

BEST

CHILDREN'S

BOOKS

A Selection of Czech Books
for Children and Young People

2015/2016

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INTRODUCTION

This year's 700th birth anniversary of Charles IV, King of Bohemia and Holy Roman Emperor, which has been well represented in bookshops all around the country, revealed an important aspect of the majesty of this highly regarded 'Father of the Homeland', highlighted in the most recent analysis. The fact that his legacy still lives on so many centuries later is a credit to the efforts of this foresightful statesman, a knight of the spirit as well as the battlefield, a pious Christian and an extender of the empire himself. His initiative led to a great cultivation of the Lands of the Czech Crown, which Charles elevated from their lowly status to an important position in Europe. What inspires us the most is the knowledge that none of this would be possible without adequate publicity – regardless of the limited resources available to the monarch's biographers, clerics and delegations. Many years have since passed by but well-tried and tested methods remain. The aim of our catalogue, born in the era of an overload of transient information, is not dissimilar. It strives to highlight quality which does not fade with age, as well as to secure a desired position for Czech literature for children and young people as perceived by you, your children and the professional public abroad.

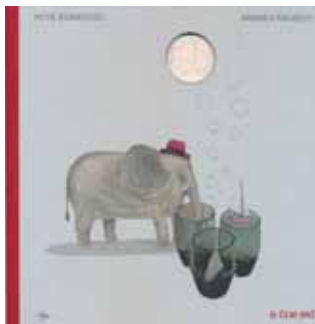
Based on experiences of our colleagues in Germany and France we therefore bring you for the fourth time – under the banner of the Association of Czech Booksellers and Publishers and in co-operation with the Czech Section of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) – a selection of the best original books for children and young people published within the last sixteen months. This publication goes out not only to librarians and others in the information sector but, thanks to partner booksellers, also mainly to parents, grandparents, teachers, and others who acknowledge that reading provides any child with future advantage over passive recipients of entertainment, not to mention the ability to see the world in its subtleties, which we associate with artistic texts and illustrations. Having emerged from the economic crisis, the book market appears to favour our efforts and everything suggests, at least statistically speaking, that the golden era during which Czech children's literature basked in the sunshine may be returning. The number of original home-grown contributions in the area of prose, poetry and non-fiction, as well as in the diverse field of graphic approaches to books, including comic books, is growing: out of the 1700 published titles dedicated to children and young people – almost a tenth of the total annual production – over five hundred are original titles. In addition, these books reflect very positively on the creative ability and influence of those who, by engaging in a debate with the passing generations of authors, rejuvenate their work, while at the same

time searching for an interpretation that could be easily accessed by today's readers, many of whom are only slightly younger than the authors themselves.

The first catalogue was only distributed electronically, but in response to your feedback the second year's version was brought out in print in tens of thousands of copies, and its third publication was also translated into English for the purposes of international trade. The volume of this year's issue clearly suggests that we bring you something new again. Increasing the publication's scope to 53 items, which the new partners of the project will work with all year around, enables us to also include some titles which until now have been largely underrepresented. Educational books or books with didactic orientation aimed at family use offer valuable creative and interest-evoking approaches. While today these are considered essential for attracting the attention of many over-stimulated children to the material at hand, in the sixties the world watched their bold first steps with admiration. They also contributed to the fact that almost half a century ago Czech counted among the seven most often translated languages in the field of literature for children and young people in Europe.

If you are wondering what its current trend may be, you will find it well represented in this overview. Apart from several finely executed publications about Charles IV – and there were many more we did not include here – it shows that the proportion of works of pure fiction yielded somewhat to titles with the more pronounced visual aspect – comics. This trend points not only to the audacity of publishers who engaged in more challenging projects in terms of visual interpretation, which prove popular with the readers despite the cost, but also to the fact that the age of those who finally come to appreciate the dominance of written text over an overtly illustrated, more succinct, and in some cases minimalist representation of the topic, is furtively creeping up. While such choice is perfectly natural in the very young reader categories, as a choice made by a teen reader this almost video-clip-like conciseness is rather alarming for the future. It brings up the possibility that in the future generations of children, reading and comprehending larger bodies of text may turn into an elitist hobby. Whether or not we can succeed in reversing this tendency is largely dependent on the long-term impact of initiatives aimed at the promotion of reading, which all of us – individuals as well as governments – should approach with more foresight.

Jana Čeňková & Petr Matoušek



PETR BORKOVEC

O ČEM SNÍ / WHAT DO THEY DREAM ABOUT

Illustrated by Andrea Tachezy
Prague, Běžilíška 2016, unnumbered pages,
folding book with hard cover
ISBN 978-80-906112-8-3
Age: **4+**

It is clear even from the back of this hard cover folding poetic book that Petr Borkovec's and Andrea Tachezy's mutual take on those who create dreams is almost conceptual and does not impose any limits on imagination. The opening rhymes colourfully introduce individual characters and then proceed to hint as to what readers – small and big – can expect to find inside. From the viewpoint of a sailor and a gardener, an elephant, a fly and a bread roll, a grandmother and a dressmaker, through various combinations of rhymes, poems and prose, we are offered glimpses of their desires, imagination and other levels of dream states: "The fly dreams of a curtain in a warm room / of a gap under the cake stand cover / of a spot on your body that you simply cannot reach." Similarly you can search for the poet's words which have seeped into the collages, revealing another plain of the liberating experience that exists behind closed eyelids, with an added pinch of the surreal.

Petr Borkovec (1970) graduated in Czech studies from FF UK, worked as a journalist for *Literární noviny* and review *Souvislosti* and as a translator from Russian. For his early book of poetry *Ochoz /The Gallery/* (1994) he received the Jiří Orten Award. His lyrical work, which reflects his love of nature and Christian belief (*Mezi oknem, stolem a postelí /Between Window, Table and Bed/*, *Polní práce /Field Work/*, *Needle-book*), observes the gliding and

flickering of our everyday existence. Together with the publishers and coffee shop Fra he organises author readings. He first addressed the youngest readers in his rhyming folding book *Všechno je to na zahradě /Everything Is in the Garden/* (2012).

