Championship in Deer Calling. Ohrada museum also closely collaborates with the neighbouring zoo.

122

Museum of Viticulture, Horticulture, and Landscaping

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The Valtice branch of the NMA opened in 1994 and until 2001, it formed a unit with branches in the chateau of Lednice na Moravě and Janův hrad. This museum focuses on particular areas of horticulture, such as viticulture, fruit growing, vegetable growing, and floriculture. It presents evidence pertaining to the material and intangible culture of these specialised parts of agriculture, provides information, and promotes awareness of articulture's importance in maintaining cultural landscape and healthy environment.

A valuable part of its collections is the library of the former Moravian Agricultural Council, which includes app. 11,500 volumes mainly from the 1870s to 1950s. The museum also houses a collection of historic wine presses, with the oldest dating to late eighteenth century. Unique is also its collection of paraffin models of fruits and vegetables: these items are a unique historical source because included are also varieties which are no longer grown and can be only seen in old encyclopaedias. This collection includes 220 varieties of apples, both local and internationally known, depicted in 744 models registered under 505 inventory numbers. 9

In 2017, the NMA has successfully presented a project *Modernisation of the Compound and More Efficient Administration of Subcollection*. It is financed from IROP funds and should results in improvements in collection storage as well as in three new installations: **National Exposition of Viticulture**, **Mysterious Life in the Soil**, and **Exhibition of the Lednice–Valtice Landscape**. In 2018, the museum has been undergoing reconstruction and visitors could view only the following installations:

Exhibition **Lednice–Valtice Landscape** offers view of the surroundings of Valtice, which is part of Lednice–Valtice landscape registered since 1996 on the UNESCO list of world heritage. Focus is here on nature, its biotopes, and especially animals. Visitors can meet common and rare species of fish that live in Lednice ponds and in little pools in the riparian forest, but also many species of birds. The exposition includes fish tanks holding the best-known domestic fish species.

9 Publication **Collection of Paraffin Models of Apples** presents part of a collection of models of fruits and vegetables from the Valtice branch of the NMA. It also brings basic information about the growing of apples as well as pests and diseases affecting apple trees.

123 | **The building of Valtice museum** is part of a compound which belonged to the service facilities of Liechtenstein estates. In late 19th century, the building was largely rebuilt and further reconstructions were undertaken in 2018.

124 | **Historical wine presses and tools.** This exhibition documents the development of wine grape processing. It features large wooden wine presses, up to 300 years old and weighing up to 3 tons.

An annual exhibition of balcony plants and annuals, visited by plant lovers from near and far, takes place in the museum's courtyard. It features also an experiential walkway which enables visitors to walk barefoot on various natural materials and perceive nature with all their senses. The museum also organises temporary exhibitions, lectures, workshops, and special events such as Museum Night, Pumpkin Harvest at the Museum, or, most recently, Valtice Wine Harvest in cooperation with the town of Valtice. The museum pays ever more attention to various learning programmes for students, school children, and even pre-schoolers, using a playful approach to familiarise them with collection items and traditional farming techniques. Exhibitions and special programmes are created so as to make a museum visit an experience, to encourage life-long learning and further visits. Tickets to Valtice branch of the NMA are valid also for a visit to Valtice chateau, meaning that while waiting for a guided tour of the chateau, visitors can explore the exhibitions of our museum.

124

BEER BREWING EXPOSITION IN ZNOJMO

The Znojmo branch of the NMA opened on 28 April 2017. Administratively, it belongs to the Valtice branch. Its **Beer Brewing** exhibition is located in a former brewery and operated by Znojemská beseda, a public benefit organisation of Znojmo town. The main exhibit of this museum is the original technical equipment of the brewery, produced in 1930 by Škoda Company in Pilsen. In 2010, it received the status of protected heritage. The exposition maps the history and tradition of brewing in Znojmo, explains the role of the main raw materials (water, malt, and hops), and presents beer brewing technologies from the earliest time to the present.

