

## OBITUARY

### Josef Brožek (1913–2004)

Josef Brožek is dear to all of us in history of psychology, as I am sure he is to those in biology. He knits together even members who have never attended Cheiron North America or Europe. He never forgot the lesson of his youth in Siberia, that the privilege of the few did not extend to all, and he sought to join us through a common history. Perhaps his experience of war gave him that compulsion to stitch together diverse peoples into projects ranging from lexicography to starvation. The remembrances gathered here signify a much wider geographical journey to his life. May we remember the music of his fiddle and his cello and the dance of eastern Europe as we peruse these heartfelt testimonials.

William R. Woodward  
*University of New Hampshire*

### Josef Maria Brožek (1913–2004)

Born August 14, 1913, in the ancient town of Melnik, in central Bohemia, today the Czech Republic, Josef spent his childhood in Poland (Warsaw, 1913–1915) and in Siberia (1915–1920). His education in Czechoslovakia culminated with a thesis on “Memory, Its Measurement and Structure” and a PhD awarded in June 1937. In the spring and summer of 1937, he worked in a vocational guidance center in Prague, and during the next 2 years he was employed as an industrial psychologist at the Bata Shoe Factory in Zlin. In the fall of 1939, he left to continue his studies in the United States, first at the University of Pennsylvania and then at the University of Minnesota (Brožek, 1999a).

In the fall of 1941, he joined the Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene, a research and teaching unit in the School of Public Health of the University of Minnesota where, as a member of an interdisciplinary research team, he pursued two principal topics: (a) the effects of inadequate nutrition on human behavior and (b) the psychology of aging. Several studies were carried out on the effects of illumination on visual performance and fatigue. Josef regarded as his most important research contribution the behavioral parts of the two-volume *Biology of Human Starvation* (Keys, Brožek, & Henschel, 1950). Studies on the psychology of aging were a by-product of the laboratory’s interest in factors related to the development of heart disease, with the focus shifting from hypertension to coronary heart disease (Brožek, 1999b).

In 1958, Lehigh University offered him the chairmanship of the Department of Psychology, which he exchanged for a Research Professorship in 1963. He taught primarily history of psychology.

In 1965, I had the pleasure of collaborating with Josef and Dan I. Slobin on the *Handbook of Soviet Psychology* (Slobin, 1966), which was prepared for the 1966 International Congress of Psychology, Moscow, USSR.

Josef's important contribution to the field was the organization, in cooperation with R. I. Watson, of a 6-week Summer Institute on the History of Psychology for College Teachers, held at the University of New Hampshire in 1968. The second institute, in which I participated actively, was held at Lehigh in 1971. This institute was a sound basis for my later teaching in this field at Charles University. It was characteristic of Josef that he fully integrated my accompanying wife Edith into librarian work, as a sort of ladies' program.

Investigations on the history of psychology brought Josef to the archives of several European countries. In 1970, he translated and edited, with M. S. Sibinga, *Origins of Psychometry, J. J. de Jaeger, Student of F. C. Donders on Reaction Time and Mental Processes* (1865), with a complete facsimile of the original text (B. de Graaf, Nieuwkoop, the Netherlands). His work on chapter of "David Jayne Hill: Between the Old and New Psychology" called for research in the archives of Bucknell University and the University of Rochester. It is one of the six chapters constituting the collaborative *Explorations in the History of Psychology in the United States* (Brožek, 1983).

Josef's repeated work visits to Prague were devoted to the study of the writings of J. E. Purkinje, T. G. Masaryk, G. A. Lindner, M. Rostohar, J. Dolezal, and other Czech personalities oriented toward psychology (Brožek & Wade, 2001; Brožek & Hoskovec, 1987, 1995, 1997). Throughout all these years and work, I was Josef's Prague connection, with special tasks in archival research. Besides the three books I have mentioned, we published jointly 14 chapters, 47 articles, 11 reports, and 34 book reviews. We had a vivid exchange of letters, and most of our joint publications were based on correspondence.

Josef wrote, in collaboration with Solomon Diamond, a large chapter on "The Roots of Objective Psychology," requested for the encyclopedia *Die Psychologie des 20. Jahrhunderts* (Brožek & Diamond, 1976). It also was published, in Italian translation, as a book (Brožek & Diamond, 1982).