Andrea Tachezy (1966) studied at the animated film studios of the Prague VŠUP. Her book illustrations for the youngest children make use of a combined technique of drawing, watercolour, and collage and can be found for example in Zuzana Kovaříková's books *Za zvířátky do lesa /Animals of the Forest/* (2012) and *Za zvířátky k vodě /Animals of Lakes and Rivers/* (2013). She also creates toys and calendars out of textile materials. Her three-dimensional folding book *Ferdinande! /Oh, Ferdinand!/* (2013) accompanied by the rhymes of Robin Král was awarded a Golden Ribbon and was included on the IBBY Honour List. Her illustrations for Ivan Binar's children's story *Bořivoj a blecha Fló /Balthild and Floh the Flea/* (2014) have earned her another Golden Ribbon award.



VRATISLAV BRABENEC

PAJASAN / AILANTHUS

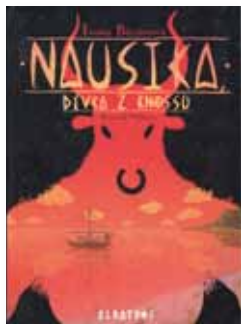
Illustrated by Petra Josefína Stibitzová
Prague, Meander 2016, 36 unnumbered pages
ISBN 978-80-87596-65-4
Age: **8+**

The exotic word 'ailanthus' uttered by those who know what they are talking about refers to a park tree found in eastern Asia that is not lazy to grow and is a great survivor. Vratislav Brabenec uses this title for his collection of stories in which he returns to the narrative style of short radio pieces characteristic of Jan Skácel. These little snippets stem from the ability to find a sparkle in everyday life or in a childhood memory, although they do not shy away from expressing a critical opinion about current events or events of the past. The author builds on his previous collection *Všude je střed světa /The Centre of the World is Everywhere/*, which tugged at the heartstrings of reflective children and perceptive adults alike. The text exudes admiration for the miracles of life and nature and unlike his rhymes which gravitate towards laconic matter-of-factness and self-reflexive irony, the author's expression here is delightfully playful. It encourages us to start believing once more that it is worthwhile to carefully observe the world around us, like the artist P.J. Stibitzová who transformed these stories into a comic book format.

Vratislav Brabenec (1943) qualified as a gardener and studied but did not conclude his studies to become an evangelical theologian. In 1973 he joined the rock band The Plastic People of the Universe where he remained until 2015 with several brief interludes. In 1976 he

was arrested, based on fabricated evidence, and sentenced. Upon his return from prison he signed Charter 77. In 1982 Brabenec was forced to emigrate and worked as a landscape architect in Canada. He returned to his homeland for good in 1997. During the period of 'normalization' Brabenec published his poetry in samizdat editions (later collected in a publication entitled *Sebedudy /Selfbagpipes/* 2010). His books of poetry *Vůl Hvězda Ranní /An Oxen of a Morning Star/* (1998), *Karlín přístav /Karlín-The Port/* (1999) and *Denver* (2013) were also officially published later. His short stories *Všude je střed světa /The Center of the World is Everywhere/* (2005) were aimed at younger readers.

Petra Josefína Stibitzová (1988) graduated from the studio of illustration and graphics at the Prague VŠUP. Her illustrations accompanied e.g. *Kočky a jiné příběhy o strachu /Cats and Other Stories about Fear/* (2015) by Milada Mašinová and in 2016 she produced a sequel to her comic book *Mor /The Black Death/*. She also contributes her illustrations to publications and work books published by Cesta domů, as well as creating posters and accompanying materials for festivals and charity events.



IVONA BŘEZINOVÁ

NAUSIKAA, DÍVKA Z KNOSSU / NAUSIKAA, THE GIRL FROM KNOSSOS

Illustrated by Nikkarin
Prague, Albatros 2015, 248 pages +
8 unnumbered pages of attached illustrations
ISBN 978-80-00-04145-2
Age: **12+**



IVONA BŘEZINOVÁ

ŘVI POTICHU, BRÁCHO / SHOUT QUIETLY, BRO

Illustrated by Tomáš Kučerovský
Prague, Albatros and Pasparta 2016, 208 pages
ISBN 978-80-00-04322-7 (Albatros)
ISBN 978-80-88163-24-4 (Pasparta)
Age: **10+**

Presumably inspired by the interest sparked by the fictional series *Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins, Ivona Březinová decided to create a life-like depiction of the ordinary face of a civilisation, which in the past tested those entering adulthood through similarly harsh methods. And their world was not even on the brink of a disaster. The author skilfully weaves her story through the classical myths placed on the island of Crete during the time of its Minoan glory, where the drama of her heroine, a girl called Nausikaa, unfolds as her mother Kalliope abandons her new-born daughter, claiming her death, to avoid having her taken away by priestesses of a bloody bull cult dedicated to Poseidon, the god of the sea. This parable, posing the question whether or not an individual's free will could face the judgement of gods in the arena of ancient Greek polytheism, stands out for its accessible and yet sublime language. This ambitious fictional creation is further enhanced by Nikkarin's illustrations resembling Tarot cards or perhaps the subtle tones of Art Nouveau in depictions of the life of a culture, which may have been the elusive Atlantis.

Ivona Březinová (1964) graduated in Czech studies from PedF in Ústí nad Labem, where she became a lecturer. Between 2008 and 2011 Březinová led the department of creative writing (and the writers' group *Hlava nehlava*) at the Josef Škvorecký Literary Academy. She

This book was created by the renowned author for publishers specialising in literature about the issues surrounding disorders of the autistic spectrum. It is a story of an incomplete family with adolescent twins, in which the author vividly describes the everyday struggles around Jeremiah, the twin who was born with autism on the higher scale of the spectrum and who despite it all – or perhaps because of it – is growing up in a loving environment, cared for by his mother and sister. Although 'Jeremy's' world may not be easy for others to comprehend, it is governed by strict rules that must be observed, such as that he only eats food which is round. People around the family often underestimate how difficult it is to live with her brother and the main heroine Pamela's relationships with others can be a challenge. This is where Ivona Březinová steps back and encourages the readers to make up their own mind, while introducing them to a scale of manageable disorders they may themselves encounter in school as part of the inclusion program.