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125 | **Original beer brewing technology.** This original brewing equipment was made in 1930. Another part of the exhibition is located under the brewing facilities.

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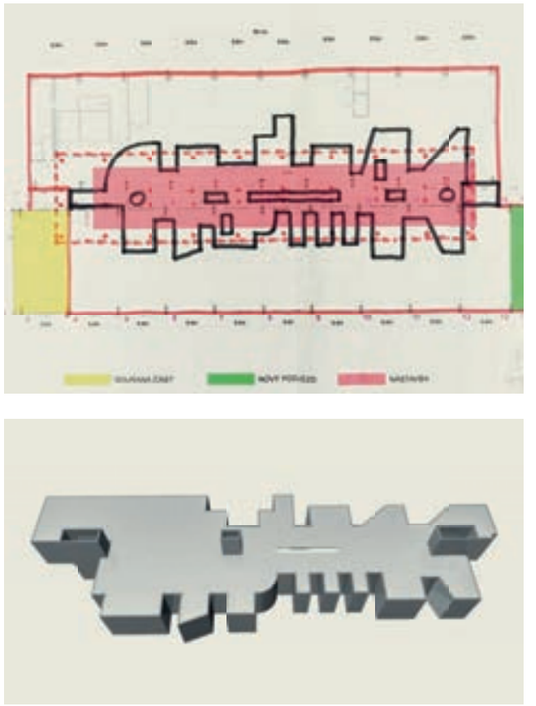

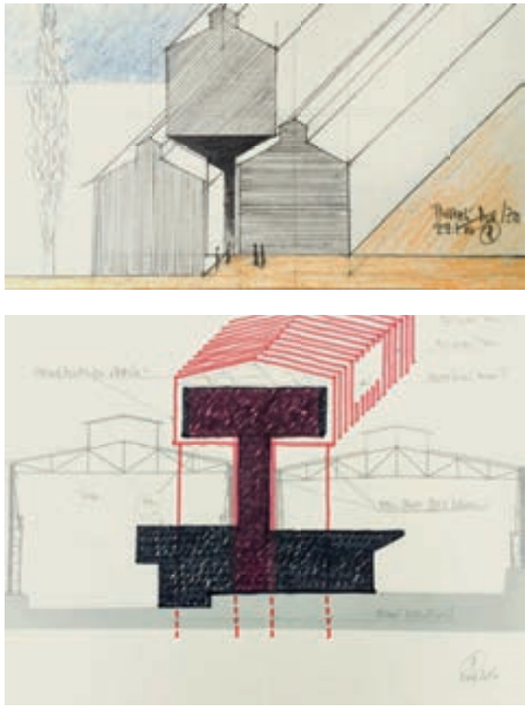

Ostrava branch

A new branch of the NMA in Ostrava was created by emendation of NMA's founding chapter in 2017. By purchasing two halls in Dolní Vítkovice, the museum acquired new presentation space. Formerly industrial spaces are now transformed into a depository and exhibition space. Architectural plans for revitalisation of both halls, including unique inserted constructions, are the work of Ing. arch. Josef Pleskot and Ing. Milan Šraml, whose innovative design hints at interactions between agriculture and industry. Once this is completed, the NMA will move here its collection of historic agricultural machinery and open it to the public in the form of a viewing depository. It also plans to open an interactive installation on food industry, focused on high-quality Czech produce. The new infrastructure of this branch is financed from an IROP project.

126 | **NMA in Dolní Vítkovice.** This project includes repurposing of two existing halls, addition of a connecting corridor and a new top floor, as well as new entrance spaces to both halls. The project is the work of architect Josef Pleskot and Milan Šraml. Josef Pleskot's first, hand-drawn design from February 2016.

