

Czech Literary Studies and the Institute of Czech Literature, CAS

English edition

Václav Hájek
z Libočan
**Kronika
česká**



**Přehledné dějiny
české literatury
1945–1989**

PAVEL JANOUŠEK a kol.

**V souřadnicích
mnohosti**

ALENA FIALOVÁ (ed.)

**Hledání národní
literatury**

MOJMIŘ OTRUBA

VLADIMÍR MACURA / PO SVĚTOVÉ LITERÁRNÍ
ALICE JEDLIČKOVÁ FEJŠ / TEORIE 20. STOLETÍ

PRŮVODCE

KUŠÁKOVÁ **Literární kultura a českojazyčný periodický tisk**

VERONIKA KOŠNAROVÁ **Ztracen v dějinách
Spisovatel Jan M. Kolár**



The Czech Academy
of Sciences

Science 26

Around
us
What is it...

Signály z neznáma ČESKÝ KOMIKS 1922–2012

ICL and the Czech Academy of Sciences

ICL is one of the 52 autonomous research institutes that belong to the Czech Academy of Sciences (CAS), the most prominent centre for top-flight research in the Czech Republic. CAS is the successor organization to the Emperor Franz Joseph Czech Academy of Sciences, Literature and Arts (CASA), so in 2015 it commemorated its 125th anniversary. Like other CAS establishments, ICL has been a public research institute since 2007. Together with 16 other social sciences and humanities institutes it makes up the third section at CAS. Within this framework it most frequently collaborates with the CAS Institute of the Czech Language, Institute of History, Institute of Contemporary History, Institute of Philosophy, Institute of Slavonic Studies and the Institute of Art History. Other prominent ICL partners include the CAS Library, which provides the software support for the Institute's bibliographical databases, and the Academia publishers, one of the divisions of the Centre of Administration and Operation at CAS. ICL activity is about 75% financed through CAS and 25% from grant funds and other own-income sources.

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ICL – a place of memory

The ICL Literary Studies Information Centre operates a national Czech Literary Bibliography research infrastructure (<http://clb.ucl.cas.cz>). Its library with almost 150,000 volumes is accessible to the public at its Prague centre from 10 am to 6 pm each day except bank holidays. The only library specializing in the study of Czech literature systematically collects fiction associated with Central Europe, literary and specialist periodicals and educational literature from Czech studies and related fields (philosophy, history, philology, textology and the like). The Bibliography and Archive Department systematically processes and provides access to an article and secondary bibliography of modern Czech literature, i.e. from approximately 1775 to the present. All bibliographical collections are being digitized and made available online.

Why research into literature?

Every year over seventeen thousand book titles are published in the Czech Republic. According to a statistical survey of reading by Jiří Trávníček and his colleagues from the Institute of Czech Literature, CAS, and the Czech National Library, 84% of the Czech population reads at least one book a year, while each of these readers annually reads an average of twelve titles and spends 33 minutes every day reading. In the average Czech household the bookcase has 250 books, many of which come under the heading of fiction or literature. This may well come to just one quarter of all titles on the book market, but it represents over two thirds of everything that people in the Czech Republic read.

Do we know what we are reading? Can we find our bearings among all this book output? Do we really understand what literature is?

Literary studies helps readers to find their bearings in the impenetrable jungle of literature, which has made up part of human culture ever since the first stirrings of written culture. Its task is to open up in its entirety the living organism that literature undoubtedly is to new interpretations, i.e. not only to examine it as the corpus of texts or the cultural legacy that we learn about at school, but also to offer it to the society in which this literature has grown and is now addressed as a collection of incomparable value assets and a source of self-awareness.

Literary theory offers concepts that we can use to understand literature and to endeavour to grasp the general processes behind literary work and its reception. Every literary text is written and extant at a particular time and in a particular political and cultural situation. Literary history interprets it within its historical context. Literary historical anthologies are involved in shaping literary canons, while literary studies encyclopedias present information on everything from award winners to semi-neglected regional authors. Literary bibliographies present information on a broad range of literary phenomena and their reception in the press, including book reviews and articles on writers and works in daily newspapers and literary journals. Comparative literary studies seeks out the relations between literary works from various cultural and linguistic spheres and the ways that literary trends spread among the regions and nations of the world. Literary studies is just as interdisciplinary nowadays as any other scholarly field, fusing the boundaries of traditional disciplines and working together with general history, linguistics, philosophy, cultural theory and visual and media studies.

Czech literary studies and the Institute of Czech Literature

Research into Czech literature relates to a subject called Czech literary studies, which can be viewed in two different ways: as literature in the Czech language and as literature in the Czech lands, comprising Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia. The Institute of Czech Literature, CAS, a public research institute (ICL), is the only non-university establishment in the Czech Republic to deal with basic research into literary studies, and the central Czech literary studies institute within this linguistic and territorial definition on an international scale.

Felix Vodička, Jan Mukařovský, Roman Jakobson



The ICL's subject of research is basically the past and present of literature in the Czech language and literature in the Czech lands in other languages (particularly Latin and German), their relations with the literatures of other languages and regions and the literary work of Czech exiles and émigré diasporas. Several ICL staff members also lecture at higher education institutes and ICL itself is a doctorate course tuition centre.

