

Editorial Note

Signs and Spectres. Selected Essays on Czech and Central European Literature comprises thirty-eight essays by Xavier Galmiche written between 2000 and 2022 and published in various academic press, conference or thematic proceedings and periodicals, as accompanying texts in books of selected Czech literature, or as contributions in collective monographs. Many of them were written with a foreign audience in mind, which is why the author introduces facts well-known to Czech readers in them. Approximately half of the texts included in this volume have so far been published only in the original language, i.e., in French or German—these have been translated into Czech by Karolinum Press for the purposes of this edition. As for the remaining texts, existing Czech or Slovak translations have been used, with slight modifications made to them and obvious factual errors and contradictions corrected. These are not marked in the text. The collection of essays is structured by topic, with the texts within the individual sections arranged chronologically (in relation to the subject of each text). Printed for the first time ever, the volume includes an interview conducted by Jiří Pelán with the author of the book that focuses in on the biographical, pedagogical, translation and research curriculum of Xavier Galmiche. The interview, originally conducted in French, has been translated into English by Jiří Pelán, who also affixed it with footnotes. *Signs and Spectres* will be the seventh title published in the Czech Studies Abroad series.

For bibliographic information on the individual essays and other information of a technical nature, see below. In recording this information, we have relied on the author's bibliography from 2020 compiled and published by the Moravian Library in Brno on the occasion of the awarding of the Premia Bohemica prize to the author. We have supplemented and corrected the bibliography in a few places.

Throughout the volume, we have unified the method of citation and referencing. In several texts, we have omitted superfluous explanations relating to phenomena (Devětsil) or authors (Jakub Deml) commonly known to the Czech reader. In the footnotes, we have also left out information on published translations of Czech literature into German and French relevant in the respective language regions. By contrast, in many places we have added the French version of the quoted passages, something that was not present in the texts when originally published. We have not edited the inevitable repetitions of phrasing or parts of paragraphs across the individual essays. All texts have been revised and, in several places, slightly modified by the author.

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I Word – Gesture – Silence

Victor-Lucien Tapié's Czech Connections: Bohemian Baroque through Tapié's Relations with Zd. Kalista

Karel Hynek Mácha: Dissension of Worlds

Tradition and Genuine Tolerance: Josef Váchal's Relationship to the Baroque and the Past

Gradus ad Parnassum – Gradus ad infinitum: to Latin Translations of Otokar Březina

František Bílek as a Reader of a Textbook on Mystical Syncretism – The *Great Initiates* by Edouard Schuré

Jakub Deml's Work and the Search for Infrasound in Twentieth-Century Poetics

Être entre / "Being Between". Converging Perspectives of Claudel's Mystical Cosmography and Syncretic Tendencies in Bohemia, 1900–1918

Catholics Facing Modernity in the Czech Lands: the Carthusian Monastery Model in the Publishing Activity of Josef Florian, a Moravian Publisher (1873–1941),

The other Defamiliarization of Czech Expressionist Literature

Metaphysical yearning – a Czech tradition

"...All my Drawings and Interlacing and Meandering Would Swirl too much...": Vladimír Holan's Torso or Farewell to the Temptation of Symbolism

The Transistor Man Syndrome: Ivan Blatný's Multilingual Poetry

The Quest for the Primordial "Object" in Věry Linhartová's "lacunary" Texts

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Utraquism, a denomination of national indifference in Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Bohemia

The Victory of the Paradigm: Toponymic Declension, a Figure of Multicultural Spaces

"Dům po Němcích" – House Taken Over by the Germans: on the Semiotics of Construction and Destruction in Czech Night War Prose (1946–1948)

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Crisis of the Avant-garde Idea of Urban Space in Bohumil Hrabal’s Montage *This City is in the Common Care of Its Inhabitants*

...and with mock heroism

A Europe Full of Dunces?: The Neo-Abderas in Central Europe or the Concession to Triviality

Trifouilly-les-Oies, Glupov, Pinsk and Other Sarcastic Toponyms: Stereotypical Place Names between Denotation and Evocation

Popular or Populist? Czech Humorous and Satirical Press

Kitsch and fantastical in Bohemia: Their Exploitation and Repression in František Langer’s Early Work (Jakub Deml, Josef Váchal)

Eternal whores. Sex and Immortality in Karel Čapek and František Langer

Once upon a time there was a Dominik Tatarka (1913–1989)

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Intercultural Mediation: “chercher la femme”. When the Silesian Baroness Ida de Düringsfeld (1815–1876), as “ugly as a devil”, Was Spreading the Culture of Central Europe

Kytice by Karel Jaromír Erben. Questionable originality

To translate Is to Select: about the Translation of *Kytice* into French

Poor and Brave Woman: the Stealthy Views of French Critics on Božena Němcová until 1930,

How “Czechs struggle with the negative traits of their character” or the Reception of Czech Expressionism in France and the Example of Hanuš Jelínek

“From One Speech to the Other is Equally Far for Both Sides”: Hanuš Jelínek as an Example of a Mediating Ambidextrous

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Head first. An Interview between Jiří Pelán and Xavier Galmiche