

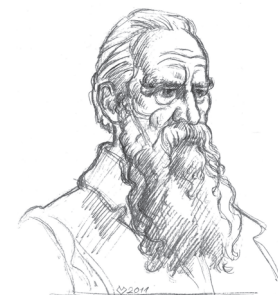
Josef Hlávka

Architect and builder of the maternity hospital
in which you have brought your child into the world

NADACE
Nadání Josefa, Marie a Zdenky Hlávkových

**VITA
ET
FUTURA**
NADAČNÍ FOND PRO ROZVOJ
GYNEKOLOGIE A PORODNICTVÍ

Published by the Josef, Marie and Zdenka Hlávka Foundation
and the VITA ET FUTURA Foundation.
Text by doc. MUDr. Antonín Pařízek, CSc.
Drawing on the title page by academic sculptor Michal Vitanovský.



Josef Hlávka

Born February 15, 1831 in Přeštice,
died March 11, 1908 in Prague

The architect and builder of the maternity hospital in which you have brought your child into the world was Josef Hlávka – one of the greatest patrons of Czech sciences, culture and education.

Some important works by Josef Hlávka:

- implementation of the **Vienna State Opera** (1869)
- architect and builder of the **The National Maternity Hospital in Prague** (1875), today the Gynecological-Maternity Clinic of the First Medical Faculty and General Faculty Hospital of Charles University
- founded the **Czech Academy of Science and Arts** (1891)
- **his residence for the bishopric in Černovce** (1882), in modern Ukraine, was entered into the **UNESCO** list of cultural and natural heritage (2011)
- paid for the first complete **translation of the works of W. Shakespeare** into Czech
- personally supported **Antonín Dvořák, Oskar Nedbal and Julius Zeyer**
- founded the **Josef, Marie and Zdenka Hlávka Foundation**, the oldest continuously operated endowment in the Czech Republic (1904)

Some history of the The National Maternity Hospital:

- **one of the longest operating maternity hospitals in the world**
- J. Hlávka designed and built the unique maternity hospital building from 1865 – 1875
- the building is made from rough non-plastered bricks, as it was previously believed that they were better at preventing the transmission of infections (at the behest of the municipal authorities)
- Josef Hlávka gained inspiration from the maternity hospitals of other important European centers in Brussels, Paris, and Vienna
- for the exterior design Hlavka chose a north-German neo-gothic style; he envisioned a building composed of six pavilions with eleven wings, with a rectangular central courtyard; this unique pavilion system enabled individual parts of the building to be closed and thus hinder the spread of infection

- the hospital building also contained two secret wards with separate entrances directly from the street (for the secret births of rich noble and towns-women).
- from an architectural point-of-view, the most interesting part of the maternity hospital is the Chapel of the Holy Cross (first floor, above the entrance vestibule); the chapel space is composed of rich star-shaped diamond vaulting, supported by a central column. In the chapel there is a marble baptistery, marble cabinet-style altar, neo-gothic oak confessional and cabinetry for the pipe organ; the decorative painting done according to designs by Adolf Liebscher and Adolf Korber are from 1902; the chapel underwent restoration in 1997
- a short piece in the news on April 28, 1875 remarked: "The new maternity hospital has already fulfilled its function. Last night it welcomed its first newborn, a baby girl. The mother is Barbora Koutná from Rožmitál"
- due to its unique architectural qualities and importance in the history of medicine, the area of Hlávka's maternity hospital has been designated a cultural monument

The National Maternity Hospital today:

In the historic outer structure of the Hlávka building can today be found a modern maternity hospital, with neonatology and gynecology wards, operating at the highest level of European care. There is also a perinatology center for Prague and the Central Bohemian region. This center often serves as a multi-disciplinary point-of-care for the most serious maternal pathologies throughout the Czech Republic. As such, the maternity hospital has fulfilled Hlávka's legacy in building the hospital, which is currently one of the longest operating maternity hospitals in the world. The perinatology center offers women care for pre-term births, diabetes mellitus, serious cardiac defects, bleeding disorders, non-specific gastro-intestinal inflammations such as Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, as well as myasthenia gravis and rheumatoid diseases. In conjunction with the Institute of Clinical and Experimental Medicine in Prague, multi-disciplinary care is also offered to pregnant women who have undergone various organ transplants. In addition, in our perinatology center we offer diagnosis and treatment for various childhood diseases before birth, or in utero.

In 2005 this maternity hospital was the first in Europe to gain certification by the European Board and College of Obstetrics & Gynaecology (EBCOG) for three subspecialties (perinatology, urogynecology and gynecological oncology). EBCOG certification is given only under the conditions that a medical institution upholds the highest standards of care, and can therefore also serve as a guarantor of post-graduate education in gynecology and childbirth in Europe.



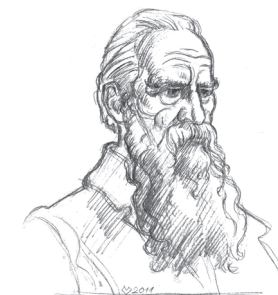
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Architect and builder of one of the longest functioning
maternity hospitals in the world

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