ICL activity has three levels: it secures the national infrastructure of scholarly information regarding Czech literary bibliography; it specializes in the compilation of large reference publications, dictionaries, historical and theoretical handbooks and manuals on Czech literature since the 9th century; and not least it carries out basic research into neglected areas of Czech studies, German-Czech studies, theory, the history of literary culture and other disciplines. ICL is a national centre for research into reading, ensuring that sources on the history of Prague School literary studies structuralism, with which it is historically associated, are accessible.

Just like other CAS institutes involved in the humanities and historical studies, ICL also plays the role of a place of memory addressing the broad cultural community, while playing a unique role in national culture. The primary medium for this broader communication at ICL nowadays is the internet. Ever since the mid-1990s, ICL has specialized in the digital publication of literary heritage documents, the operation of online bibliographical databases, full-text libraries and digital archives, which together record over one million visits per year. The main directory for all this information provided free of charge can be found at the institute's website: www.ucl.cas.cz.

Founders

The idea to establish a non-university centre for research into Czech literature emerged as early as the 19th century. Literary studies research was supported by the Czech Foundation (*Matice česká*) and the Emperor Franz Joseph Czech Academy of Sciences, Literature and Arts, established in 1890 and active after 1918 as the Czech Academy of Sciences and Arts (CASA). Its Class Three dealt with philological disciplines, which naturally included Czech literary studies. Class Four also administered performing arts, art, music and literature, supporting research trips and the publication of specialist books. Nevertheless, in 1899 literary historian Jan Jakubec had come up with a proposal to establish a new central institute with regional branches, to publish critical writings by Czech authors and to systematically gather bibliographic information and to take on the role of an archive and a museum.

Hence it was meant to form a basis for subsequent literary studies research. This proposal remained unheard, however, until the 1930s, when Albert Pražák was responsible for the establishment of the Czechoslovak Literary Historical Association (CSLHA), whose extensive lecture and publishing activity was only halted by the Second World War.

At the end of the 1940s, CASA began to prepare for its restructuring. The mortal danger facing the nation under the German occupation (1939–1945) had pointed

up the need to anchor scholarly conservation of national literature and culture within a new institution. In collaboration with the CSLHA, a committee to make the necessary arrangements was set up in early 1946. The ICL Organizational Regulations were approved at an extraordinary CASA Class Three meeting on 11th June 1947. The Literary History Department was led by Jan Mukařovský, while Frank Wollmann was in charge of Comparative Studies, and the Department for the History of Czech Literature was run by literary historian Albert Pražák. In addition to its literary historical work ICL also had to arrange the publication of Czech literature in critical editions, as well as systematic bibliographical work. However, the new institute faced a lack of funds and staff. From autumn 1952, when ICL recruited its first three research assistants, it began to take part in academic training in the subject.

Defining the literary canon

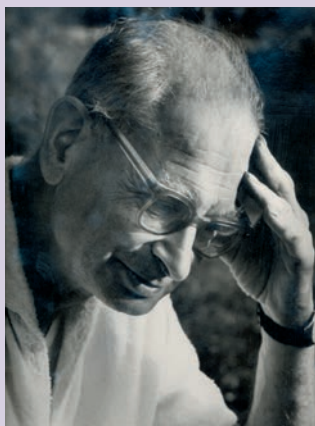
In 1953 ICL moved over to the newly established Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences (CSAS), headed by the internationally recognized literary theoretician and aestheticist Jan Mukařovský, one of the foremost figures in Prague structuralism. His deputy was his younger colleague and the founder of structuralist literary historiography Felix Vodička. ICL moved from its office in Národní 3 to premises at the Strahov Monastery, where it was based together with the Museum of Czech Literature (*Památník národního písemnictví*). A permanent historical exhibition, which it assembled together with this institution, was conceived as a representative textbook of Czech literature for schools and the public. The prescriptive role of the Institute and ideas and preparatory work from the Occupation years led to



Aesthetic value in the structuralist thinking of Jan Mukařovský

From the 1920s, aesthetician, literary critic and historian Jan Mukařovský (1891–1975) was one of the leading members of the Prague Linguistic Circle and thanks to his book studies *Příspěvek k estetice českého verše* (*Contribution on the aesthetics of Czech verse*, 1923), *Máchův Máj: Estetická studie* (*Mácha's Máj: Aesthetic study*, 1928), *Estetická funkce, norma a hodnota jako sociální fakt* (*Aesthetic function, norm and value as a social fact*, 1936) and primarily his two-volume *Kapitoly z české poetiky* (*Chapters from Czech poetry*, 1941; with the second edition including a third volume of *Máchové studie* (*Mácha studies*, 1948) he stood alongside Roman Jakobson as an internationally recognized figure from the Prague

Structuralist School. In the politically charged atmosphere of Stalinism he abandoned his own methodology and adopted Marxist-Leninist precepts, but then drifted back to his own standpoints with various modifications.