Ivona Březinová (1964) – for more information see top of the page.

Tomáš Kučerovský (1974) graduated from the Department of Architecture at VUT in Brno and worked as the main graphic designer at the gaming company *Altar Interactive*. He designs CD covers and posters for the *HaDivadlo*

has written over 60 books for children and young people, her creative scope spanning from original fairy-tales such as *Žofinka ořínka /Little Sophie/* (2006) or *Natálčin andulák /Natalie's Budgie/* (2012) to the fantasy genre. She received many awards from critics and readers alike for her books addressing social issues such as the disadvantaged minorities (*Začarovaná třída /Magic in the Classroom/*, 2002; Golden Ribbon and Magnesia Litera 2002 nomination, the 2004 IBBY Honour List), girls with anorexia nervosa (trilogy *Holky na vodítku /Girls on a Leash/* 2002–2003), terminal illness (*Lentilka pro dědu Edu /A Smartie for Granddad Eda/* 2006) or life with a physical handicap (*Kluk a pes /The Boy and the Dog/* 2010). Her books are also published in other Slavonic languages.

Nikkarin (1987) – for more information see page 15.

theatre in Brno. In 2001 he became a co-founder of the comic book anthology *Aargh!* (where he still works as an editor). His comics have been published in magazines *Tamto*, *Reflex* and *Crew* and his comic strip *Fantomas* appeared in *Deník*. His story *Vzlety a pády /Ups and Downs/* (libretto Tomáš Prokůpek) was included in the anthology *Inseminátor /Inseminator/*. He received the Muriel award in 2008 for *Nejlepší ptačí příběh: Ptačí perspektiva /The Best Bird Story: Bird Eye View/*, an award for the cultivation of the visual art expression at the International Comic Festival 2002 in Lodz and the Encouragement Award at Eurocon 2005 in Glasgow. His work is also known in Poland, Macedonia, Italy, Japan and Singapore.



PAVEL ČECH

DOBRODRUŽSTVÍ RYCHLÉ VEVERKY 3/ ADVENTURES OF THE FAST SQUIRREL 3

Illustrated by the author
Havlíčkův Brod, Petrkov 2016,
48 unnumbered pages
ISBN 978-80-87595-53-4

DOBRODRUŽSTVÍ RYCHLÉ VEVERKY 4/ ADVENTURES OF THE FAST SQUIRREL 4

Illustrated by the author
Havlíčkův Brod, Petrkov 2016,
48 unnumbered pages + enclosed game
ISBN 978-80-87595-54-1
Age: **6+**

Two new additions to the A4 format comic book series build on the previous publications *Velký závod* /The Big Race/ and *Poklad* /The Treasure/, which is also apparent from the storytelling style chosen by the author. In the third volume entitled *Bludiště* /The Maze/, the acclaimed screenwriter and artist Pavel Čech offers mostly brain-teasers, riddles and other rebuses, while the storyline itself is simple. The purpose of all these clever games is to entertain a boy who is feeling under the weather and to remind him that his dad was no less inquisitive when he was his age. In contrast, the fourth volume entitled *Přání* /The Wish/ has a much more colourful narrative element and its main character embarks on many different adventures, including an unexpected one which takes place in a driver's cabin of a trolleybus. He finally encounters Ernestina Blueberry – where else than in the middle of wilderness – and the boy scouts' box of last resort also plays an important part in this adventure. After all, it is freedom and sensitivity to the harmony of nature that the series about Indian Squirrel is based on.

Pavel Čech (1968) is a self-taught artist who works freelance since 2004. The success of his children's story *O čertovi* /About an Imp/ (2002) inspired him to create more than fifteen original books and comics for children and young people, including *O zahradě* /About a Garden/ (2005), *O klíči* /About a Key/ (2007),

Tajemství ostrova za prkennou ohradou /The Island Behind a Wooden Fence/ (2009) or the book cycle entitled *Dědečkové* /Grandpas/ (2011 Muriel in the best drawing category). His poetic illustrations appeared alongside Radek Malý's poetry collections *Listonoš vítr* /Postman Wind/ (2009) and *Moře slané vody* /A Saltwater Sea/ (2014). His comic book entitled *Velké dobrodružství Pepíka Střechy* /Joey Roof's Great Adventure/ about the duration of true friendship and boyhood imagination received the 2013 Magnesia Litera award in the category of books for children and young people. In *Velká knižní záhada* /The Great Book Mystery/ (2014) he paid homage to the books from his own childhood. The first two parts of his comic book series *Dobrodružství Rychlé Veverky* /Adventures of the Fast Squirrel/ (both 2013) received the Golden Ribbon award in the comic book category.



ROBERT DROZDA

POHÁDKOVÉ PRÁZDNINY U PŘEDNOSTY DRAHORÁDA/ FAIRY-TALE HOLIDAY WITH STATION MASTER RAILY

Illustrated by Jiří Bouda
Prague, Novela bohemia 2015, 132 pages
ISBN 978-80-87683-51-4
Age: **8+**

Mr. Otto Raily, station master of a speed train station Beyond-the-Hill, renovates a decommissioned train carriage in the style reminiscent of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand's chair car, so that he can treat his grandchildren during school holidays to the third helping of the stories dedicated to all train lovers. These railway arabesques from the era of steam, telegraphs and manual railroad switches, delivered by the naturally authoritative grandfather figure, evoke the atmosphere of the bedtime story series by Pavel Neuman featuring the choochoo magician Zababa. Even though one would probably struggle to find a real-life railway worker in the digitalised train stations of today, we may still come across the odd ghost in the tunnel, not to mention the spirit of belonging. Robert Drozda's trilogy confirms how beneficial professional passion for a disappearing tradition can be to an original story. Similarly, Jiří Bouda's last illustrations exude belief that real man acts with his heart. Are we not destined to head for the spur track simply because we no longer see our jobs as our vocation?

