

6.5 Les Tchèques ont-ils "copié" les constructions d'Eiffel ? Reflet du transfert des connaissances techniques de la France vers les Pays tchèques à la fin du 19e et au cours du 20e siècle.

Hrtus, Martin Dominik (Université polytechnique de Prague) : *Le pont d'Eiffel d'Ivančice en Moravie - The Ivančice viaduct and Gustave Eiffel (en anglais)*

The viaduct near Ivančice holds a special place among bridge constructions in the Czech Republic. Together with the viaduct in Chrást near Pilsen, it is attributed to Gustave Eiffel. However, historical research shows that this world-famous French architect was not involved in the design or construction of the viaduct. His authorship was probably attributed to him because the structure, which bore a strong visual resemblance to the construction of the Eiffel Tower, was made by the Parisian ironworks Cail et Compaigne. However, this alleged authorship of Eiffel opens three lines of research questions. The first is the transfer of technology. The real authors of the structure, the engineers von Ruppert and Rogenhoffer, based their design on similar structures being built in France at the time. The question then arises as to whether this was a pre-existing, well-established design, only slightly adapted to the local conditions, or a design of their own, based on foreign models. The second problem is the ascription of authorship to Gustave Eiffel. It will be possible to trace from references in the press whether this was immediately after the strong response to his tower, unveiled at The Exposition Universelle of 1889, or whether it was only later. The last question concerns the development of the conservation of technical structures in the former Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic. The competent authorities were already aware of the exceptional value of the structure at the time when railway operations ceased in 1978. Nevertheless, no efforts were made to save the structure and only a torso has been preserved to this day. It is questionable whether Eiffel's alleged authorship was considered when assessing its heritage value.