The literary historical structuralism of Felix Vodička

Even in his first prominent study *Literární historie, její problémy a úkoly*, *Literary history, its problems and tasks* (in *Čtení o jazyce a poezii*, *Readings in Language and Poetry*, 1942) literary historian Felix Vodička (1909–1974) offered programmatic application of structuralist literary theory for literary historical work. In his book *Počátky krásné prózy novočeské* (*Beginnings of Modern Czech Fiction*, 1948) he combined literary theory and literary historical thinking. Straying into comparative studies he analysed the Preromanticism period in early 19th century Czech literature from the standpoint of the linguistic, thematic and stylistic structure of the literary works, and anticipating the

development of global narratology he presented a preliminary Prague School theory on narrative. Vodička's studies in literary history and theory, which made him inter alia a forerunner of Constance School of reader – response criticism, are summarized in a collection entitled *Struktura vývoje* (*Structure of Development*, 1969).

a decision to devote a considerable proportion of its resources to the published codification of the Czech literary canon. ICL staff compiled a critical edition of the collected writings of prominent figures from Czech literature (K. H. Mácha, J. K. Tyl, Božena Němcová, Jan Neruda, Jiří Wolker, S. K. Neumann and F. X. Šalda) and older Czech literature (*Výbor z české literatury od počátků po dobu Husovu*, *Výbor z české literatury doby husitské* 1, 2, *Anthology of Czech literature from the beginning to the Hussite period*, *Anthology of Czech literature from the Hussite period* 1, 2).

The canon-creating endeavours included the idea of academic *Dějiny české literatury*, *Histories of Czech Literature*. Four volumes covering every subject from the beginnings of Old Slavonic literature in 9th century Greater Moravia to the Second World War were compiled from the early 1950s to the end of the 1960s. The editor-in-chief for the entire project was Jan Mukařovský.

The first volume of this History, edited by Josef Hrabák, is an example of the application of Marxist historical materialism to the development of medieval and early modern literature (*Older Czech Literature*, 1959; authors: Jiří Daňhelka, Eduard Petřů, Emil Pražák and Jaroslav Kolár). Other volumes edited by Felix Vodička were again methodologically based on structuralist precepts (*National Revival Literature*, 1960), while under the editorship of Miloš Pohorský they tended more towards a broader sociological conception of literature (*Literatura druhé poloviny devatenáctého století*, *Literature in the latter half of the 19th century*, 1961). A similar historical task was also set for the Czech Theatre Department, which was established as part of ICL in 1956. The collective *History of the Czech Theatre* was first compiled under the editorship of František Černý, and its four volumes came out between 1968 and 1983 (the third volume was co-edited by Ljuba Klosová, the fourth by Adolf Scherl).



Outside the present-day ICL premises, Na Florenci Street

Structuralist diversion

The Communists ascribed considerable importance to the humanities institutes, and ICL was also subjected to continuous ideological supervision. In the latter half of the 1950s, younger scholars in particular became increasingly aware of the vagueness of Marxist-Leninist theories and so started to seek more precise forms of literary studies. They drew inspiration from the legacy of interwar structuralism personified by the ICL Director Jan Mukařovský and his deputy Felix Vodička. Milan Jankovič was behind what was known as ETELKA – the Aesthetic-Theory Club, in which literary studies methodology was discussed by Miroslav Červenka, Mojmír Grygar, Aleš Haman, Jiřina Táborská and Miroslav Kačer. In 1959 Josef Vohryzek was compelled to leave ICL after several years of regression in the liberalization process in Czech literary and scholarly life and a media campaign was even launched against Mukařovský. He was replaced as Director in 1962 by Communist ideologist and journalist Ladislav Štoll, whose deputy was literary critic Jan Petrmichl.

The primary task during this period was work on the fourth volume of the Histories of Czech Literature, which focused on literature from the end of the 19th century to 1945, with structuralist elements combining with an endeavour to revise the narrowly Marxist literary history dogmas associated with the previous decade. For political reasons, however, the book involved was not published until

after 1989 (*Literature from the end of the 19th century to 1945*, 1995). A considerable cultural and political achievement at this time was *Slovník českých spisovatelů* (*Encyclopedia of Czech Writers*, 1964), which was compiled under the editorship of Jiří Opelík and Rudolf Havel, who managed to include entries by numerous exiled writers.

In the atmosphere of resistance to trivial Marxism and simplified political and ideological interpretations of artistic works, the return to structuralism was considered to be a primary theoretical input and structuralism was thus considered an exact scientific method, which creative researchers at the Institute endeavoured to develop further, whether at the level of versological or aesthetic theory research. The internationally respected chief representatives of what was known as the second generation of Czech structuralism at this time were Milan Jankovič and Miroslav Červenka, while researchers also taking part in team projects included Přemysl Blažíček, Jiří Brabec, Mojmír Grygar, Miroslav Kačer, Ludmila Lantová, Jiří Opelík, Zdeněk Pešat, Eva Strohsová, Břetislav Štorek, Zina Trochová, and Radko Pytlík – who also created a substantial number of significant individual works, considerably changing the image of Czech literary studies and literary history. At the end of the 1960s, ICL also saw a brief appearance from the subsequent founder of the theory of fictional worlds, narratologist Lubomír Doležel. Work in the editorial sphere culminated in the publication of a seminal handbook *Editor a text* (*The Editor and the Text*, 1971), in which Rudolf Havel and Břetislav Štorek combined their experience of publishing modern Czech literature with inspiration from abroad as well as from structuralist textology.