Robert Drozda (1949) was employed by Czech Railways as the chief inspector for investigating exceptional events and was also involved in prevention of railway accidents, which included working with children. He captured his life-long practical experience in the book entitled *Železničářský pitaval* /The Railway Pitaval/

(2002). The book *O duši plaských hodin* /The Spirit of The Plasy Clock/ (2006) summarises the history of the clock mechanism in the Cistercian monastery in Plasy. His loose trilogy with the first two volumes entitled *Pohádky pana přednosty* /The Station Master's Fairy Tales/ (2012) and *Pohádky přednosty Drahoráda* /Station Master Raily's Fairy Tales/ (2013) goes out to all old-time railway enthusiast, young and old alike.

Jiří Bouda (1934–2015), son of Cyril Bouda, who received the state academic title for his paintings. Jiří graduated from Karel Svobinský's studio at Prague VŠUP and was one of the leading graphic artists of the 'civilist' orientation. He grew very familiar with the railway life – to which he dedicated a large portion of his creative work – during his time as a signalman at the Prague-Bubeneč station, which no longer exists. Since 1968 Jiří Bouda fought for the preservation of technical relics. Together with his wife they restored Langweil's model of Prague, which is exhibited at the National Museum in Prague and in a series of vedutas captured the image of the barbarically demolished Prague-Těšnov train station. He became well known for his engravings of postal stamps and as an *ex libris* artist. The illustrations accompanying Drozda's stories became his last work.



ALŽBĚTA DVOŘÁKOVÁ

HERKULES A STRAŠIDLA/ HERCULES AND GHOSTS

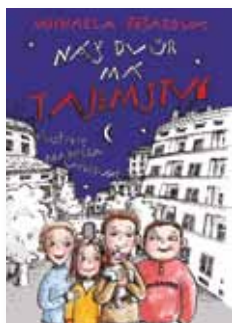
Illustrated by Eva Chupíková
Prague, Portál 2016, 96 pages
ISBN 978-80-262-1002-3
Age: **8+**

For a city dweller such as tomcat Hercules, a Persian sourpuss, not dissimilar to the annoying cats from TV adverts, the departure from Prague signals a step down the social ladder. When he lands at a rundown farm, where his human decides to live with her partner, this cat-snob not only ceases to be the centre of attention but also has to deal with one sticky situation after another. Hercules struggles to come to terms with the new male addition to his pack who works from home, and to find a common ground with an experienced globe-trotter pussycat, which lives in a disused car. And to top it all off, there are scary ghosts and threatening rhymes which keep appearing on the walls! This book represents an unexpected treat in the field of prose for younger school children. Delivered in an energetic style and blessed with the talent for sparing use of words, this story imaginatively connects the human world to the way animals may think, and combines past tense narrative with present tense action, so that the phantoms can be exposed. Is the haunted house really plagued by animal ghosts or are humans to blame for the unwanted presence?

Alžběta Dvořáková (1971) graduated in Czech studies from FF UK and works as a translator, editor and a Czech teacher for foreigners. With Viktorie Bartoníčková as co-author, she published a book entitled *Cesta z mlčení* /The Journey from Silence/ (2009), which tells the

story of a young woman who, after suffering a stroke, faces a prolonged battle to regain the power of speech. In her book for first-time readers entitled *Nanookova dobrodružství* /Nanook's Adventures/ (2013) Dvořáková introduces children to Nanook, a Malamute pup, who embarks on an unexpected trip to the North Pole.

Eva Chupíková (1974), originally from Ružomberok in Slovakia, she studied philosophy and English philology at FF UP Olomouc. She specialises in book illustrations and graphics and created several lines of designer school cases and art folders. Her delicate style, which poeticizes the magic of nature, found its match in the books by Daniela Krolupperová *Zákeřné keře* /Unbashful Bushes/ (2010), *Rybí sliby* /A Fishy Promise/ (2011) and *Mizící hmyzíci* /Bug Off/ (2013), as well as in the work of Zuzana Štelbaská *Zornička* /Little Zora/ (2015) and *Filipko* /Little Philip/ (2016). In a series of creative guidebooks *S pastelkami po...* /Bring Colouring Pencils to.../ she introduces our chateaus, castles and monasteries. Her original books entitled *Můj prázdninový deník* /My Holiday Diary/ (2011) or *Královské karty Karla IV* /The Royal Cards of Charles IV/ (2016) are also full of creative ideas and playfulness.



MICHAELA FIŠAROVÁ

NÁŠ DVŮR MÁ TAJEMSTVÍ/ THE SECRET OF OUR COURTYARD

Illustrated by Markéta Vydrová
Prague, Albatros 2015, 148 pages
ISBN 978-80-00-04078-3
Age: **9+**

The title of this novella is undoubtedly attractive to young readers and so is the storyline – the desire to own and care for a pet always appeals to our instincts as carers. The author gradually reveals the secret which Ondra and Johanka uncover it the courtyard of a house on Prague periphery. A hiding place brings together three friends who at first were all just looking out for the most vulnerable one. Gentle lessons and authentic dialogues correct the characters' misconceptions and after a nail-biting adventure, Ondra comes to see his cousin in an entirely different light when he, due to an illness in the family, has to share his precious room with him. The idea of shared joy and worries among family and friends is presented here by the author in a natural, spontaneous and wonderfully sensitive way.

Michaela Fišarová (1971) studied at PedF UK, undertook a year long internship at Prague DAMU and studied English at the Stoke-on-Trent College. She works as a primary school teacher and performs at the newly established theatre Troniček in Prague. Her debut for young adults, *Nikolína cesta* /Nicola's Journey/ (2012) received the Golden Ribbon in 2013. Her books are a great contribution to the genre of social prose which is underrepresented in Czech literature for young adults. In co-operation with the illustrator Aneta Žabková, she also created two books for preschoolers, entitled *A–Ž půjdeš do školy: Pro kluky, co se nez-*

tráti /When You Go to School: For Boys Who Know Their Way Around/ and *A–Ž půjdeš do školy: Pro holky, co se neztráti* /When You Go to School: For Girls Who Know Their Way Around/ (both 2016).

