



## PAVOL JOZEF ŠAFÁRIK – SKETCH OF THE PERSONALITY OF THE PEDAGOGUE AND FOLK EDUCATIONALIST

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### **Abstract**

The authors present the scientific research activity of Pavol Jozef Šafárik, an important figure of the Slovak nation, which brought him and our brotherly Slavic nations well-deserved appreciation and fame in the entire scientific world already during his lifetime. On the other hand, however, it overshadowed and relegated his educational and pedagogical activity, despite the fact that it was Šafárik's main profession for almost 17 years, i.e. a third of the most productive period of his life. The results of his practical pedagogical activities and later active participation in school reforms greatly influenced the pedagogical thinking of that time in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, but also in other Slavic, especially South Slavic countries.

**Keywords:** Pavol Jozef Šafárik. Education. Lyceum

### **Statement of the Problem in General Outlook and Its Connection with Important Scientific and Practical Tasks**

At the beginning of his scientific career, P. J. Šafárik, a poet and scientist, worked as a private tutor in wealthy families and as a teacher for almost 15 years. Šafárik initially acquired prerequisites for pedagogical activities in his native Gemer, rich in progressive school and pedagogical traditions. In 1740, the Society or Brotherhood of Rectors and Preceptors was founded in Štítňik, the birthplace of Šafárik's father – the first teachers' association in Slovakia and Hungary. Šafárik gained theoretical and pedagogical knowledge particularly in Jena, by regularly attending lectures of "the introduction to pedagogical and didactic art". From 1817 to 1819, Šafárik worked in the family of Gašpar Kubinyi as a tutor. Šafárik enriched his educational skills in Bratislava because, in addition to Ladislav Kubinyi, he also tutored two daughters of a merchant and two boys of the aristocratic Bornemiss family. In 1819 he won the open competition for the post of the headmaster of the grammar school in Nový Sad, where he took office on October 9, 1819. When conceiving the tasks of education and school, he drew on the progressive views of ancient and German classical philosophers on education. In many of his thoughts

about schools, teachers and their mission, the spirit of J. A. Comenius echoes, although he does not refer to him in his works. In addition to his teaching profession, Šafárik developed a rich scientific, literary and historical activity. In addition to his scientific work, which was the main purpose of Šafárik's life in Prague, circumstances forced him to deal with issues of educating in education several times. As a member of the commission of the Ministry of Education for the improvement and regulation of public teaching, he prepared a proposal for language reform of schools in the Czech Republic, which he published under the title *Ideas on the implementation of equality of Czech and German language in Czech schools*. The proposal contains many of Šafárik's reflections on the nation, the status of nations in the Austrian Empire and national education, with a detailed proposal for adjusting the language of instruction at all levels of education in Bohemia.

### **Aims of paper. Methods**

In accordance with the purpose illustrated above, we set the goal of the study, which was to interpret Šafárik's pedagogical-philosophical ideas in the context of pedagogy. An important method in our historical-scientific study is the direct method through which we obtained facts from the original source. We also used the literary-historical method for obtaining and processing data, explaining older phenomena with the help of new ones enabled the use of a progressive method, and last but not least, we retrospectively clarified the sequence of events from the youngest to the oldest. For data processing, thorough interpretation and publication of research results, we used a qualitative method, the method of analysis.

### **Exposition of Main Material of Research with Complete Substantiation of Obtained Scientific Results and Discussion**

#### **Excursus on the life of Pavol Jozef Šafárik**

This chapter deals with genealogy of the Šafárik family. So far, sources allow the family tree of P. J. Šafárik to be traced only to his grandparents, but even about them there is scant information. There are scientifically insufficiently documented hypotheses about the origin of other ancestors and the surname Šafárik itself, which can be classified into two groups. One group derives the origin of P. J. Šafárik and his ancestors from Czech exiles, mostly preachers. Its heralds were regional historians of Gemer (L. Bartolomeides, G. Reuss, J. Botto, S. Tomášik), whose ideas were based on claims about "Hussite churches and Czech inhabitants in Gemer and Malohont" who came here as members of Hussite troops, exiles or as member of military unit called "bratřici" who stayed and settled here as peaceful inhabitants. [1] The second group (J. Škultéty, R. Brtáň) assumes Slovak and Štítnica origin and industrial bourgeoisie, class – social affiliation. R. Brtáň connects the social origin with the Gemer mining and ironmongery industry [2], where the name šafár and its bearer had to be by every Slovak furnace.