Conceptual disputes between trivial Marxism and structuralism culminated in 1968, when Ladislav Štoll was compelled to leave ICL, Felix Vodička became the



Milan Jankovič and the artistic work as a process of meaning

In his work on literary theory and aesthetics, Milan Jankovič (* 1929) decided to grasp the dynamic sense and message of the artistic work. He fully appreciated the value of Mukařovský's concept of the semantic gesture as the formative power behind the text. In a groundbreaking study from the late 1960s *Dílo jako dění smyslu* (*Work as a Process of Meaning*, belated publication, 1992) stressed the semantics of the form as a source of unexpected "process of meaning" (see also the books *Nesamozřejmost smyslu*, *The Unobviousness of Meaning*, 1991; *Na cestě ke smyslu*, *On the Road to Meaning* 2005; *Dílo v pohybu*, *The Work in Motion*, 2009). Jankovič's literary history works focus in particular on the

poetics of works by Jaroslav Hašek and Bohumil Hrabal (*Kapitoly z poetiky Bohumila Hrabala*, *Chapters from the Poetics of Bohumil Hrabal*, 1996).



Miroslav Červenka and versology

Miroslav Červenka (1932–2005) became involved in literature as a poet, combining his interest in theoretical issues (versology, poetics and semiotics) with literary history and textology within literary studies, setting such special subjects as verse theory (*Český volný verš devadesátých let, Czech Free Verse in the 1890s*, 1963; *Dějiny českého volného verše, History of Czech Free Verse*, 2001; and the unofficially published *Z večerní školy versologie 1–4, From Versology Evening School*, 1–4, published officially in book form 1991–1999 with Květa Sgallová) and the issues surrounding the meaning of literary works (*Významová stavba literárního díla, Semantic Structure of the Literary Work*, completed in the 1960s, 1992) in

a broader cultural history context. Just like Jankovič he was unable to work in the field during the 1970s and 1980s for political reasons. In 1990 he returned to the ICL and began lecturing at the Faculty of Arts in Charles University. His work responds to a number of new theoretical ideas, particularly on fictional world theory (*Fikční světy lyriky, Fictional Worlds of Lyric Poetry*, 2003).

new Director and Zdeněk Pešat the Deputy. However, Vodička was prevented from implementing his distinctively structuralist new approaches at ICL by the political changes after the invasion of Czechoslovakia in August 1968.

Through lexicography against normalization

In 1970 romanist Vladimír Brett was made the new Director, whose party task was to expunge the structuralist “deviation” from the Institute. ICL was combined with Institute of Languages and Literatures and renamed the CSAS Institute of Czech and World Literature. Some two dozen staff members had to leave for political reasons. In 1972 Ladislav Štoll again took over as Director, while his Deputy was Hana Hrzalová, who took over as Director after Štoll’s death until the end of 1989. Although the personnel changes at the Institute hit hard, there was more of a liberal atmosphere there than at many other humanities institutes. Prominent researchers who were allowed to remain at the Institute were compelled to withdraw into the background, which paradoxically encouraged a new prominence for systematic encyclopedic work at the Institute.

The monumental *Lexikon české literatury* project (1–4, 1985–2008) carried on from the previous *Slovník českých spisovatelů – Encyclopedia of Czech Writers* by Opelík and Havel. In four parts and seven volumes *Lexikon* offers 3,500 entries on individual phenomena in the history of Czech literature from its Old Slavonic and Latin origins to the mid-20th century. *Lexikon* includes personnel and subject entries on magazines, journals, publishers, associations and anonymous works of older literature. *Lexikon* was worked on by three generations of ICL

staff and external co-workers under the editorship of Vladimír Forst, Jiří Opelík and Luboš Merhaut. Proof of the fact that despite the circumstances, communication still carried on with those who had worked at the Institute and then had to leave was not only the informal discussions among the “medvědáři”, regularly organized by Jaroslav Kolár, but also e.g. *Slovník básnických knih* (*Encyclopedia of Poetry Books*, not published until 1990), authored not only by Vladimír Macura, Zdeněk Pešat and Jaroslav Med, but also by Miroslav Červenka. From the late 1970s Macura was the most prominent figure at the Literary Theory Department. Young researchers sought inspiration in contemporary world literary studies, particularly semiotics, historical poetics, hermeneutics, and reception aesthetics (e.g. Václav Koenigsmark, Daniela Hodrová, Jiří Holý, Pavel Janoušek, Alice Jedličková and Jiří Trávnický). The first result of this Department's work was at the time a remarkable *Slovník literární teorie* (*Encyclopedia of Literary Theory*, 1977, reworked in 1984). Although this came out under the name of Štěpán Vlašín, its subsequent form was anonymously influenced by Jiřina Táborská and Miroslav Kačer, who had been removed from the Institute. Macura's management resulted in reference works of a new kind: *Slovník světových literárních děl*, *Encyclopedia of World Literary Works* (1988) and *Průvodce po světové literární teorii*, *Companion to World Literary Theory* (1988 under the name of Milan Zeman; reworked 2012, edited by Alice Jedličková). A second line of work at the Department in those days was research into historical poetics, the first result of which was a groundbreaking collective work *Poetika české meziválečné literatury*, *Poetics of Czech Interwar Literature*, on the individual genres characteristic of that period (1988, ed. Daniela Hodrová).