Markéta Vydrová (1968) is a prolific freelance artist who currently contributes her illustrations to books published by Triton, Albatros and Grada. Most often her illustrations are found in books for young children (such as the original stories *Kočkopes Kvído* /Guido, the Catdog/, *Modrý Poťouch* /The Blue Eggon/ or *Strašibraši aneb Tajemství věže v Kamsehrabech* /The Bugaboo Brothers or The Secret of the Trailbehind Tower/ by Miloš Kratochvíl) as well as in art-educational literature (*Draka je lepší pozdravit aneb O etiketě* /Better Say Hello to a Dragon or Lessons in Etiquette/ by Daniela Krolupperová, 2010).



RENÁTA FUČÍKOVÁ

PRAHA V SRDCI / PRAGUE IN THE HEART

Illustrated by the author
Prague, Práh 2015, 192 pages
ISBN 978-80-7252-599-7
Age: **10+**

The artist, who is well known for her detailed studies of memorable moments in Czech history, pays an original homage to her home city of Prague in the form of collages capturing “189 stories of the town and its people”. In numbered entries, supplemented by flyleaf maps, chronicle records, comic strips, news items commenting on the most moving moments, merge together with anecdotes, messages from spiritual leaders and terrifying tales so typical for today’s genre of urban legends. The space-time of the ‘Mother of All Cities’ viewed from a period spanning across over two hundred years pulsates in Renáta Fučíková’s imagination like a living organism made up of stories. In contrast, the engraving technique used here is limited to grey tones and does not dwell on chronological order of events. It is left up to the reader to compose his or her own mosaic. He/she can either proceed randomly or move in concentric circles from tribal medieval quarters to villages gradually swallowed up by the greater Prague area. Along the way, the tragic meets the funny, truth gets mixed in with legends and the documented blends in with the collective memory, which celebrates the genius loci of this city, constantly moulded by various emotions of those who call it home.

Renáta Fučíková (1964) graduated from VŠUP in Prague and works as a book illustrator. Amongst books she artistically accompanied

are, for example, Andersen’s *Pohádky / Fairy Tales/* (1995) or the anthology *Staré pověsti české a moravské / Old Czech and Moravian Legends/* (2005) and *Příběhy českých knížat a králů / The Lives of Czech Dukes and Kings/* (2007) by Alena Ježková with whom she also produced the portrait *Karel IV. / Charles IV/* (Golden Ribbon 2005, own version of the same material 2016). She also summarised the legacy of the „greatest Czechs” in the ensuing original books *Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk* (2006), *Jan Amos Komenský* (2008) and *Antonín Dvořák* (2012) and she continues to systematically focus on exceptional eras in Czech politics and culture (e.g. *Ludmila, Václav a Boleslav / Ludmila, Wenceslas and Boleslav/*, 2013; *Hus a Chelčický / Hus and Chelcický/* 2014). She was entered on the IBBY Honour List for her artistic accompaniment to *Vyprávění ze Starého zákona / Stories from the Old Testament/* (1998, 1st prize at the illustration Biennial in Tehran 1999). Her masterpiece, an encyclopedia entitled *Historie Evropy – Obrazové putování / The History of Europe in Pictures/* (2011, with Daniela Krolupperová) received the Golden Ribbon award in 2012.



SVATOPLUK HRNČIŘ

KARAVANA BRATŘANCŮ / THE COUSIN CARAVAN

Illustrated by Barbora Kyšková
Prague, Albatros 2016, 160 pages
ISBN 978-80-00-04139-7
Age: **9+**

Cousins Kuba and Vráta – „one a hothead, the other quite the opposite” – decide to respond to the call of the Tesárek’s family clan and embark on a bicycle trip to the village of Prosičko in the region of Maloskalsko near Turnov, where their large dynasty comes together every year during St. Anne’s celebrations. Their hopes for a smooth journey are soon shattered when their bicycle is stolen along with an invaluable family relic and when they encounter a travelling group, thanks to which the boys get a taste of the unpredictable. Luckily, the Tesáreks have cousins everywhere, regardless of their surname. This posthumously published prose by a great expert on the boyhood soul has a sentimental undertone, which reminds us of the times when boys with actual real-life friends and wise granddads at hand were free to explore our well inhabited countryside in all its summer holiday glory. Those times have long floated away on the waters of the Jizera River and disappeared in the ocean but boys and grown men alike still harbour the same secret yearning for this experience.

Svatopluk Hrnčíř (1926–2014) graduated from the National Librarian School in Prague and worked as an editor for several magazines for children and young adults. As the founder of magazine *Ohníček*, an instigator at the magazine *Pionýr*, and a contributor to magazines *Junák*, *Sluníčko*, *Mateřidouška*, and *Čtyřlístek* he played an important part in the cultivation

of comics – he adapted Poe’s and Doyle’s detective stories, E.R. Burroughs’s stories about Tarzan and created libretto for the series *Příhody pana Semtamtuka / The Stories of Mr. Here-and-there/* (1969–2004, book version 2006) and *Cour a Courek / Tommy and Tommcát/* (book version 1983, both with Adolf Born). His fiction influenced by Foglarian poeticism (trilogy *Uctíváči ginga / The Gingo Worshipers/* was not published until 1999–2005) was based on the summertime adventure model, e.g. in books *Případ skončil v pátek / The Case Was Closed On Friday/* (1959, film adaptation), *Ostrov uprostřed města / Island In the City/* (1963) or *Lovci z Ohňové hory / The Hunters from the Fire Mountain/* (1998).

