

Abstract

The name of Karel Kazbunda (1888 Jicin – 1982 Jicin), the Czech historian and archivist, is known only by a few professionals today. A graduate in history and geography at the Faculty of Philosophy in Prague, he collaborated in the Czechoslovak-Austrian separation of archives after World War One, when he also undertook an in-depth study into the Viennese archives and copied thousands of pages of archive documents. Because of this, he became one of the greatest experts in Austrian and Czech history in the latter half of the 19th century, and focused on the journalist Karel Havlicek Borovsky. While employed in the Archive of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Prague, he gave lectures as a private tutor at Charles' University. He published several professional studies. His most important books are *The Czech Movement of 1848 (České hnutí 1848)*, and three volumes of the *Chair in History at Prague University (Stolice dějin na pražské univerzitě)*. However, most of his work remained in manuscript form. Only some of them were published after his death.

This Master's thesis emphasises Kazbunda's close affinity with his native town, describes the environment in which he grew up – the Grammar school and the Academic Readers' Union student association (Akademická čtenářská jednota) and provides hitherto little-known details of his private life. Kazbunda loved his native town, however little gratitude his fellow citizens always showed him. Throughout his life he had to defend the legacy of his father, a grammar school teacher and inspector, who was unjustly thought to have been pro-German. After the death of his mother in 1945, tenants were moved into Kazbunda's house and in 1948 the house was close to confiscation. Having just retired, Kazbunda decided to leave the scientific circles of Prague and returned to his small native town. Supported by his loving wife, surrounded by memories of his parents, he lived a modest life and wrote historical works.

In the 1950's he volunteered to help classify the municipal archive and the voluminous museum library free of charge. Unfortunately, in the middle of 1960's, the Communist authorities decided to move both the archive and the library out of the town, which he never got over.

This Master's thesis was based on the study of resources lodged with various archives, with most of the information drawn from Karel Kazbunda's

personal fund lodged with the National Museum's Archive. The written resources are corroborated and supplemented with eye-witness accounts.