P. J. Šafárik's grandfather and paternal grandmother are registered in the Štítnica register of married people in 1750 as Joannes Šaffarik and "Suzanna, Thomae Hamorsky filia." They were the townspeople of Štítnica. In the register of the Prešov grammar school, where P. J. Šafárik's father studied, Ján Šafárik's profession is recorded as "officinarium"

(head of the hammer, i.e. šafár). He died in 1790 at the age of 63. These grandparents had four children. Pavel Šafárik, the father of Pavol Jozef was born on 26. 1. 1761 in Štítňnik and his godparents were respected burghers Ondrej Demian and Ondrej Bodo jr. He attended the Latin school in Štítňnik, which had three departments: Donatists, grammarians and syntaxists. After graduating from grammarians department, he attended school in Kunová Teplica for two years to learn Hungarian and he finished syntax in Štítňnik. The rector in Štítňnik also lectured the students on "higher sciences" so in addition to students from Gemer, boys from more distant counties also attended the school in Štítňnica. In 1777, P. Šafárik studied in the secondary class at the Prešov grammar school, then in Kežmarok and finally in Miskolc. After graduation, P. J. Šafárik's father worked as a teacher (preceptor) in the vicinity of Štítňnik, namely in Roštár, Kocelovce and Slavošovce, for at least 15 years. Pavol Šafárik's "teaching stations" were small and poor villages in terms of population and importance, but rich in history. P. J. Šafárik's mother, Katarína Káresová, (born 26/11/1764 – died 14/12/1812) came from a poor yeoman family of Juraj Káres (born 26/11/1736 – died 26/03/1826) and Mária Mlynárová in Hanková. The Káres family was a well-known teaching family at that time. (*Ondrej Káres (born 1773 in Gočov), studied syntax and rhetoric with T. Tsisch in Štítňnik, later worked as a teacher from 1801 to 1807 in Brdárka "sub Rndo Dno Paulo Schaffarik", from where he came to Slavoška*) (*Protocollum rectorum*, p.77) P. J. Šafárik characterized his mother as a pious, quiet, embodied goodness, extremely diligent and good housewife. She could not be otherwise if she wanted to adequately provide for her four children, because the parish in Kobeliarov, as evidenced by the income of the parish priest, was one of the poorest parishes of the Gemer seniorate. Therefore, Šafárik's mother sowed flax, spun, weaved, took care of the farm and traded, so there was always enough of everything in the household. The children were brought up carefully, older sons even "costly." She died on December 14, 1812, relatively young, at the age of 48. The father of P. J. Šafárik got married during his time in Roštár and their son Ján was born here. Other children, Maria, Ľudovít Samuel and Pavol Jozef (born 1791), who died a year later, was born in Slavošovce. The godparents were the Vlach (later Ochtin) rector Ján Banko and his wife Katarína Laučeková, daughter of the Vysnoslan parish priest Martin Lauček. Through the godparents, their family and social relations expanded also to the family of the Gemer chair notary, Michal Szontágh (*One of Martin Lauček's daughters married Michal Szontágh*) (*Protocollum rectorum*, p. 46–47).

The incomes of rectors, and especially of preceptors, were low (*The rector's salary consisted of 3 components: cash money; payment (wood, food, grain); income from occasional events, i.e. the variable component of the salary (e.g. cantations = chants, hosts = wafer baking)*), flats very modest, teachers lived in school buildings, mostly wooden ones. Probably, material reasons led Šafárik's father to abandon the teaching profession and go to work as a parish priest in Kobeliarov, where the post of parish priest became vacant after the death of Pavel Janovský (*Pavel Janovský (born 1742 in Rkynčice – died 1794 in Kobeliarov). He studied in Ožd'any, Štítňnik and Modra. He was a teacher in Békescsab, Cinkot and from 1783 to 1786 in Jelšava, from where he went on to become a parish priest in Kyjátí, then in Kobeliarov. He is the author of manuscript of satirical poems, instructions for caring for bees. His memoirs also*

remained in the manuscript). On May 13, 1795, another son was born to them in Kobeliarov, whom they named after the deceased boy Pavel Jozef. His eldest brother was then already 12 years old, his sister Maria 10 and another brother, Ludovít Samuel was 7 years old.