Barbora Kyšková (1954) is an AVU graduate and works as a freelance artist, art restorer and theatre set designer. Her illustrations for children focus mainly on the genre of fantasy, e.g. her pictorial accompaniment to *Hodinový strojek / Clockwork/* by Philip Pullman (in Czech in 2006), Lloyd Alexander’s *Kronika Prydainu / The Chronicles of Prydain/* (in Czech in 2007) or the new Czech translation of Astrid Lindgren’s fairy-tale novel *Ronia the Robber’s Daughter* (2007). The otherworldly aspect of her artwork found its place in Daniela Krolupperová’s books *Společenstvo klíčníků / The Key Club/* (2012), *O’Bluda / Mr. McMonster/* (2013) and *Zločin na Starém Městě pražském / A Crime in Prague’s Old Town/* (2014).



JÍŘÍ KAHOUN

JEŽIBABA NA KOLOBĚŽCE / THE WITCH ON THE SCOOTER

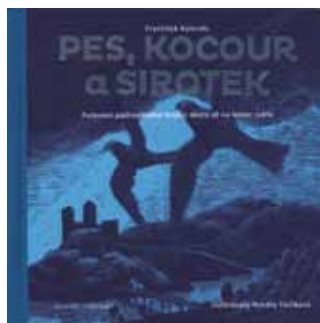
Illustrated by Lucie Dvořáková
Prague, Knižní klub 2015, 80 pages
ISBN 978-80-242-5156-1
Age: **6+**

Deep in the Koda woods, near the legendary Tetín, in a place ideal for home-grown fairy-tale antics, there is a remote cottage with a pond. Amongst its inhabitants are bugaboos, a water sprite and other non-bloodthirsty spooks. They take rank with Josef Lada's illustrated characters, not only because the witch Applechops and her magician apprentice bugaboo Goof constantly have to deal with set ups orchestrated by the water sprite Splasharound. The neighbourly squabbles are to blame for the increased numbers of various nasty creatures which need to be gotten under control. The series of tales of bedtime story length subscribes to the belief that all mischief will soon be put right, as it always is in the stories by Václav Čtvrtek. In addition, the bickering of the excited characters has a pleasantly expressive tone in places where Jiří Kahoun employs it to show children and parents that their mother tongue is of great use also in situations when we need to sound convincingly scary – in the common-use Czech peppered by Germanisms.

Jiří Kahoun (1942), a craft smith and stonemason by original profession, counts among the most experienced authors for the youngest school children who know him among others also from the *Sluníčko* magazine. He captured readers' attention with his debut *Pískací kornoutek* /The Whistling Cone/ (1984, adapted for film). Kahoun's works served as basis for the making of the TV series *Příhody včelích*

medvídků /The Bee Bear Tales/, *Včelí medvídci od jara do zimy* /Bee Bears from Spring till Winter/, *Jak se mají včelí medvídci?* /How Are the Bee Bears?/ (published in book form in 1992, 2005 and 2009; illustrations and puppets by Ivo Houf) or *Toronto Tom, kocour z Ameriky* /Toronto Tom, the Cat from America/ (in book form in 1993, illustrated by Jitka Walterová). His later work speaks of his enchantment with transport (*O mašinkách /Trains/, 2007; O létajících strojích /Flying Machines/, 2013*) and we also see the return to the old trusted stories (*Co se zdá medvědům /What Do Bears Dream About/ 2015*). In 2013 Kahoun received the Golden Ribbon for his lifelong contribution in the field of literature for children and young people.

Lucie Dvořáková (1959) graduated from the film and television graphic studios at VŠUP and is one of our leading illustrators. She received two Golden Ribbon awards and added her dream-like creations to the works of e.g. Eduard Petiška, Jiří Žáček and more recently also Miloš Kratochvíl or Petr Stančík. She is also active in the field of animation (*Vážně nevážně /Seriously Unserious/, Slepice /The Hen/*) and in the production of children's TV programs (the fairy tale land of *Fanfárie* on Czech TV's children's channel). She received an honourable commendation at the 2013 Namibook Island Illustration Concours for her *Středověké pohádky* /The Tales of the Middle Ages/.



FRANTIŠEK KALENDA

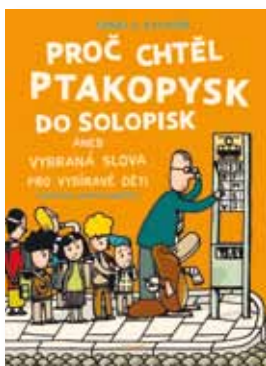
PES, KOCOUR A SIROTEK / THE DOG, THE CAT AND THE ORPHAN

Illustrated by Renáta Fučíková
Prague, Meander and Vyšehrad 2016, 168 pages
ISBN 978-80-87596-66-1 (Meander)
ISBN 978-80-7429-623-9 (Vyšehrad)
Age: **10+**

In twelfth century Moravia, stable boy Martin, an orphan from a Johannine community, is on the run because he is for a reason unknown to him hunted by two cut-throats from the Levant. He is accompanied by a runaway daughter of an infamous squire and by a wandering knight whose scars and a bandaged arm do not disclose even half of his past deeds. This disparate group whose travels take them "almost to the edge of the world", as suggested by the subtitle of this book written by a talented fiction author, witness a public execution in Olomouc, vampiristic intermezzo in White Carpathians and they sail on the Danube all the way to Constantinople, the centre of the Byzantine Empire, toward which the hope of Christianity is directed. This is also where the reason for the chase becomes clear, which includes elements of fantasy, twists and turns and samples of the thinking of the time. The Middle Ages were not dark – it is only our perception of them. Despite the lack of food and tender touch, young people of the time also desired to discover who they were and to find their place in the world, while sometimes trusting their preconceptions and other times the love of others. The narrator of their quest is none other than Martin's dog who is able to speak to the boy in human language, which not only furthers the plot but also the readers' enjoyment.

