

***The Process of Appointing Arnošt Konstantin
Růžička a Bishop in České Budějovice
During 1815 – 1816, Based on the Sources from
Archivio Segreto Vaticano***

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To begin with

In this study, I am going to elaborate on the designation episcopal process of Arnošt Konstantin Růžička in České Budějovice. It is based on the sources from Archivio Segreto Vaticano on which no research has been made before. This study is a partial output from a project concerning the life and writings of the second bishop in České Budějovice.¹ In a broader context, this study contributes to the knowledge and understanding of high church dignitaries who lived during a church-political system of Josephinism. It is a topical subject on European scale that both Czech and Slovakian historians deal with.²

Briefly to the life and writings of Arnošt Konstantin Růžička

There has not been devoted too much space in literature to this topic; what is more, the existing information is often inaccurate.³ Therefore, it is, in

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² One of many common outputs is the following number of journal: *Historie-otázky-problémy* 2/2009, called *Od barokní piety k interiorizaci víry? Problémy katolického osvědčení v českých zemích*. It is published by the faculty of philosophy of Charles University in Prague.

³ Franz MARDETSCHLÄGER, *Kurz gefasste Geschichte des Bistums und der Diocese Budweis zur Jubiläumsfeier ihres hundertjährigen Bestehens*, Budweis, 1885, p. 16-27; Aleš ZELENKA, *Die Wappen der böhmischen und mährischen Bischöfe*, Regensburg: Behey Verlag, 1979, p. 167-168; Jaroslav KADLEC, *Růžička Arnošt Konstantin*, in *Encyklopedie Českých Budějovic*, České Budějovice: Municipality České Budějovice, 2. publication, 2006, p. 428; Jaroslav KADLEC, *Českobudějovická diecéze*, České Budějovice: Sdružení Jana Nepomuka Neumana -

this case, requested to substantially concentrate on archives. On such basis, I would, at the beginning, submit some basic data to the reader concerning Růžička's life until negotiations about his episcopal designation occurred.

Arnošt Konstantin Růžička was born on 21st December, 1761, in Tloskov by Neveklov. He attended grammar school, went on university (Prague) in 1777, and graduated from philosophy in 1779. Also that year, he joined archbishop seminars and commenced to study theology and church law, where he reached excellent ratings. Consequently, he was authorized (in total for 2 years) to help other students during their curricula. In 1783, after establishing Prague general seminar, he was appointed a student prefect. and finished all his exams as eminenter. Hence, in 1784, he got 2 job offers at once: he could become a professor of moral theology in general seminar in Hradiště by Olomouc or he could be a vice-rector of general seminar in Lvov – he accepted the second offer. On 15th June, 1785, prior to his departure, he was ordained priest by Mr Krieger, a bishop in Prague.⁴ In 1787, when the emperor Joseph II went to Crimea, Růžička became his guide and, subsequently, on 24th November, he was appointed a rector of the seminar in Lvov till its termination.⁵ Then, he moved to Vienna where he stayed until his designation of South Bohemian capitular on 15th February, 1794. His installation proceeded on 20th July, 1794. 3 years later, on 27th August, 1797, he was appointed a general vicar, an official, and a head of episcopal consistory by bishop Jan Prokop Schaaffgotsche.⁶ He was brought to the positions on 12th October, 1797.⁷

Setkání, 1995, p. 28-30; Jaroslav V. POLC, *Stručný přehled dějin českých a moravských diecézí po třicetileté válce*, Prague: Charles University in Prague, Catholic theological faculty, 1995, p. 67; Kurt Augustin HUBER, *Kirche in Südböhmen. Ein Überblick*, in *Archiv für Kirchengeschichte von Böhmen – Mähren – Schlesien 7, Festschrift zur zweiten Säkularfeier des Bistums Budweis 1785-1985*, Kurt Augustin HUBER (ed.), Königstein im Taunus: Inst. für Kirchengeschichte von Böhmen-Mähren-Schlesien, 1985, p. 18; Kurt Augustin HUBER, *Růžička, Constantin Ernest (1761-1845)*, in Erein GATZ (ed.), *Die Bischöfe der heiligen römischen Reiches 1648-1803*. Berlin: Duncker & Humblot, 1990, p. 409; Milan M. BUBEN, *Encyklopedie českých a moravských sídelních biskupů*, Praha: Logos s. r. o., 2000, p. 281-282.

⁴ Compare State regional archive Třeboň (SRA), Episcopal archive České Budějovice (EA), Arnošt Konstantin Růžička, Doklady k nominaci, konsekraci a instalaci do úřadu českobudějovického biskupa, (1794) 1815-1816, sign. II/2/b/4, fasc. 13. Compare also SRA Třeboň, EA ČB, Arnošt Konstantin Růžička, Doklady o narození a studiu, 1761-1785 (1815), sign. II/2/a/1, fasc. 13.

⁵ Compare SOA Třeboň, EA ČB, Arnošt Konstantin Růžička, Úřad vicerektora a rektora generálního kněžského semináře ve Lvově, 1785-1792, sign. II/2/b/1, fasc. 13. Also compare SOA Třeboň, EA ČB, Arnošt Konstantin Růžička, Doklady k nominaci, konsekraci a instalaci do úřadu českobudějovického biskupa, (1794) 1815-1816, sign. II/2/b/4, fasc. 13.