The surname of Šafárik's father was noted by Bohuslav Tablic in biblical Czech in the form: "Kobelárové, f. Brdárka, 677 d. S. priest Pavel Šaffárik. School teacher Dav. Drošel, Ondř. Kares in Brdárce." (*Augšpurská konfessý, p.213*). In Latin texts it is recorded in the form Paulus Schaffary and Paulus Schaffáry, but also Paulo Schaffarik. (*Protocollum visitationis, s. 60; CSAPLOVICS, J.:Schematismus eclesiarum et scholarum evangelicorum augustanae confessioni in inclyto regno Hungariae addictorum. Pro anno 1820. Viennae 1820, p 89; Protocollum p. 77*). Six months after his wife's death, Šafárik's father married for the second time (June 2, 1813) against the wishes of his children. He married the widow of the Rožňava – Bystrian parish priest Pavol Lovčani Rozina, née Drábova, coming from Jelšava. She had two children from her first marriage, a daughter Rozália and a son Pavol. He lived with this pretty, respectable lady, who, however, was not as good a housewife as his deceased wife, until the end of his life.

Siblings of P. J. Šafárik. The eldest brother of Šafárik, Ján born in 1783 in Roštár, studied at the Tsisch's Pedagogical Institute in Štítník, "in one of the best educational institutions of the time, according to Salzmann's model. " [3]. Here he mastered selected methods of administration, French language and music. Then he attended the lyceum in Bratislava, from where he left in 1803 and moved near Bratislava to work as an economic administrator and then to the property of the Kubínyi family in Kiskörös. He married Zuzana Lešková (*Zuzana Lešková was the sister of the poet, writer and evangelical pastor in Kiskörös*) "and a farmer and farmer himself", he died in 1842. He had four children. The eldest son Ján, who used to work with P. J. Šafárik during his studies in Novosad, became a doctor, professor and librarian in Belgrade. Other sons, Jozef and Gustav, were lawyers in Kiskörös. Daughter Johana married the merchant Jozef Sárkány in Kiskörösi. Out of all P. J. Šafárik's sibings Maria was his favourite one (born 8. 9. 1785 in Slavošovce – died 2. 9. 1852 in Kiskörösi). Her parents did not put her into service, as was customary even in poor pastoral and teaching families, but she learned Hungarian and German privately and did housework in the Ujházy family. He was a tailor and a poor yeoman in Rožňava, his wife was the daughter of Michal Sárkány, a professor at Rožňava grammar school. In 1806, Šafárik's sister married Pavel Sárkány, the elder son of the aforementioned professor. She moved from Rožňava to Dobšiná and from there to Kiskörös. She had three sons, Karol – a merchant, Ján, Jozef – also a merchant, who married the already mentioned Johanna. Šafárik's sister was the most similar to her father. Brother Samuel (born 1788 in Slavošovce – died in Pustý Fedýmeš in 1830), studied in Bratislava, temporarily in Banská Štiavnica. After his studies, he worked as a farm worker in Pozdišovce, from where he moved to Pustý Fedýmeš, where he died suddenly.

### **Kežmarok Lyceum**

Protestant schools in Slovakia in the second half of the 18th century and in the 19th century had an excellent reputation throughout Hungary, and among them the Evangelical Lyceum in Kežmarok, known for its rich history, stood out in northern Slovakia. In

Kežmarok, the conditions for the establishment of a school matured already in the 13th century. However, the first written reports about the school date back to 1383 - 1392. They are found in a document by which Master Paul, cantor and vicar of the Chapter of St. Martin in the Spiš Chapter settled a dispute between Ján, the parish priest of Kežmarok, and the rector about the distribution of money from church services and funerals. The rector was represented in this dispute by the mayor of Kežmarok and the sworn officer, which is proof of the city's care for the school and its rector [4, 5]. This also points to the change of the parish school into an urban school with a new mission and teaching content.