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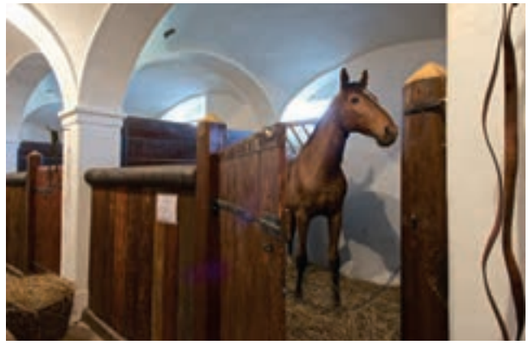

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127 | **Raised relief map.** Roof exhibition in Prague-Letná offers a fascinating view of Prague.

128 | **Boys' dream** but girls are also welcome. An exhibition in Čáslav.

129 | **Open depositories** in the Museum of Agricultural Technology in Čáslav.

130 | **Herb garden** and a hothouse are found in the gardens of Kačina Chateau.

131 | **Gradivo** was a dark bay and one of the most successful breeding stallions in our country.

132 | **Probably the oldest in the world** is the museum of hunting and forestry which was founded in Ohrada hunting lodge in 1842.

133 | **Paintings of hunts.** Copies of J.G. Hamilton's paintings are shown in the original frames.

134 | **Wine thieves.** Winemakers' instruments from the Valtice museum.

135 | **Beer filtering trough.** The origins of beer brewing in Znojmo date to the 13th century.

136 | **Hradební Street.** Beer was produced in the former brewery since 1720.

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PARTNERSHIP

The NMA is active not only at its branches, but also at fairs, celebrations, events for children, and other special occasions. In terms of partnerships, NMA's communication is of two basic types: contractual, i.e. aimed at other museums, relevant state organisations, associations, research institutes, and even private companies, to whom the NMA presents its portfolio (activities, target groups, etc.) and searches for new partners, and presentative, whereby the NMA addresses broad public using attractive programmes and campaigns to present the NMA and its activities.

To present itself outside its own facilities, the museum has a 'Mobile Museum', a presentation kiosk furnished with promotion materials. It also informs about its expositions, exhibitions, events, and projects at all of its branches. The NMA participates in national events focused on agriculture, such as agricultural fair 'Země živitelka', 'Dožínky' (Harvest Festival) in Prague organised by the Ministry of Agriculture, or 'Poznej svého farmáře' (Get to know your farmer), farm festivals which take place at various medium-sized farms, or Earth Day in Prague-Letná. The aim of these partnerships is to present the museum as an important platform of exchanging information and experiences, as an information database. This is also why we created the 'Resort Day' initiative, which offers museum's partners free access to our exhibitions. Resort Days take place under the auspices of the Minister of Agriculture. Since we are aware of the importance of addressing especially the youngest age groups, we offer free access to all children and youngers under 18 to all branches of the museum except for the Ohrada branch and Beer Brewing Exhibition in Znojmo. When coming as part of school groups, even youngsters over 18 years of age can use reduced-price tickets. This does not apply to NMA Ohrada, where visitors can use the same ticket to visit also the neighbouring zoo in Hluboká nad Vltavou. Project *Free museum entrance for children and youngsters* takes place under the auspices for the Minister of agriculture.

A NETWORK OF MUSEUMS OF AGRICULTURE

In an effort to follow up on the interwar tradition which aimed at working in the entire territory of Czechoslovakia, the museum tries to create a network of museums on agricultural subjects, including small museums without a formal status, to map their activities, exhibitions, and collections. The NMA offers methodological support to their activities including science and research (by providing publication space in its journal *Prameny a studie*, etc.). It offers cooperation on joint marketing, addressing the target groups, building of visitor base, promotion of agricultural subjects, tourist information, and information sharing within the network. Membership in the Network of agricultural museums is offered to memory institutions focused on popularisation of subjects pertaining to rural areas, agriculture, fishing, winegrowing, horticulture, forestry, hunting, food production, and gastronomy. Membership is free of charge for anyone, regardless of the legal form of the organisation. In 2017, the NMA had signed ten new agreements on cooperation. The initiator and guarantor of the project is the NMA and its coordinator the South Bohemian Museum of Agriculture. The project runs under the auspices of the Minister of agriculture.