Vladimír Macura and semiotics

From the early 1970s, literary theoretician and historian Vladimír Macura (1945–1999) focused on the National Revival. In his monograph *Známění zrodu* (*Signs of Birth*, 1983, expanded edition 1995) he analysed the culture and ideology of this period as a system of signs. He defined the Revival as a cultural type characterized by such aspects as play and mystification. He also used a semiological approach in his analysis of the characteristic signs of socialist culture (*Šťastný věk*, *Happy Age*, 1992; *Masarykovy boty a jiné semi/o/fejetony*, *Masaryk's Boots and Other Semi/o/feuilletons*, 1993). Playing with reality and fictions, the historical novel and historical truth, crucial links for Czech history and

intimate breaks characterize the peak fiction achievement of Vladimír Macura, his novel tetralogy *Ten, který bude* (*He Who Will Be*).

Theatrological work also continued at the Institute (performed by Eva Šormová, Vladimír Just, Adolf Scherl and Jan Pömerl), and functional communication took place between Czech studies specialists and colleagues focusing on other literatures, particularly younger colleagues at the Department of Western Literatures focusing on the issues surrounding romanticism (e.g. Zdeněk Hrbata and Martin Procházka).



Zdeněk Pešat
a Miroslav Červenka,
1963

Seeking the Novel by Daniela Hodrová

Daniela Hodrová's (* 1946) literary theory intertwines with her novels. Her censored dissertation *Román zasvěcení* (*The Initiation Novel*, 1973, published as a book in 1993) examined the origins of this distinctive genre in connection with the tradition of hermetic knowledge. In her book debut with the characteristic title of *Hledání románu* (*Seeking the Novel*, 1989) she works on the typological opposition between the novel-reality, and the novel-fiction. The polarity between the reality and imagination, real Prague and the space of the novel, the constant presence of history and stories of novel characters living both in mundane and eternal worlds is characteristic of her novel trilogy *Trýznivé město* (*Agonizing City*, 1991-1999). Literary topology was a subject that also played a role in her specialist work (*Místa s tajemstvím*, *Places with a Secret*, 1994; *Poetika míst. Kapitoly z literární tematologie*, *The Poetics of Places - Chapters from Literary Thematology*, 1997, with others; *Citlivé město*, *Sensitive City*, 2006). Her last book *Chvála schoulení* (*In Praise of Curling Up*) deals with the poetics of transience (2011).

In the Coordinates of Freedom

After November 1989, Zdeněk Pešat was made the Institute of Czech and World Literature Director and Vladimír Macura became his Deputy. Their plan was to combine research into Czech literature and theatre with research into world literatures. A number of persecuted colleagues returned to the Institute (e.g. Miroslav Červenka, Milan Jankovič and Jiří Brabec). Methodologically, ICL opened up to various new theoretical ideas. However, this new plan for the Institute came up against the reduction of the Academy of Sciences ordered in 1992-1993. Some thirty researchers had to leave the Institute and the Department of Comparative Studies and Theatrology was closed down without a replacement. The result was the enforced "Bohemization" of the Institute and a return to the traditional name of the Institute of Czech Literature. The research centre headed by Director Vladimír Macura (1992-1999), Pavel Janoušek (1999-2010) and Pavel Janáček (since 2010), had to complete its extensive collective tasks such as *Lexikon české literatury* (*Lexicon of Czech Literature*). At the same time this also entailed two other types of work that could not be adequately performed until the democratic revolution, i.e. *Slovník českých spisovatelů od roku 1945* (*Encyclopedia of Czech Writers Since 1945*, edited by Pavel Janoušek, 1-2, 1995 and 1998) and the associated *Slovník českých literárních časopisů, periodických literárních sborníků a almanachů 1945-2000* (*Encyclopedia of Czech literary journals, periodic literary anthologies and almanachs*, 1945-2000, edited by Blahoslav Doukoupil, 2002). Encyclopedic work on State Socialist literature included the four-part *Dějiny české literatury 1945-1989*, *History of Czech Literature 1945-1989* (2007-2008), and its single-volume summary *Přehledné dějiny české literatury 1945-1989*, *Synoptic History of Czech Literature 1945-1989* (2012). Under Pavel Janoušek's administration the team of authors highlighted the history of literary communication set in a broad historical context, devoting separate chapters not only to individual literary types (poetry, prose and drama), but also to various forms of literary life, popular literature and literary broadcasts on television and the radio.