At the end of the 14th century, the school was already divided according to content into two levels, lower (Brotschule) and higher. At the lower level, the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic were taught, the content of the higher level (Latin school) were the seven liberal arts (trivium: grammar, rhetoric and dialectics; quadrivium: arithmetic, astronomy, geometry and music). The town municipal council, striving for a good standard of the school, invited educated teachers, even from abroad, because they had enough financial means to do so. Many students left Kežmarok for universities abroad, to Krakow, Vienna, Leipzig and elsewhere, from there they returned and worked mainly at Spiš schools but also at other schools.

The Kežmarok school maintained a good level even during the Reformation, which began in Kežmarok with the arrival of the priest Juraj Laudischer in 1531. It was supported mainly by nobles, some of whom founded their own schools (noble schools), such as Pavel Mariássy in Markušovce (1567), Arnold de Gara in Spišský Hrhov, Gregor Horváth de Stančič in Strážky (1585) [6]. In the 16th century, Leonard Stöckel (1555 -1556) and Lukáš Gabinus Popradský (1570 – 1572), later the rector of the school in Prešov, stood out among the teachers of the Kežmarok school.

The activities of the school were interrupted by estate uprisings and re-catholicization efforts. After their pacification and after the plague epidemic in 1710 – 1711, in which two-thirds of the population died, the school reached a good level again under the leadership of Juraj Bohuš from Banská Bystrica (1711 – 1722), who was dealing with natural sciences, for which he became a member of the Natural Science Society in Erfurt and Juraj Buchholtz Jr. from Kežmarok (1723 – 1733, speleologist and pioneer in exploring the High Tatras.

The organization of teaching was determined by the school regulations from 1755. Study in the five grades of the school lasted eight years. The first class consisted of logicians, the second rhetoricians, the third syntaxists, the fourth grammarians, and the fifth, the lowest donatists. The study of donatism and logic took one year each, grammar, syntax and rhetoric were studied for two years. [7]

From the material and financial point of view, the school was secured in the form of endowments of aristocratic families from Spiš, namely the family of Berzevici, Okoličáni, Mariássy, Dessewffy, Horváth – Stančič, Sirmai, Görgey and others. In 1760 they united for this purpose in the so-called Coalition. The base reached 36 thousand gold coins. The annual salary of the rector and professors (600, 500, 400, and 300 zl) was insured from it. [2]

In the second half of the 18th century, the Evangelical School in Kežmarok gained such favor with the imperial court that it was the only Evangelical secondary school in Slovakia recognized by Vienna. In 1723 it had 270 pupils, in 1752 there were ninety in the highest class alone. According to the school regulations of 1767, drawn up under the rector of Ján Karlovský (1760-1770), it had five grades with five permanent teachers and the study was extended to ten years. The aim of education in the sense of neo-humanism, which marked this school system, was pietas (piety), honestas (honesty) and humanitas (humanity).[8]. The further development of the Kežmarok school was positively influenced by the Ratio educationis (1777), although it was not binding for evangelical schools. Thanks to the Patent of Tolerance of Joseph II, protestants also had leadership in the field of education, but if they did not want to lag behind the development, they had to adjust their schools organizationally and in terms of their content. According to Ratio educationis two-year academic classes for the study of philosophy and law were also established at the Evangelical school in Kežmarok. The philosophy class was opened in 1787 and taught by Christian Genersich (1786-1789), followed by his brother Ján (1788-1821) and other professors. In 1801 they opened a class and a department of theology, where Daniel Mihálik (1801-1839) followed by others, and finally in 1805 they created a department of law, to which Štefan Aderján (1805-1816) was invited on the initiative of Gregor Berzevici. After the establishment of the aforementioned departments, the school acquired the character of a lyceum, but was officially recognized in 1805, after the approval of the Ratio educationis II.

Further adjustments were carried out at the Kežmarok lyceum in 1803 and became the basis of the school regulations from 1813. According to the adjustments from 1803, which were, for the most part, the work of the lyceum inspector Gregory Berzevici, the organization of the Kežmarok school looked like this: 1. Elementary folk school with three classes, 2. Three Latin grammar classes of two grades each, 3. Philosophical course (artes humaniores) with two grades, 4. Academic study with three grades [9].