František Kalenda (1990) graduated in anthropology from FHS UK where he continues in his postgraduate studies. His extensive knowledge of languages and numerous internships abroad inspired his editorials about the events in Latin America in the online *Deník Referendum*. His literary undertakings are situated in the peak period of the Middle Ages and they focus on the mentality of the so perceived "Dark Ages". His debut novel *Despota* /The Tyrant/ (2011) tells the story of machinations in 14th century Byzantine Empire. He was nominated for the Jiří Orten award with his historical thriller *Ordál* /The Ordeal/ (2012) which takes place during the time of Tatar invasions of Eastern Europe. The first volume of his trilogy set in Prague in the year 1349 during the life of Charles IV is entitled *Vraždy ve znamení hvězdy* /Murders in the Sign of the Star/ (2016). This is his first contribution to children's literature.

Renáta Fučíková (1964) – for more information see previous page.



DANIELA KALINOVÁ

PROČ CHTĚL PTAKOPYSK DO SOLOPISK ANEB VYBRANÁ SLOVA PRO VYBÍRAVÉ DĚTI / GRAMMATICAL RIDDLES FOR KIDS

Illustrated by Martin Krkošek
Prague, Mladá fronta 2016, 128 pages
ISBN 978-80-204-3768-6
Age: **9+**

This book is a play on a specific – and notoriously disliked part of Czech grammar – the so called ‘enumerated words’. These are groups of words the spelling of which has to be memorised and their knowledge, extending also to many various derivatives, is then tested through convoluted dictation tests. This equally as inventive book attempts to pave a child-user friendlier path to the practice of this memorisation part of Czech grammar. The pitfalls of “i” and “y” following the tricky ‘ambivalent consonants’ “b”, “f”, “l”, “m”, “p”, “s”, “v” and “z” – with an added page on ‘borrowed words’ beginning with “f”, which also tend to cause grammatical conundrums – appear less daunting with the help of various stories, rhymes, comics, riddles and sayings. The users will learn more about *sýček* /owl/ or *sýkorka* /titmouse/ and if they are having *syrový* /rough/ day, they can also – why not – make it a *sýrový* /cheesy/ day. The accompanying illustrations make it possible to burst out laughing at the sentence which have always tyrannized all generations of school goers without exception: “U jedné vily vily věnce vily a psi z vily na ně vyli. /At a villa the fairies made wreaths and the dogs howled at them from the villa./”

Daniela Kalinová (1972) studied Czech studies at FF UK and English at PedF UK. She teaches both of these subjects at a secondary school in Prague. In her didactically based debut on

a linguistic topic she utilised her teaching as well as parenting experience.

Martin Krkošek (1979) studied at Jiří Šalamoun and Juraj Horváth illustration studio and later also at Jiří Barta’s animated film studio at VŠUP. In 2007 he completed a year-long internship at Jiří Lindovský’s graphic studio at AVU and in 2011 he became a volunteer at the art laboratory Stanica Žilina-Záriečie, with which he still co-operates today. He founded a graphic studio Uutěrky where he, together with his wife Pavla, produces screen prints and small volume book titles. He lives and works in Lietavská Lúčka.



VARIOUS AUTHORS

JINDE / SOMEWHERE ELSE

Illustrated by Jakub Plachý
Prague, Meta and Baobab 2016, 140 pages
ISBN 978-80-88171-06-5 (Meta)
ISBN 978-80-7515-030-1 (Baobab)
Age: **12+**

It would be a great pity if this title did not make its way to the wider public. The credit for its first publication belongs to the Association for Opportunities of Young Migrants, Meta (as part of the project No discrimination at school!) and now it is published in co-edition with the publishing house Baobab. A collection of short stories written by seven Czech authors with their own personal experiences of migration and emigration embodies not only a creative undertaking but also a platform for discussion on a pressing social theme. The prose included here reaches as far back as the Second World War – the text entitled *Bez domova* /Homeless/ by Chaim Cigan captures its readers’ attention by an unusual holocaust story. Jan Čumlivský depicts the life of Czech ‘gastarbeiters’ in Berlin while Magdaléna Platzová chose to tell a story of a secularized Syrian family resident in France. The desire of a small handicapped Bolivian immigrant to Argentina to make a „superburger” is described by Markéta Pilátová. The diversity of the topics is reflected also in the art work, which alongside accompanying illustrations includes eight concluding pictorial variations on the short stories created by Jakub Plachý.

Various authors including: Chaim Cigan (given name Karol Sidon, 1942), Olga Černá (1964), Jan Čumlivský (1978), Edgar Dutka (1941), Markéta Pilátová (1973) – for more details go

to page 18, Magdaléna Platzová (1972), Marek Šindelka (1984).

Jakub Plachý (1989) is currently studying at Juraj Horváth’s illustration and graphic art studio at the Prague VŠUP. He creates comic books (e.g. for the Discover magazine) and is involved in book and poster graphic work. He is also a co-organiser of the art festival Otevřená ulice in Horní Maršov and together with Magda Růtová he founded a group Bad Portraits, which creates street portraits of their fellow citizens. Plachý’s debut was an original book about humanity’s take on the issue of urination (*Velká kniha čůrání* /The Big Book of Urination/, 2013).



VARIOUS AUTHORS

12 UKOLÉBAVEK / 12 LULLABIES

Illustrated by the authors
Prague, Baobab 2016,
series of 12 unnumbered booklets
ISBN 978-80-7515-038-7
Age: **3+**

The international group of authors formally builds on the past tradition of 'The Fairy Tale Pages' anthology and follows the set of *12 malých hororů* /12 Little Horror Stories/ (2013) with a dozen lullabies. French writer Blexbolex, one of Babobab's core authors, introduces the set packaged in a cardboard box with a gentle *1,2,3,4,5* rhyme. Although the other lullabies follow their traditional texts, they are further developed by unmistakable artistic styles (Juraj Horváth, Chrudoš Valoušek and others). Michaela Kukovičová provided imaginative collages as an accompaniment to Ivan. M. Jirous's poem which he sent to his young daughters from prison during the period of 'normalisation'. Other authors (e.g., Skálová, Neubert, and Volfová) contribute by glimpses into the world of cats and mice, which little sleepyheads find so familiar.

