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RUKOPIS J. T. BLACKMORE ET AL.: ERNST MACH'S PRAGUE 1867
TO 1895

The Manuscript of J. T. Blackmore et al.: Ernst Mach's Prague 1867
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This informative paper refers to the manuscript "Ernst Mach's Prague 1867 to 1895" of the authors, the subtitle of which goes: "New information on his family, life with colleagues and historic circumstances that led him to pay more attention to the defence of his approaches to science."



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Trojice autorů John Thomas Blackmore, Ryoichi Itagaki a Setsuko Tanaka dokončila další monografii o Ernstu Machovi, jak těsně před Brněnskými dny Ernsta Macha 2008 sdělil první z nich v dopise, k němuž připojil podrobný obsah knihy a rozsáhlou předmluvu k ní. Vydání knihy není v současné době (květen 2008) ještě dohodnuto a nelze ani odhadnout, kde a kdy kniha vyjde. O jejím obsahu a zaměření si lze udělat alespoň dílčí představu na základě výňatků, uvedených v rozsahu asi čtvrtiny předmluvy:

Předmluva:

„This book is primarily biographical, which means that it could or should interest readers in a large number of fields which Ernst Mach contributed to including physics, psychology, physiology, music, philosophy, and the history of those domains. Students of Czech and Central European political developments during the 19th century can also learn a lot about Mach's active role as Rector of the University of Prague before, during, and after its division into separate institutions. [...]

We also learn about Mach's longest and best friends including his sister Marie, Josef Popper, and Eduard Kulke. Marie Mach is a primary source for Mach's childhood adventures; Popper's ideas on the welfare state would largely be realized by the end of the 20th century; and Kulke's contributions to music, Jewish literature, and philosophy have recently been rediscovered. [...]

*Our hero was only in Graz for three years (1864–1867) but it was there that Mach developed both his understanding of what are now called ‚Mach Bands‘ and wrote the first version of *The Analysis of Sensations* which became his major book on philosophy when it finally appeared in revised form 20 years later. It was also in Graz that Mach met an economist who helped Mach broaden that notion to form a universal theory of economic behavior which emphasized simplicity and reducing the time and effort which he thought was wasted in both the science and practical life. [...]*

While the term ‚mach‘ is best-known today in relation to the speed of sound, Mach as a person is best-known for his influential and extremely controversial philosophy. By

detailing the biographical details of how his opponents prevented him from returning to a professorship in Graz in 1876 we hope to suggest that this almost certainly helped motivate him toward shifting his primary focus from science to philosophy. No one likes to see his own work denigrated. [...]

Philosophers, of course, may have the most interest in Mach, though whether his life will interest them is another matter. We believe that human thoughts and feelings can influence human behavior and different world views. Theorists may think that only laws are causes, but their concern is usually with abstract or even idealized types of behavior, and not with biographical particulars about real people at particular places and times where it is normal for almost everyone including most scientists and philosophers to consider most active causes to be particular agents, objects, or forces, that is, as if human biography and history matter. At least within this concrete context scientists and philosophers can learn a lot about how and why Mach and his associates thought and acted the way they did, not with unconditional certainty but with a high degree of apparent probability or relative certainty, that is, with research-determined likelihood."
(Konec předmluvy.)

Až kniha vyjde, bude jistě zajímavé srovnání pohledu na Machovo působení a situaci v pražském prostředí v oné době, jak jsou známy z domácích pramenů a interpretovány domácími znalci problematiky, a pohledem zvenčí.