The school was administered by the rector, assisted by some patrons who took care of the financial security of the school and its professors, participated in the creation of school regulations, invited and selected professors. Of the patrons involved in the management of the school in the first two decades of the 19th century, two deserve special attention, namely Gregor František Berzevici (Gregor František Berzevici (1763 Veľká Lomnica – 1822 Lomnička), progressive Enlightenment economist and lawyer. He was educated in Kežmarok, Pest and Göttingen. From 1795 he lived at his property in Veľká Lomnica. In his works, he dealt with the reform of the feudal system, industry, commerce and the peasant question) and Ondrej Mariássy (O. Mariássy, nobleman from Batizovce, one of the supporters and patrons of the Kežmarok lyceum),[9] senior and evangelical convent in Kežmarok, where Samuel Fuchs worked as pastor at that time.

At the end of the 18th and at the beginning of the 19th century, the spirit of German rationalism, new humanism and philanthropy reigned in Hungarian secondary schools. These ideological tendencies were brought to Hungary from German universities by: Samuel Tešedík of Sarvaš, Tomáš Tsisch of Štítница, Martin Liedemann of Levoča, Adam Podkonický of Kežmarok, Rojko and Kohl-mayer of Banská Bystrica, Podhradský of Senica and others. [10]. Some of them created educational institutes in Slovakia similar

to Salzmann's philanthropin in Schnepfenthal. In Kežmarok, these ideas were spread by the rectors of the lyceum: Ján Karlovský, [9] Jozef Bencúr (rector in the years 1775 – 1760 and 1771 – 1776), under whom a new building was built for the school in Kežmarok [9] and the aforementioned Adam Podkonický (1776-1818). (Adam Podkonický, originally from Banská Bystrica, he had a Latin-German education. First studied grammar in his birthplace, then for three years in Vyšná Slaná. He received his secondary education in Bratislava, especially in history, statistics and economics. After graduating from university, he worked in Kežmarok). Podkonický founded the so-called "paedagogium" in 1795 in Kežmarok, i.e. three years later than T. Tsisch in Štítik. It was also a private institute and pursued similar goals as the Pedagogical Institute in Štítik, but lagged far behind it in terms of level and reputation. The "Paedagogium" in Kežmarok ceased to exist in 1807. [9]

### **The influence of the lyceum on the personality of P. J. Šafárik**

His professors had the most significant direct influence on the formation of P. J. Šafárik's personality. In his memoirs he mentions several professors from Kežmarok, namely Ján Genersich, Daniel Mihálik, Štefan Aderján and the rector Adam Podkonický. John Genersich, (*Ján Genersich (1761 – 1823), Originally from Kežmarok, he gained rich knowledge by studying in Kežmarok, Debrecen, Gemer, Bratislava and Jena. He had a great scientific outlook on classical philology, German literature and history. In 1788 he joined the lyceum in Kežmarok as a professor and taught rhetoric, philosophy and other disciplines there. In Kežmarok he founded and led „Litterarische Gesellschaft“ (1805 – 1810), the members of which were Gregor Berzevici, Ladislav Badáni, Pavel Póner, town notary Fuhrmann, Stencil, Podkonický and Kežmarok pastor Fuchs. He circulated important domestic and foreign magazines among the members of the society. As part of his rich literary activity, he also dealt with theoretical and pedagogical questions, as illustrated in the work Beiträge zur Schulpaedagogik (Wien, Sahel 1792). In 1821 he went to the Evangelical Theological School in Vienna.*) [9] an exceptionally educated, scientifically and organizationally creative pedagogue, who, together with his older brother Kristián, was the central figure of the scientific efforts of that time in Kežmarok and its surroundings, P. J. Šafárik rightly described as a man "of Socratic gentleness and great learning." (*Kristián Genersich (1759–1825), received his university education in Jena and Utrecht. After returning from Germany, he became the administrator of the alumnae at the castle of Horrváth de Stančíč in Strážky. From 1784 to 1786 he worked as a rector at Gemer, then in Kežmarok as a professor and from 1799 as a parish priest*) [6]. J. Genersich, as a good connoisseur of German literature, influenced the young Šafárik with his lectures and scientific ambitions and certainly partly gave direction to his then literary - artistic and later scientific endeavours of that time. J. Genersich also dealt with theoretical and pedagogical issues and some of his works were published during Šafárik's studies in Kežmarok. It can therefore be assumed that Šafárik knew Genersich's works.