SÍŤ ZEMĚDĚLSKÝCH MUZEÍ

UNIFIED VISUAL COMMUNICATION

The NMA aims at maintaining a single visual style in all its presentations. Since November 2016, the MNA has been using a new logo and in 2017 it added pictograms designating its individual branches. These pictograms are part of a new visual style which the NMA uses in all its main promotion materials. In September 2017, the NMA had launched a new website whose structure and functionalities enable presentation of activities as well as simple search and filtering for the particular branches. This website meets new requirements on museum's accessibility, because ever more visitors use the website on their mobile phones. The NMA had also created a unified style for its presentation on social networks. Each of its branches has its facebook profile (National Museum of Agriculture in Prague, Traktory Čáslav, zámek Ohrada, muzeum Valtice, Kačina – zámek a muzeum), and a single shared account on the Instagram (@zemedelskemuzeum) and Twitter (@zemedelske). To promote the activities of its gastronomic studio, the NMA uses its facebook profile and instagram account 'Uvařeno v muzeu', while the Kačina branch administers its fan site 'Máme rádi Kačinu'. In 2017, we started publishing a newsletter: visitors can sign up for it using the museum website.

The NMA will be a museum of life not only thanks to its subject, which is relevant to all of us, but also in terms of being people-oriented. Visitors are the focus of our interest and thanks to people, the museum has meaning.

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The Principles and Vision of the National Museum of Agriculture: A Successful Museum for the Twenty-First Century

The Principles and Vision of the National Museum of Agriculture: A Successful Museum for the Twenty-First Century

The National Museum of Agriculture (NMA) celebrates 100 years since its foundation. In the jubilee year, it was visited by hundreds of thousands of visitors. We present agriculture as an important sociocultural phenomenon, the greatest discovery of mankind, and unique know-how without which civilisations would not have emerged. The NMA deals with agriculture, forestry, hunting, fishing, horticulture, processing of agricultural products, and development of the countryside and cultural landscape. It is also active in science, research, and technology. In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, we aim to function as its 'showcase', a centre of popularisation of subjects relevant to its activities.

It is surprising how long both the general public and experts tended to neglect a subject as important as agriculture clearly is. Agriculture is an extraordinarily broad and universal platform for research and museal communication of past, present, and future trends affecting all of humanity. The basic starting point is, however, to not only realise what agriculture is, what it inspired, and what it influences, but also to adopt a fitting approach to presenting it, to have a vision of a museum of the 21st century.

The institution of which the NMA is a direct successor was officially created on 28 September 1918 as the Association of the Czech Agricultural Museum. Soon after the foundation of Czechoslovakia, the association transformed itself into the Czechoslovak Agricultural Museum, Institute for the Study and Improvement of Countryside. This soon became – especially thanks to outstanding museological work of Josef Kazimour and political support of Antonín Švehla, one of the key figures in the creation of independent Czechoslovakia – one of the most progressive museums in the country. Efforts to increase awareness about the importance of agriculture inspired the foundation of regional branches, support of agrarian museums, various travelling exhibition, and collaboration with local and international experts and institutions. Shortly before the Second World War, NMA's importance was further underscored when it received a modern, representative building in Prague-Letná. In short, the museum's importance in interwar Czechoslovakia was undisputed.

137 | **Přeštice pig, a model.** This crossbreed between Old Czech bristled pigs and English and German breeds was in 1992 included in the list of protected genetic resources. Exhibit from NMA's installation The Greatest Discovery – The Phenomenon of Agriculture in 100 Objects.

138 | **Prague groschen.** Money was used not only to purchase goods but also to pay taxes. It was more practical than payment in agricultural produce. Item from NMA's exhibition The Greatest Discovery – The Phenomenon of Agriculture in 100 Objects.

