

Czech Functional Structuralists: The Founders



Vilém Mathesius (1882-1945) – founder, Prague Linguistic Circle (PLC) 1926; author of the substitution theory of translation (1913). The Prague functional-structuralist programmatic thesis was published as *Travaux du Cercle Linguistique de Prague* (1929).



Roman Jakobson (1896-1982) – founder, Prague Linguistic Circle 1926; author of the renowned linguistic functions derived from Bühler, Mathesius, Mukařovský, Malinowski and Tarski; a graduate of Moscow University and a Russian formalist, he moved to Prague in 1920, studied modern philology at Charles University and then taught at Brno University. He left the country in 1939 (the Nazi occupation threatened the existence of Jews) moving to the USA (in 1941) via Scandinavia.



Jan Mukařovský (1891-1975) – founder, Czech structural aesthetics/semiotics; author of the triad *norm – function – value as social facts*; author of the *aesthetic function*. His theory and methodology were the cornerstones of Levý's works.



Nikolai Trubetzkoy (1890-1938, Russia, Vienna), PLC member, phonology



René Wellek (1903-1995) – PLC member, emigrated to the USA in 1939



Felix Vodička (1909-1974) – author, Czech reception theory (inspiration for the Constance School)



Otokar Fischer (1883-1938) – founder, the Czech translation school based on substitution