The second of the aforementioned professors, Daniel Mihálik, (*Daniel Mihálik (1767 Hybe – 1840), studied in Dobšiná, Kežmarok and Debrecen. At one time he worked as an educator with Mikuláš Okoličány, Marko and František Szirmai, from where he went to the college in Prešov, where he taught philosophy, mathematics, Hebrew and theology.*

He completed his university studies in Jena together with Jakub Glatz, P. Jozefi, Juraj Fornet and others. He listened to lectures by Fichte, Griesbach, Hufeland and other professors. Then he taught Roman and German literature at Sárospatak. He declined the offered professorship at the Helvetic college and the invitation to Dobšiná, Banská Štiavnica, Prešov and Levoča, but in April 1801 he accepted the position of Ján Absóth in Kežmarok. At the lyceum he taught theology and philosophy, mathematics and natural sciences) [2] like Kristián Genersich before him, also had homiletic exercises with students during his academic studies. By these practical exercises, future priests were taught to compose sermons and lead services in their mother tongue, i.e. German, Slovak and Hungarian. Thus, P. J. Šafárik was able to become more thoroughly acquainted with the liturgical and literary Czech language and some works of Czech literature. To what extent and in what direction Štefan Aderján, advocate of the Várady-Sakmáry family, who came to Kežmarok from Vyšná Slaná, influenced Šafárik, it is difficult to determine. More detailed information about this professor is not yet available.

During Šafárik's studies at the lyceum in Kežmarok, Adam Podkonický was the rector and held this position for 42 years. He was already old "half-childish man", (Co vyprávěl Šafárik, p. 247) who himself undermined his former fame and authority, with his senility. But some self-confident and impudent students from the rich noble families also contributed to that greatly. The old rector was nothing but an object of ridicule to the students. Podkonický also spoiled the good reputation of the Kežmarok lyceum with his teaching system and teaching methods known from the biography of Ján Seberini (1780-1857), who studied in Kežmarok several years before Šafárik. Podkonický, although originally Slovak, was ashamed of Slovak language.

While J. Genersich, D. Mihalik and S. Aderján had an inspiring influence on the literary, artistic and later scientific activities of P. J. Šafárik, creating subjective prerequisites for educational and teaching activities, and certainly in many cases they were models for Šafárik to solving educational situations, rector Podkonický was rather an intimidating example. On the other hand, with his intolerance towards Slovak boys and his aversion to the Slovak language, he achieved the opposite effects in them, not excluding P. J. Šafárik, interest in the Slovak nation and its language and thus unintentionally contributed to their national awareness.

From his classmates and friends in Kežmarok, P. J. Šafárik mentions mainly Ján Zmeškal and Ján Benedikti. The composition of Kežmarok students from an ethnic point of view was diverse. In addition to Germans, Hungarians and Slovaks, Serbs also studied here. Some of them later took an important position in the life of their country and P. J. Šafárik met them even years later. Those were: D. Davidovič, later a Serbian journalist, T. Stratimirovič, nephew of the Serbian metropolitan of Karlovica Štefan Stratimirovič, and Milovan Vidakovič, a Serbian writer, who studied here in the school year 1807/1808. From one of them he learned the Cyrillic alphabet [11] and Serbian was already becoming a close language to him in Kežmarok. The interest of the Serbs in studying in distant Kežmarok is certainly related to the fact that the secretary of the Orthodox metropolitan T. Stratimirovič in Karlovica was the Slovak Pavel Benický, a good acquaintance of the Šafárik's family.

P. J. Šafárik completed his studies in Kežmarok in the summer of 1814 by completing all three courses:

- philosophical with J. Genersich, in which logic, metaphysics, pure and applied mathematics, theoretical and experimental physics, economics ruralis, Latin style, comparative philosophy and history of Hungary were discussed; Šafárik was graded eminens in all subjects;
- political-juridical under the leadership of Š. Aderján, where the curriculum included subjects: jus naturae, jus privatum civile et criminale, scienciae politicae, which he completed in all subjects as eminenter;
- theological with professor Daniel Mihálik, where he mastered dogmatic and moral theology, an introduction to the books of St. Scriptures (hermeneutics), Greek and Hebrew.

As a condition for admission to a German university and obtaining one of the scholarships for "Hungarian" students in Germany, he completed a candidate degree in theology with K. Genersich with result "eminenter profectus in theolog. Praeparatoris." On the certificate issued on 14. August 1814 Šafárik was evaluated "in omnibus aequae ac in moribus eminent." [2].