139 | **Plastic ear tag for cattle, late 1980s.** Ear tags are used to identify animals. Most recent legislation stipulates that such tags should include the identity number of the animal, region, and country. Item from NMA's exhibition The Greatest Discovery – The Phenomenon of Agriculture in 100 Objects.

Historical developments unfortunately brought other trends into the development of agriculture and museums in general. After the Communist takeover in 1948, representatives of agriculture, especially independent farmers, became 'enemies of the socialist state' and the social role of museums also started to change. A trend which started with nationalist movements of the 19th and 20th century, i.e. emphasis on the memory function of museums, became highly pronounced during socialist dictatorships, a local one in 1939–1945 and an international one in 1948–1989. Both regional nationalism and later the two most important totalitarian movements of the 20th century built on skewed historical myths documented by misinterpreted artefacts. Visits to museums were among activities by which citizens had to declare loyalty to the regime, while propagandistic exhibitions led to a loss of respect to museums in general. Organisation of work in museums often led to a double agenda, where official museum communication followed the dictates of official ideology, while research went on more freely and its quality determined by professional abilities of individual researchers.

Current museums in countries of the former Eastern Bloc thus bear many scars which ought to be identified and gradually removed. It is necessary to emphasise the key role of museums as educational institutions and places of joy, learning, and relaxation. According to a wonderful, about two hundred years old definition, museums should endeavour to be places of learning and happiness. The earliest museums focused primarily on documenting nature, technology, and current science. History was seen as a subject of lesser importance and the main emphasis was on museums' educational function. Museums were seen as instruments which mediate the present in order to achieve a better future.

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While respecting time-tested methodologies, the newly revived NMA adopts these aims. For one hundred years, it has been collecting evidence pertaining to agriculture as a fundamentally important human activity which transformed human society. Agriculture inspired new technologies we still use and it shaped our perception of time. The NMA presents agriculture, forestry, fishing, food industry, and gastronomy as areas of key importance to human life and the existence of society as such. Through new, dynamic expositions, the museum presents its collection items in a wider context, which places visitors in the role of co-discoverers. We offer new perspectives on the relation between people and nature as well as the risks and possibilities of sustainable development. The museum views agriculture not only as a way of feeding the humankind but also a lifestyle, a way of perceiving and transforming landscape, a tradition and a responsibility. Agricultural museums are a globally competitive concept.

Jubilees are usually celebrated by reminders of the past, but equally fitting is to embark on something new, something that will serve people in future. The new concept of the NMA presents agricultural museography as a rediscovered treasure of interwar Czechoslovakia, which the NMA managed to restore and in a new form offer to the public as part of project 'Revitalisation 2015–2018'.

INSPIRATION FOR A DISCUSSION ABOUT MODIFYING THE MUSEUM'S VISION

Five years on, it is clear that of key importance in developing a museum that has a social impact is a professional approach. Specialised museological expertise brings new concepts and solutions of lasting value, works with innovations, people's potential, and introduces experiments into museum's operation. This leads to the creation of dynamic exhibitions, meta-expositions, purpose-driven organisation of buildings for museum's needs, unorthodox approach to the protection of collection items, the use of collections for research, presentation, and popularisation, investment of structural fonds into development, and the like.

Thanks to these approaches, the NMA is becoming a communal and participative place capable of bringing new concepts into people's lives. That is, after all, the only way in which museums can become part of infrastructure aimed at improving people's wellbeing.

In the next century, it will be of key importance to make sure that the NMA focuses on people and maintains this direction. A museum provides service to the public and therefore, it must be open, accessible, and relevant. Current society faces many new challenges including growing consumption, urbanisation, virtualisation, climate change and other threats to environment, increased access to technologies, and ageing population. In this context, the NMA can help communicate the process of searching for answers to these challenges based on evidence which documents their development and by interpreting this evidence by a team of experts the museum had brought together. The museum must be able to search for and communicate answers to relevant issues and to offer them to people who come to the museum to ask, be inspired, or to relax and enjoy.