Research into historical poetics culminated in such thematological publications as *Poetika míst, The Poetics of Places*, by Daniela Hodrová et al. (1997) and in particular a three-volume project *Poetika literárního díla 20. století, The Poetics of the Literary Work in the 20th Century*, which the theory department worked on in the latter half of the 1990s and the turn of the millennium (Daniela Hodrová et al.: *...na okraji chaosu, On the Brink of Chaos*, 2001; Miroslav Červenka, Milan Jankovič, Marie Kubínová and Marie Langerová: *Pohledy zblízka: Zvuk, význam, obraz, Views from Close Up: Sound, Meaning, Image*, 2002; Miroslav Červenka, Daniela Hodrová, Zdeněk Hrbata et al.: *Na cestě ke smyslu, On the Way to Meaning*, 2005).

In addition to its own research work, the Institute programmatically opened up to the public from November 1989. In 1996 it began consulting the authors of the British English Poetry Full-text Database over the creation of the Czech Electronic Library. Under Blanka Svadbová a full-text library was established and compiled, including all Czech book-published poetry from the end of the 18th century to the First World War. In addition to free access to over 1,700 books, this now also offers online search facilities for motifs in the texts and the like.



Pavel
Janoušek

ICL research departments and teams in the new millennium

The Theory Department deals with historical poetics, versology, narratology, intermedia poetics and memory studies involving literature. After *Průvodce po světové literární teorii 20. století, Companion to World Literary Theory in the 20th Century* (2012, edited by Alice Jedličková), was expanded and adapted, one of the primary tasks at the Theory Department came to be the thematically categorized *Slovník literárněvědného strukturalismu, Encyclopedia of Literary Studies Structuralism*. This comparative historical encyclopedia depicts structuralism in its international context in all its basic aspects and forms throughout the 20th century.

Another important task at the Department is to ensure access to the sources and the study of the history of the Prague School and the works of its representatives. *Teorie vyprávění v kontextu Pražské školy, Theory of Narrative in the Prague School Context*, is a book monograph by Bohumil Fořt (2008), while Tomáš Kubiček published a monograph entitled *Felix Vodička – názor a metoda: K dějinám českého strukturalismu, Felix Vodička – Opinion and Method: The History of Czech Structuralism* (2010). The anthology *Český strukturalismus v diskusi, Czech Structuralism under Discussion* (2014, edited by Ondřej Sládek) summarizes translations of studies by foreign literary theoreticians and historians on Czech structuralism and such figures as Jan Mukařovský and Roman Jakobson. A monograph by Ondřej Sládek came out in English (2015) and Turkish (2014) entitled *The Metamorphoses of Prague School Structural Poetics*. Another important source is an edition of correspondence by the Prague Linguistic Circle (*Pražský lingvistický kroužek v korespondenci, Prague Linguistic Circle in Correspondence*, edited by Marie Havráňková 2008; *Pražská škola v korespondenci: dopisy z let 1924–1989, Prague School in Correspondence: Letters 1924–1989*, edited by Marie Havráňková and Vladimír Petkevič, 2014).

Versology Team members Robert Kolár, Petr Plecháč and Jakub Říha published *Úvod do teorie verše, Introduction to Verse Theory* (2013), which presents the first summary of this traditional literary studies field in sixty years. The ICL Versology Team specializes in the automatic computer-assisted analysis of verse. Robert Kolár and Petr Plecháč made use of material gathered at the Czech Electronic Library and on this basis they were the first in the world, using their own algorithms, to create a Corpus of Czech Verse, a lemmatized, phonetically, morphologically, metrically and strophically annotated corpus of Czech poetry from the 19th and the early 20th century (www.versologie.cz).

The 20th Century and Contemporary Literature Department charts contemporary literature in several interpretative anthologies, the first of which focused on 1990s literature (*V souřadnicích volnosti, In the Coordinates of Freedom*, 2008), and the second on literature from the 2000s (*V souřadnicích mnohosti, In the Coordinates of Abundance*, 2014). Department members also published a number of independent monographs on figures in contemporary Czech literature (Pavel Janoušek: *Ivan Vyskočil a neliteratura, Ivan Vyskočil and his Unliterature*, 2009; *Ten, který byl. Vladimír Macura mezi literaturou, vědou a hrou. He Who Was. Vladimír Macura between literature, scholarship and play*, 2014;

Petr Hruška: *Někde tady. Český básník Karel Šiktanc, Somewhere here. Czech poet Karel Šiktanc*, 2010; Jiří Zizler: *Ivan Diviš. Výstup na horu poezie, Ivan Diviš. Ascent of Mount Poetry*, 2013). A study on reflections of the recent past in normalization prose *Poučení z krizového vývoje, Morals from the crisis developments*, was written by Alena Fialová (2014). Drama is also dealt with in a number of publications by Lenka Jungmannová (Karol Sidon, Pavel Landovský, Václav Havel), and contemporary poetry is dealt with in a monograph by Karel Piorecký (*Česká poezie v postmoderní situaci, Czech Poetry in the Postmodern Situation*, 2011).