⁶ See Rudolf SVOBODA, *Jan Prokop Schaaffgotsche. První biskup českobudějovický*, Brno: publ. L. Marek, edition Pontes pragenses, 2009.

⁷ To prove their cooperation, we could, for instance, refer to their correspondence (mainly Růžička's letters to Schaaffgotsche). Compare SOA Třeboň, EA ČB, Jan Prokop hr. Schaf-

After Schaaffgotsche death in May, 1813, Růžička was authorised to lead diocese during *vacatio sedis*.⁸ At that time, he refused to become an auxiliary bishop and a general vicar in Lvov.⁹

The process of Růžička's episcopal designation

As I have mentioned in the introductory part, I am going to present the process of Růžička's episcopal designation in South Bohemia, based on so far unexplored sources saved in *Archivio Segreto Vaticano*. Those provide witnesses about Růžička's life as well as about diocese situation in České Budějovice, his settlement.

The process was commenced by his designation to the South Bohemian episcopal office on 26th July, 1815, by the emperor Frank I.¹⁰ Since the nomination had to be confirmed by Rome (Růžička could not board to function without the acceptation), a Latin translation of the nomination letter along with the request was sent the same day. From the request we can, among others, derive that the decision about Růžička's nomination had been made on 15th June, 1815, in Heidelberg.¹¹

Fulfilling Rome command, so called inquisitorial process (*processus inquisitionis*) was introduced during a nunciature in Vienna in order to provide pope with enough materials so he could make the decision about Růžička's nomination.¹²

The process, starting on 12nd December 1815, was led by nuncio Antonio Gabriele count Severoli. The aim was to determine the then situation of diocese in České Budějovice and, more importantly, to discern Růžička's personality. Eye-witnesses had, except to confirm the process, to refer about qualities of the nominated bishop and South Bohemian diocese.¹³ Such references were submitted as answers (based on documents

gotsch, Reports of both official and private character by general vicar of South Bohemian diocese Ant. Konst. Růžičky, 1796-1799, sing. II/1/b/12, fasc. 11.

⁸ Compare SOA Třeboň, EA ČB, Arnošt Konstantin Růžička, Úřad kanovníka, konzistorního rady, generálního a kapitulního vikáře českobudějovické diecéze, 1794-1815, sign. II/2/b/3, fasc. 13.

⁹ Compare SOA Třeboň, EA ČB, Arnošt Konstantin Růžička, Úřad generálního vikáře a světitelního biskupa ve Lvově, 1813, sign. II/2/b/2, fasc. 13.

¹⁰ Compare *Processus Inquisitionis super Qualitatibus Rmi Dni Ernesti Ruziczka Cathedralis Ecclesiae Budvicensis Vicarii Generalis et Officialis ab Augustissimo Austriae Imperatore Francisco I Hungariae Apostolico, ac Bohemiae Rege ad Episcopatum Bidvicensem Nominati, ac Promovendi et super Statu Ecclesiae Cathedralis Budvicensis Anno 1815*, fol. 113. Transcript of the imperial nomination letter in German made by notary Ingnatius Walter on 14th December, 1815.

¹¹ See 10, fol. 114. Překlad císařského nominačního dopisu do latiny a žádost o potvrzení Růžičky do úřadu českobudějovického biskupa. Růžička is described as "a general vicar and a director of theological and philosophical studies.

¹² See 10, fol. 92.

¹³ See 10, fol. 93.

made during inquisitorial process) to a questionnaire consisted of 26 questions, divided half by half for Růžička and for the diocese.

One could find here a confirmation about Růžička's baptism and origin, published by Prague archbishop consistory on 10th November, 1815.¹⁴ 2 days earlier, the consistory provided acceptations of lower and higher ordination.¹⁵ Other confirmations, made on 12nd July and 8th November, 1785, approve his particular theological studies that he had finished – with great study results – on Charles-Ferdinand University (former Charles University) in Prague; in particular, it was dogmatic, ecclesiastic law, and catechesis.¹⁶ Validated by 3 South Bohemian canons, a bishop chancellor, and a notary, Růžička had a copy of a grade-of-philosophy certificate (which he got on 6th August 1779) on 28th November 1815 created.¹⁷ On 24th October, 1815, the South Bohemian canonry also issued a testimonial expressing so far irreproachable Růžička's life, being a kind of summarization of his life and work. Signed by all of the 7 South Bohemian members of canonry, 2 elements are highlighted: his doing in South Bohemian diocese alongside Jan Prokop Schaaffgotsche and his personal qualities.¹⁸ Another essential document was himself-signed (members of canonry were witnessing) confession in prescribed form on 28th November, 1815. For such an occasion, South Bohemian provost Johan Albert Hegemüller was delegated nuncio in Vienna on 17th November, 1815.¹⁹