Studying and staying in Kežmarok was of a great importance for the formation of the personality of P. J. Šafárik, as a poet and later a scientist of European and even world class. He wrote about it in his own biography written in German. The knowledge and skills that a student of the Kežmarok lyceum had, or should have had, after graduation, including P. J. Šafárik, can be reconstructed on the basis of the curriculum of the three courses mentioned before and the evaluation of the results expressed by the grade, professional and pedagogical abilities of teachers and, if possible, also based on the psychological assumptions of the students themselves.

P. J. Šafárik completed all three cycles on "in artibus humanioribus et altioribus Scientiis." In his studies, he was distinguished by extraordinary diligence, excelled in "morals" (behavior) and school result, for both of which he was evaluated with a mark "eminens". In addition to the professional knowledge acquired in these three courses, i.e. knowledge of philosophical, legal and theological disciplines, Šafárik mastered German and classical languages perfectly. In the theology course he learned Greek and Hebrew. Greek and Latin opened the gates to ancient Greek and Latin literature. The knowledge of these two classical languages with the suggestions of Professor J. Genersich created subjective prerequisites for poetic activity in Šafárik, provided stimuli for it, and at the same time opened the way for later scientific activity in the field of philology, especially etymology. Šafárik expanded and deepened the knowledge provided by the school through self-education, in which the rich lyceum library, as well as works and magazines he bought, created suitable conditions and provided opportunities. In this way, he himself obtained information and overview of current literary-artistic and literary-scientific events in the countries of the Austrian monarchy, especially in the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

## Conclusion

Šafárik's love for his native region, homeland, nation and language found concrete expression in his poetry and in collecting Slovak folk songs. The result of his poetic work in Kežmarok was a celebratory poem on Ondrej Mariássy, patron of the lyceum, baron from Markušovce and Batizovce, on the occasion of his return as a colonel of infantrymen from the war against Napoleon – Ode festiva. However, he introduced himself to literature with his poetry collection "Tatranská múza s lýrou slovanskou" (Levoča 1814), which he dedicated to Gregor Berzevici from Veľká Lomnica, inspector of the lyceum, Predtisia and Zatisia and a member of the Göttingen learned society. In particular, two poems from the mentioned collection, "Slavení slavanských pacholků" and "Posledná noc" as reminiscences of the native Gemer, its nature, people and folklore traditions against the feudal struggle with freedom-loving bandit retinues, exceeded the ideological framework of the time. Older members of the generation of enlightenment (J. Jungmann, J. Palkovič, L. Bartolomeides) noticed that a new poet was entering Czech and Slovak poetry. It was the overall social situation in Europe marked by the interest of scholars – enlighteners in the peasant people, their life, verbal art and folklore, as well as the multiplying calls for collecting folk songs in magazines. Impulses could also come from Serbian classmates from Kežmarok, where he could encounter Vuk's collection of folk songs "Malá Prostonárodná pesnarica" from 1814 (After J. Szepesi other teachers worked in Štítník – cantors who were gifted musicians and worked at the Tsch Institute).

P. J. Šafárik lived and created his scientific works in a society that respected and honored him in Slovakia as well as in Serbia and the Czech Republic. It paid tribute to him like to a star. For the Slovak nationally conscious intelligentsia, the personality of Šafárik, his life, scientific endeavours and works were always inspiring and stimulating. His theory of the equal rights of the nation and the national language in the state became a guide to noble deeds, which took concrete form already in the year of his death. On November 21, 1861 his compatriots, Gemer nationalists, met at A. H. Škultéty's parish in Rozložná after travelling from Kobeliarov, where they paid tribute to Šafárik's memory. Here Šafárik's ideas gave them the idea of founding a Slovak grammar school in Revúca. Šafárik's scientific fame and memory have not faded and respect for him has not weakened even in the Czechoslovak Republic. The scientific society at Comenius University in Bratislava – the Learned Society of Šafárik, which was active in the years 1926 to 1939, was named after him. After 1945, the society in Slovakia did not let his scientific work or memory fall into oblivion and named the "Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice" and the grammar school in Rožňava after him. Many streets and public spaces in cities in Slovakia, but also in the Czech Republic, bear the name of Šafárik.

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