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**Research, processing, and digitization of materials related to the history of Vývoj nábytkářského průmyslu in Brno (Institute for Development in the Furniture Industry) with the intention to create a digital database**

Vývoj nábytkářského průmyslu in Brno (Institute for Development in the Furniture Industry; 1954–1991) is often described as an important research, development, and methodological institution which influenced the furniture design in Czechoslovakia in the post-war decades and which is associated with the names of important designers such as Jindřich Halabala. There are many dealers, companies and small craftsmen who resell and renovate furniture and home accessories made in the post-war decades. As part of the so-called retro trend, the demand is increasing and post-war furniture is finding its way into modern interiors. However, the issue of post-war furniture and housing culture has not yet been given sufficient attention in professional circles, attention was focused only on subtopics and chosen authors, many essential questions remain unanswered. Typically, it is difficult for those interested in this topic to find much information about certain types of furniture or some designers without time-consuming archival research. The aim of the dissertation is to find, describe and systematically process the materials related to the history of the Vývoj nábytkářského průmyslu, and thereby contribute to a deeper understanding of its role in the field of Czechoslovak housing culture while at the same time search for ways to make the research accessible to a wider audience using available technologies.

The thesis primarily focuses on the period from the establishment of Vývoj nábytkářského průmyslu in Brno in 1954 to its change of name in 1974. The research is focused on the collection and systematic processing of various archival and other documents and has several aims. The first one is to describe the activities of Vývoj nábytkářského průmyslu and the work of the individuals who worked there in a monographic way, and in relation to national enterprises that were influenced by it. The thesis also aims to describe this issue in the context of the Czechoslovak post-war furniture industry and its development, and to identify the furniture approved for serial production as well as designs that did not make it into production, to describe trends of that time and work of designers connected

with the institution. In the context of the research project, the database of designer and their works as well as the digitisation of selected materials from personal "archives" are understood as a means of systematically processing and interconnecting a relatively large amount of information from various sources and having access to it in one place, analysing the data and further using it. Various tools can be used to analyze the data more quickly and accurately, and to work with relatively large amounts of data. Although it should be clear from the information collected, for example, in what quantity a piece of furniture was produced, much of the information is not of the desired narrative value without the context of the period. It is necessary to ask further: did the furniture companies cover the needs of the customers? Why weren't quality designs approved for mass production?... Although the way the topic is described and treated is important, equally important is the way in which the topic and the results of the research should be presented to a broader audience. Dataset created while working on the thesis should serve as a basis for building an online platform containing the database and focused on post-war furniture design and its history. However, the functional platform for both experts in the field and wider audience is a goal that goes beyond the dissertation.