In future, the NMA should also serve as an institution that offers a wider context. Vast amounts of available data will generate issues pertaining to their optimal use. This is why we must make our museum accessible to even the youngest visitors, to educate future generations who would see museums as places where one can freely move and perceive objects and events within their historical context, present use, and possible future development. The NMA must also inspire visitors of active age to think and search for suitable solutions, and it is becoming ever more important to develop communication with senior citizens. This is why we need to offer visitors and partners more space for creating and using our collections, space for active, participative curation. Such interaction would increase the scientific value of NMA's collection as a body of collected items and information and improve the efficiency of museum's communication, which should reflect new trends and expectations of our visitors.

It can be expected that in future, the importance of preserving know-how will increase. Support of cultural and creative enterprises, which will play an increasing role in European economy, will require the preservation of basic competences and human skills. The sooner museums face this challenge, the faster their social importance and relevance is likely to grow. The NMA had already started with gastronomy but there are other subjects where know-how should be preserved for future.

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140 | **Exhibition The Greatest Discovery – The Phenomenon of Agriculture in 100 Objects** opened on 27 September 2018 as part of celebration of 100 years since the museum's foundation.

141 | **Millstones, late 19th century.** The principle of water mill was known since antiquity. The earliest reference to a water mill in the Czech Lands dates to the first half of the 12th century. Exhibit from NMA's exhibition The Greatest Discovery – The Phenomenon of Agriculture in 100 Objects.

142 | **Clover, a wet specimen.** Introduction of clover brought far-reaching changes to agriculture. It was used as a fodder, so farmers could bring their cattle from pasture to barns. Exhibit from NMA's exhibition The Greatest Discovery – The Phenomenon of Agriculture in 100 Objects.

143 | Potato, a wet specimen. Potatoes were brought to Bohemia in 1610, but spread only during the famine years of 1771–1772. Exhibit from NMA's exhibition The Greatest Discovery – The Phenomenon of Agriculture in 100 Objects.

144 | **Exhibition The Greatest Discovery – The Phenomenon of Agriculture in 100 Objects** presented rare and unexpected items, which represent 10,000 years of development of agriculture.

145 | **A house mouse, a mounted specimen.** Even today, rodents can damage or destroy up to one third of harvest. In medieval times, when they were kept in check only by cats, the situation was much worse. Exhibit from NMA's exhibition The Greatest Discovery – The Phenomenon of Agriculture in 100 Objects.

146 | **Balounek's separated chicory, late 19th century.** This coffee substitute was produced by roasting chicory roots. The first chicory factory in the Czech Lands was built in 1804 in Mochotín. Exhibit from NMA's exhibition The Greatest Discovery – The Phenomenon of Agriculture in 100 Objects.

Collection items can offer an authentic experience, a taste of past reality, and while modern technologies are clearly becoming an effective instrument and aid in many processes, they cannot replace the impact of authentic objects which testify to a certain reality and embody it. Development of new technologies even now helps emphasise the importance of museums as institutions which do work with three-dimensional objects.

We hope that museums will be places of safety, places where people can think in peace, see objects they like and people they want to meet. Places which inspire creativity and support open-minded dialogue.

We hope that in the next century, the NMA will remain a museum that can adequately react to new social issues by defining them, presenting them in the context of past events and likely future development, and guarantee a safe space where these issues can be discussed both in a European and possibly even global context. We hope the NMA will remain an enriching part of people's lives.

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Summary

There are almost 500 museums in the Czech Republic. Of these, 32 were established by the state and only in 8 cases, their name includes the epithet 'national' or 'regional'. It is great honour for the National Museum of Agriculture to bear its name, that is, to be a national museum focused on agriculture including forestry, fishing, food production, gastronomy, rural development, landscape, and related subjects. As apparent from its century-long history (see chapter **Agricultural museum – Service to Czech countryside, society, nation**), this museum had to work towards and fight for being a 'national' institution. It has not been easy to preserve this honour to this day.