The 19th Century Literature Department was established in 2011. The primary subject for this department was the reception of the *Dvůr Králové and Zelená Hora Manuscripts*. A monograph and anthology entitled *RKZ a česká věda 1817–1885, The Manuscripts and Czech scholarship 1817–1885* (edited by Dalibor Dobíáš, Michal Fránek, Martin Hrdina, Iva Krejčová and Kateřina Piorecká, 2014) helps readers find their bearings in the specialist discussion on what were supposed to be the oldest literary legacy, i.e. the *Dvůr Králové and Zelená Hora Manuscripts*. Other publications by department members include interpretations of seminal works of Czech literature (Michal Charypar: *Karel Sabina: „epigon“ a tvůrce*, 2010; *Karel Sabina: “Epigon” and author*, 2011, *Máchovské interpretace, Mácha interpretations*, 2011) attention is also focused on ideas about literature and the history of literary studies and criticism (Kateřina Bláhová: *České dějepisectví v dialogu s Evropou, Czech Historiography in Dialogue with Europe*, 2009; Kateřina Piorecká: *O českou literaturu naukovou, Czech Educational Literature*, 2011). German-Czech studies is systematically dealt with by Václav Petrbok (*Stýkání nebo potýkání, Coexistence or Confrontation*, 2012).

Department for Research into Older Literature. An integral part of work by members of this department is to provide published access to literary heritage and historical sources. The outcome of many years of editorial work is the first comprehensive critical edition of *Kronika česká, Czech Chronicle*, by Václav Hájek of Libočany prepared by Jan Linka (2013), and the associated publication *Na okraj Kroniky české, On the Margins of the Czech Chronicle* (2015), presenting selected contributions from the conference arranged to mark the publication of the Hájek Chronicle. Department members also focus their attention on German and Jewish literature since the Middle Ages, Jesuit school drama and other topics.

Department for Research into Literary Culture. Work on the history of Czech literature from the Communist period stimulated the development of research into the long neglected lower levels of modern literary communication and the issues surrounding the sociology of literature. Since 2003 department members have dealt with popular literature and culture (Pavel Janáček – Michal Jareš: *Svět rodokapsu, The World of Czech Pulp Magazines*, 2003), its social regulation (Pavel Janáček: *Literární brak. Operace vyloučení, operace nahrazení 1938–1951, Trash Literature: Operation of Exclusion, Operation of Replacement, 1938–1951*, 2004) and history (Pavel Kořínek et al.: *Dějiny československého komiksu 20. století, History of 20th Century Czechoslovak Comics*, 2014). The long-term team research into literary censorship resulted in *Nebezpečná literatura? Antologie z myšlení o literární cenzuře, Dangerous Literature? An Anthology of Thought on Literary Censorship* (edited by Tomáš Pavlíček, Petr Píša, Michael Wögerbauer, 2012) and a collective

monograph by Michael Wögerbauer, Petr Píša, Petr Šámal, Pavel Janáček and others: *V obecném zájmu. Cenzura a sociální regulace literatury v moderní české kultuře 1749–2014*, *In the General Interest: Censorship and social regulation of literature in modern Czech culture, 1749–2014* (2015, in print). Literary journals as a cross-section of literary communication at the height of the National Revival were dealt with by Lenka Kusáková (*Literární kultura a českojazyčný periodický tisk 1830–1850*, *Literary Culture and the Czech-language periodical press 1830–1850*, 2012).

Research into reading and readership. Since 2007 Jiří Trávníček has been researching contemporary reading and readership at the department in collaboration with the Czech National Library. His quantitative branch is based on regular statistical polls, which have taken place three times to date, the results of which have been summarized in three monographs (*Čteme? Obyvatelé České republiky a jejich vztah ke knize*, *Are We Reading? Inhabitants of the Czech Republic and their attitude to books*, 2008; *Čtenáři a internauti. Obyvatelé České republiky a jejich vztah ke čtení*, *Readers and internauts. Inhabitants of the Czech Republic and their attitude to books*, 2011; *Překnížkováno. Co čteme a kupujeme*, *Overbooked. What we are reading and buying*, 2014). A summary of these publications presents the international public with key information on contemporary Czech reading culture (*Reading Bohemia*, 2015). A second branch of reading research is qualitative and based on the collection of reader interviews in field research. A sample of the reading biographies of literary professionals was summarized in the publication *Knihy a jejich lidé*, *Books and Their People* (2013). The result of this research will be a monograph on reader models from all generations represented in the current population.

Textological and Editorial Department members followed up the Czech Electronic Library, based on the extent of the collected texts output, with an experimental project entitled *Kritická hybridní edice*, *Critical Hybrid Edition*, focusing on intensive research and a comprehensive summary of the literary legacy of a single figure or the textual and reception history of a literary work. The first volume was *Dílo Františka Gellnera*, *Collected Works of František Gellner* (2014). A book edition for the broad reading public comes together with a DVD digital application containing all known printed and manuscript texts by the author, whether complete or incomplete, in all available variants including those which have not previously been published. The Critical Hybrid Edition also comes together with a full bibliographical listing of works in all publications. This volume is also followed up by a critical hybrid edition of the literary, artistic and typographical work of Karel Hlaváček. Department members also deal with the development of textology as an independent discipline and the changing face of modern editorial practice (Michal Kosák and Jiří Flaišman: *Podoby textologie*, *Forms of Textology*, 2010; Michal Kosák: *S použitím kalendáře*, *Using the Calendar*, 2013).