Above mentioned questions about Růžička and diocese were answered by: firstly, Mr František Xaver Faulhaber – canon of the collegiate canonry of Prague, a doctor of philosophy and theology from Prague and Viennese university, a professor of pastoral theology, and a dean of theological faculty in Vienna; secondly – Mr František Josef Jekel – a doctor of law, who taught in Göttingen, Warsaw, and in Prague. Both witnesses knew Růžička well, their statements differ barely. They agreed on his origin, sufficient age for gaining episcopal ordination, acquired education and experience in ecclesiastic offices and pastoral coverage, and, above all, moral integrity, reputation and orthodoxy. Furthermore, both asserted he had been able to stand for episcopal order.²⁰ The state of diocese was also described similarly. According to them, the South Bohemian

¹⁴ Thanks to those confirmations, we can discover information (that is also known from earlier research) about his parents' names, jobs etc. See 10, fol. 116.

¹⁵ On 22nd December, 1781, he accepted the first tonsure and 4 lower ordinations; on 10th June, 1785, sub-deacon; on 12nd July, 1785, diaconate ordination; and on 15th July 1785, clerical ordination by Prague bishop Erasmus Krieger, fol. 117.

¹⁶ See 10, fol. 108 and 110.

¹⁷ See 10, fol. 109.

¹⁸ Testimonium de vita et morum. See 10, fol. 111-112.

¹⁹ See 10, fol. 115-116.

²⁰ See 10, fol. 95-97, 100.

diocese is consisted of 4 regions – the region of České Budějovice, Klatovy, Prácheň and Tábor. The number of Christians is approximately 718,968 – in 60 cities, 32 towns, and 3421 villages. Episcopal city reaches population of 6,168 – there is a prefecture, a grammar school, and a theological and philosophical lyceum. A South Bohemian bishop is a suffragan of a Prague archbishop and his earning reaches 12,000 gold annually. The canonry is consisted of a provost, a dean, a custodian and a canon – everyone is financially backed up. The only order in the city is the Piarists.²¹ The documents signed by both witnesses were submitted to nuncio by notary Ignatius Walter on 24th December, 1815. Since then, merely his decision was expected.²²

Since Růžička had not any news about the case, on 27th December, 1815, he sent a letter to nuncio, asking about the status and, occasionally, for a positive response. In the letter, he also recapitulated his coverage and doings and highlighted his orthodoxy as well as his experience in running the diocese. The letter was included in a file by Ignatius Walter on 3rd January, 1816.²³ Meanwhile, Růžička's inquisitorial process had been closed; on 31st December, 1815, nuncio Severoli decided that Růžička deserves being a bishop in České Budějovice.²⁴

The nomination was confirmed by Rome on 8th March, 1816, formally concluding Růžička's designation process.²⁵ He accepted the episcopal ordination on 25th August, 1816, by archbishop Václav Leopold Clumčanský. He was enthroned on 22nd September that year.²⁶ He stayed as the head of diocese for more than 30 years and enrolled in history mainly as a supporter of diocese seminar and as a Josephinism follower. Moreover, his relation to the country still serves as a subject of nowadays research.²⁷ He died on 18th March, 1845. His body was buried in episcopal tomb in an old-town cemetery in České Budějovice.²⁸

²¹ See 10, fol. 98, 99, 101.

²² See 10, p. 102.

²³ See 10, fol. 113-115.

²⁴ See 10, fol. 112.

²⁵ Lengthy process of Episcopal appointment and subsequent confirmation was self-evident at that time. As an example the appointment process of Greek Catholic bishop Gregor Tarkovič in 1816 – 1818 can be named. See: CORANIČ, J.: Proces vzniku Prešovského gréckokatolíckeho biskupstva. In: *Gréckokatolícka cirkev vo svetle výročí*. Prešov 2009, s. 28 – 30.

²⁶ Compare SRA Třeboň, EA ČB, Arnošt Konstantin Růžička, Doklady k nominaci, konsekraci a instalaci do úřadu českobudějovického biskupa, (1794) 1815-1816, sign. II/2/b/4, fasc. 13. Compare MARDETSCHLÄGER, *Kurz gefasste Geschichte*, p. 16-19.

²⁷ This issue is addressed in the study by Rudolf SVOBODA, *Arnošt Konstantin Růžička: josefinista a febronian? Pokus o revizi pohledu na osobnost druhého českobudějovického biskupa v kontextu současné diskuse o pojetí josefinismu*, *Studia theologica* 37, grade 11, č. 3/2009, Olomouc 2009, p. 37-47.

²⁸ Compare SRA Třeboň, EA ČB, Arnošt Konstantin Růžička, Oznámení o pohřbu biskupa Růžičky, 1845, sign. II/2/a/2, fasc. 13; and *Poslední vůle a pozůstalostní řízení*, 1831-1848,

To sum up

Documents, stored in Archivio Segreto Vaticano, provide us with basic data of Růžička's life, with inquisitorial process, and with great Růžička's activity he had shown during half a year in which he had to acquire many confirmations necessary for the process itself. The value of such documents lies in their capture of one of the most important periods in life of the second bishop in České Budějovice.

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Státní oblastní archiv Třeboň, Biskupský archiv České Budějovice, fasc. 11, 13.

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