For the past one hundred years, the National Museum of Agriculture has been active in gathering collection items, stories, and knowledge pertaining to all parts of agriculture. What has been achieved is described in the part of this publication dedicated to the individual subcollections (in chapter **On the subcollections of the National Museum of Agriculture**). This book also presents our museum's activities in science and research (in chapter **Science and research in the museum in early 21st century**).

Importance of the various sectors of national economy is in our modern and rich society measured using their contribution to the gross domestic product (the GDP) and the number of people they employ. Only about 4% of Czech population are active in agriculture (including forestry and fisheries) and its share in the GDP amounts to approximately 3%. Through the prism of these numbers, agriculture as a whole may seem relatively unimportant. Yet it would be a mistake to think so. Agriculture provides raw materials for food production and subsequently also gastronomy, and high-quality, healthy, and affordable food from domestic production is important for everyone. Of importance for individuals but also society as a whole are also issues such as food self-sufficiency and security, sustainable agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, landscape protection and care, as well as protection of water and soil: all these elements are part of our national wealth.

The National Museum of Agriculture tries to present these subjects within their broader context to families with children, to schools, and to all visitors who wish to engage in investigation and experiential learning in our exhibitions, expositions, and special events. This publication therefore deals not only with the past (in chapter **Why we need a National Museum of Agriculture**) but also the present (in chapter **Museum communication**), and naturally also future (we discuss the **Museum's vision**). Readers can thus learn not only about the past, but also about the present and about factors which contribute to a formulation of museum's vision for the future.

The **aim of research** carried out as part of preparation of this publication was to perform a critical analysis and evaluation of activities, both past and present, of the National Museum of Agriculture, within their requisite context. Another aim of this publication was to identify the factors which play an important role in formulating the museum's vision for the future. The authors of this publication are convinced that the book you have in your hands brings new interesting facts, shows existing knowledge within new contexts, the text is the result of critical analysis and evaluation, and factors identified as important for future vision have been sufficiently discussed. Discussions within their relevant context will continue and your views and contributions are most welcome.

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PHOTOGRAPHS
BETWEEN CHAPTERS
OF THIS BOOK

Jindřich Štreit

The name of Jindřich Štreit is synonymous with photographs of the countryside. He has been taking pictures of village life and recording its close links to farming and agriculture since the 1970s. Many of his photographs became iconic of Czech documentary photography. Jindřich Štreit is thoroughly familiar especially with the Moravian countryside and often personally knows the people who figure in his photographs. And where he does not know them, he soon wins them over with his charismatic personality. This is why they let him into their private lives and viewers feel they directly participate in the events. Over the decades during which Jindřich Štreit has been documenting rural life, we have been able to follow an eternally repeated cycle: land must be sown, harvest brought in, cows milked. The particular circumstances, environment, machines, and people change, but the substance of rural life remains.

In 2018, the National Museum of Agriculture had launched a project whose aim is to document current agriculture. It is intended as long-term undertaking, where each year, material would be supplied by a different author. In this way we hope to bring in multiple perspectives. It was a natural choice to ask this outstanding documentary photographer, who has such rich experience of the subject, to be the first of our authors and thereby also to set the future standard of contributions. Over the course of a year, Jindřich Štreit took photographs at various farms, agricultural enterprises, and food production companies in Moravia (around Bruntál, Rýmařov, Uničov, Šternberk, Šumperk, and Litovel), in agricultural companies Paseka, Dlouhá Loučka, and Tvrdkov, in a slaughterhouse in Mladějovice, at privately owned farms, in Litovel brewery, in a sugar refinery, and a cheese factory. The large set of photographs taken in the course of these visits is an important contribution to the Photo Archive subcollection of our museum.

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