The Lexicography Department develops, supplements and updates *Slovník české literatury po roce 1945*, *Encyclopedia of Czech Literature since 1945*, based on the digitization of lexicographical handbooks compiled at the Institute. The online *Slovník* (www.slovníkceskeliteratury.cz) is gradually being expanded to currently include over 1,600 entries. In addition to entries on authors there are also

institutional and interpretational entries on literary works. Department members are filling in the index with types of literary phenomena that are still missing. This has lately involved entries on publishers, which under the editorship of Michal Příbání have also been compiled in *Česká literární nakladatelství 1949–1989, Czech Literary Publishers, 1949–1989*, (2014), whose extensive chapters deal with the histories and editorial activities of individual domestic and émigré publishing houses.

Institute of Czech Literature – a place for education

The Institute of Czech Literature is a training centre for postgraduate course programmes in collaboration with the Faculty of Arts at the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice and the Faculty of Arts at the Masaryk University in Brno. Over fifteen doctorands working at ICL are integrated into research work and at the same time have space to write their own dissertations. The opportunity is open for them to take part in lecture and seminar series arranged by ICL, as well as international exchange trips and scholarships.

Some thirty ICL staff lecture at a total of ten higher education institutes in the Czech lands (the Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Education and the Catholic Theological Faculty at Charles University, Humanities at Charles University, Literary Academy, New York University in Prague, Theatre Faculty, Arts and Faculty of Education at Masaryk University, Faculty of Education at Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem and the Arts Faculty at Palacký University in Olomouc), as well as abroad (e.g. Oxford). In collaboration with the Charles University Faculty of Education in Prague, ICL arranges a Students' Literary Studies conference, which is regularly attended by some thirty Czech, Slovak and Polish Czech studies students.

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RETROSPECTIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF CZECH LITERATURE 1775–1945

The original card index includes 1.75 million excerpts on texts from Czech and world literature and associated disciplines published in the periodical press 1775–1945 in the Czech lands in Czech and German. The online database provides full access to the scanned card index, offering search facilities in the automatically transcribed section of the bibliography text content. (<http://retrobi.ucl.cas.cz/retrobi>)

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In its almost 400,000 entries this live database of Czech literary studies includes bibliographic details of works published in books and journals from Czech literary studies and associated fields; it also provides bibliographic support for literary criticism and journalism. (<http://bibliografie.ucl.cas.cz>)

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This database contains records on approximately 1400 books published by Czech publishers in exile, as well as literary criticism and journalism published in émigré journals in the latter half of the 20th century. (<http://bibliografie.ucl.cas.cz>)

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A full-text library containing 1,700 books of Czech poetry from the end of the 18th century to the First World War. (<http://www.ceska-poezie.cz>)

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CZECH LITERATURE SINCE 1945

The online encyclopedia comprises over 1,600 entries and is subject of an ongoing enlargement. It features Czech writers, works of fiction, critics, literary publishers, magazines and journals, samizdat press, writer's associations, specialist and memory institutes.

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This collection contains 163,000 microfilm fields and over 155,000 photocopies of Old Czech manuscripts and prints. (The catalogue is here: <http://starocech.ucl.cas.cz>)

DIGITAL ARCHIVE OF LITERARY AND CULTURAL JOURNALS

Online accessible archive of digital copies of Czech literary and cultural journals from the 19th century to the present, which are scanned on an ongoing basis. (<http://archiv.ucl.cas.cz/>)

DIGITAL ARCHIVE OF POPULAR LITERATURE

This archive of digital copies presents individual items and collections of material printed en masse online from the ICL fonds and loans from private collections. (<http://dapl.ucl.cas.cz/>)

Institute of Czech Literature – a world centre for Czech literary studies

ICL works together in partnership with a number of academic establishments and universities in Europe. It supports its staff members in international collaboration on individual projects, scholarships and research trips. It offers foreign researchers scholarships under the Czech Academy of Sciences Josef Dobrovský Fellowship programme. In addition to international special-subject conferences it also arranges a Congress of World Czech Literary Studies once every five years, which is attended not only by European researchers, but also by those from America and Asia.

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*Czech literary studies and the Institute of Czech Literature, CAS |
Kateřina Piorecká and Pavel Janáček*

Translation: Melvyn Clarke

Published by the Center of Administration and Operation CAS, v. v. i.,
for the Institute of Czech Literature CAS, v. v. i., Na Florenci 3/1420, 110 00 Prague 1.
Layout: Jakub Krč; Type: Serifa; Technical editor: Monika Chomiaková.
Editor in charge: Petra Královcová. First edition, 2015. Edition number 11830.
Print **SERIFA**®, s. r. o., Jinonická 80, 158 00 Praha 5.

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