

The objective of the present thesis was to give an integral picture of a particular stage of relation between Arnost Muka, the Sorb patriot, and Adolf Cerny, the Czech promoter and sympathizer of Sorbs, who was considered a national revivalist by the Sorbs themselves, on the background of their correspondence. The stage in question is period between 1885 - 1896.

The thesis covers the first stage of their friendship. It is based on a very comprehensive correspondence material, providing, however, reliable, although often emotionally coloured information about the Lusatia, Sorbs and the family life of both protagonists. By means of this information the development of Sorb national and cultural life towards the close of 19th century as well as the important role played therein by Muka and Cerny, can be well pursued.

Based on so far rather unknown and rarely exploited correspondence deposited in personal funds of A. Muka (LA PNP) and A. Cerny (Archiv of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, archive SI) I gave a picture of their family and professional life, their scientific work and their share in Sorb national life. Some of the pieces of knowledge presented here have not been published so far.

Cerny established written contact with Muka on March 9, 1885, when he asked him to provide a contribution to Masaryk's Athenaea. Although A. Muka did not send any contribution to the journal, Cerny got into his awareness, and hence their general cooperation could be started and developed. Within a year after the first letter A. Muka's detailed life story appeared in the Zlata Praha. The life story was written on Muka's request, because he as a scientist wanted to get into awareness of the Czech society. Due to enemy environment he was surrounded in Chemnitz, Muka planned to move to Prague; the life story might facilitate the possible start of his activity in Prague....