Concern with the international exchange of scientific information permeated essentially all of Josef's activities. He was an indefatigable reviewer of books, even at his advanced age of 89 years. For 20 years he served as a member of the board of advisory editors of *Contemporary Psychology*. His topical reviews, at times extensive, appeared in print both in the United States and abroad. In his younger years, he served as a volunteer abstractor of *Psychological Abstracts*. He regularly informed English-speaking colleagues about Czech and Slovak psychological literature.

In the history of psychology, his lifetime project bore the title "Historiography of Psychology Around the World," and it covered about 20 geographical areas. Extensive attention was devoted to institutional and organizational developments as journals, academic settings, archives, museums, research groups, conferences, and institutes (Brožek, 1983).

The organization of symposia, national and international, became one of Josef's professional specialties, beginning with the national symposium on "Nutrition and Behavior" in 1957. The later, international symposia (in 1979 and 1984) stressed the behavioral effects of malnutrition (Brožek & Schürch, 1985). In the area of history, Josef edited, in cooperation with Horst Gundlach of the University of Passau, a bilingual version of the proceedings of an international symposium on "G. T. Fechner and Psychology" (Brožek & Gundlach, 1988).

*Historiography of Modern Psychology*, which Josef coedited with L. J. Pongratz of the University of Würzburg (Brožek & Pongratz, 1980), resulted from a collaborative effort of North American, Latin American, and European authors. An Italian translation was prepared by S. Palumbo (Brožek & Pongratz, 1986). *Historiografia da Psicologia Moderna, Versao Brasileira* was published in cooperation with Marina Massimi (Brožek & Massimi, 1998).

Josef and his wife, Eunice, welcomed enthusiastically the “Velvet Revolution” of November 1989 in Czechoslovakia. The Brožeks arranged the transfer of American books and journals to university libraries all over the country. In 1996, Charles University in Prague awarded Brožek a gold medal in recognition of his lifelong contributions to Czech psychology and anthropology. In 1999, he became doctor *honoris causa* of biological sciences of Masaryk University, Brno. He was an honorary member of the Czech–Moravian Psychological Society.

Josef’s involvement in international cooperation is well documented by his membership on several editorial boards—American, Spanish, Italian, German—with an emphasis on the history of psychology.

Josef was a personality of wide and vivid interests and many talents. He played cello and guitar, and his broad repertoire encompassed ethnic music from various countries. Also, he was an expert on mushrooms as well as a passionate collector and consumer. In addition to English, he spoke and wrote German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Czech, and Slovak, and he communicated in several related languages. With my daughter Simona Hoskovcova he translated Tagore’s “Fireflies” into Czech (Tagore, 1995). The last article we prepared jointly (Hoskovec & Brožek, 2002) concerned N. F. Capek (1870–1942), who was important for American and Czech psychology and the Unitarian Church.

My personal archives concerning Josef Brožek consists of nine boxes: one bio-biblio, one box of photos, two boxes of reprints, four boxes of correspondence, and one box of miscellaneous items).

One cannot remember Josef without referring to his wife, Eunice, who gave him permanent help and inspiration. With her death on December 19, 2002, Josef ceased his professional work and expressed the desire to follow her soon. Josef died on January 18, 2004, in St. Paul, MN. He is survived by his daughter, Maria Caliandro; his sons, Josef and Peter; and grandchildren, Veronica, Dianna, and Nino. Josef’s idea and aim were to create “intellectual bridges,” which he, with the full support of Eunice, very effectively realized.

Jiří Hoskovec  
Charles University,  
Prague, Czech Republic

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### Josef Brožek's Bethlehem Years

When my husband, Hugh, and I arrived at Lehigh University in 1971, Josef was no longer department chair (1959–1963). He consolidated his second defining career role as research professor in the history of psychology (1964–1979). In 1979, Josef traveled to Würzburg, Germany, as a Senior Fulbright Research Fellow. He returned to Lehigh as adjunct professor (1982–1987). In 1998, the Brožeks left Bethlehem, PA, for St. Paul, MN.

Josef suggested as my 1986 dissertation topic the moral philosopher and psychologist Alexander Bain (1818–1903), because no full-length study of Bain existed (Flesher, 1986). Josef was not on my dissertation committee, but he was a crucial mentor and advisor during and after my graduate study (Brožek, Flesher, & León, 1980). He regularly left reprints which might interest me on what he called “my corner” of his desk. He told me after a piece was published to look not back, but rather forward to the next project. He also entreated: “Just do as much as you can.” Josef, world scholar citizen, was especially supportive of his scholar students who chose groundbreaking paths.

Josef's love of books, languages, and history was evident. His generous