Various authors and illustrators including: Blexbolex (given name Bernard Granger, 1966), Juraj Horváth (1974) – for more information see page 14, Iwona Chmielewska (1960), Ivan M. Jirous (1944–2011), Michaela Kukovičová (1968), Franziska Neubert (1977), Magdalena Rutová (1988); Tereza Řičanová (1974), Alžběta Skálová (1982), Dagmar Urbánková (1972) – for more information see page 24, Eva Volfová (1979), Chrudoš Valoušek (1960), Alžběta Zemanová (1987).



ROBIN KRÁL

NA DLOUHOU TRÁŤ / A LONG DISTANCE RUN

Illustrated by Tereza Ščerbová
Prague, Běžiliška 2016, 28 unnumbered pages
ISBN 978-80-906112-7-6
Age: **6+**

The seventh booklet of the *Mikroliška* series, a pocket edition of short stories and poems for the reading needs of children on the move, brings a new version of the evergreen of health education, written by Josef Kožíšek, *Polámal se mraveneček* /The Broken Ant/, which the current award-winning author adapted for our busy modern times. On her way home from a competition, sports enthusiast Šárka does not take enough care on the road and after her collision with a tram she is almost born again. During her recovery in the hospital, at home, and on some cautious outings, her story often teeters on the edge of black humour, which, of course, according to André Breton, has the power to heal. Robin Král calls on the girl's unruly limbs to return her body back to life with a regular rhyme of irregular length, while making use of situations in which Czech idioms get to play a comical part („ruce to nemají v rukou“ /the hands can't handle it/). The instruction, “Boys, look out, the light is red!” does not even have to be issued – he gets the message through without any lectures.

Robin Král (1981) graduated in aesthetics from FF UK and in screenwriting from VOŠ of the Jaroslav Ježek Conservatory, where he now teaches. He focuses mainly on poetry for the youngest readers. Král captured the world of children's wishes and fantasies in his poetic texts *Šimon chce být krotitelem*

/Simon Wants to Become an Animal Tamer/, Z Kroměříže do Paříže /From Kromeriz to Paris/ (both 2011) and the 3D folding picture book about bats *Ferdinande! /Oh, Ferdinand! /*(2013, Golden Ribbon for illustration). Král also authors and translates song lyrics: he co-operates, among other, with the Spejbl and Hurvínek Theatre (*Hurvínek mezi osly* /Hurvínek Among Donkeys/, *Jak s Máničkou šli všichni čerti* /Manicka and the Devil/) and the band Toxique. He received the Magnesia Litera award in the category of books for children and young people for his poetically-technical sample book of poetic forms *Vynálezárium* /House of Inventions/ (2015).

Tereza Ščerbová (1982) studied at the SUPŠ in Ostrava, fine-arts education at the Ostrava University – Department of Arts, and illustration at the Prague VŠUP in Juraj Horváth's studio. She won an internship in Lucerne under Pierre Thomé and works, among other, for the *Živel* and *Host* magazines, Argo publishers and Malvína, a fine-arts preschool. Her dreamy illustrations in Marka Miková's *Škvíry* /Cracks/ (2004) received the Golden Ribbon award in the category of books for older children and young people. In a similar vein she also enhanced Lenka Brodecká's fairy tale *Hledá se hvězda* /The Search for a Star/ (2015) featured in this year's international White Ravens Catalogue.



JOSEF KRČEK

PŘÍBĚHY DVANÁCTI MĚSÍCŮ / THE STORIES OF THE TWELVE MOONS

Illustrated by Renáta Fučíková
Prague, Albatros 2015, 128 pages
ISBN 978-80-00-04104-9
Age: **8+**

The author and illustrator use the story *O dvanácti měsíčkách* /The Twelve Moons/ originally recorded in Slovakia by Božena Němcová as a framework for their narrative about folklore linked to individual months of the year. Each month is introduced by its international name (and its etymological background), followed by examples of its characteristic pagan and Christian festivals, celebrations and customs. For example, the lore for the month of March is rich in soil cultivation themes and reminds students and teacher of the almost forgotten Gregorian chant, popular in Western Europe. Even though the main focus of the month of May remains with May poles and first love, this section also includes an explanation of the more recent Mother's Day tradition. In August, during the time of harvest festivals and weddings, we are invited to an authentic "Bohemian Forest" wedding with all its trimmings. Apart from the illustrational aspect of the book, which changes its colour range along with the seasons, the visual art is also supplemented by sheet music and cooking recipes.

Josef Krček (1946) studied clarinet at the State Conservatory in Plzeň, played with a number of orchestras, and worked as a music teacher and editor for Supraphone. In 1969 he joined the dance group Chorea Bohemica, established by his brother Jaroslav with whom he also plays in the chamber ensemble Musica

Bohemica since 1975. He is well known for his film and radio music compositions and also devotes his time to music therapy and interpretation of period pieces (group Chairé). He wrote several books about Czech folklore for children: *Špalíček lidových písní* /Collected Folk Songs/ (2008), *Písničky pro nejmenší* /Songs for the Little Ones/ (2010) and *Vánoce – Putování do Betléma* /Christmas: The Journey to Bethlehem/ (2011, with R. Fučíková).

Renáta Fučíková (1964) – for more information see page 8.



HELENA LEHEČKOVÁ

ŽÁRLIVÝ RYTÍŘ A TICHÁ NEVĚSTA / THE JEALOUS KNIGHT AND THE QUIET BRIDE

Illustrated by Lucie Dvořáková
Prague, Kinžní klub 2016, 120 pages
ISBN 978-80-242-6289-6
Age: **7+**

Knight Ottokar returned home from his invasions to the North with a bride as beautiful as the sun, setting over a lake on a summer's evening – but whoa! Not only that the meek girl's dashing captor does not speak a word of Swedish and is not even willing to try, he will not teach his new bride Czech because he was never one for talking and very short tempered at that – and to top it all off he gets jealous of anyone who dares to address the quiet lady of the castle. If we add a gang of mischievous imps who have their eye on Ottokar's soul and find devilish delight in his communication inadequacy, it does not come as a great surprise that the conditions in castle Žárliv are far from pleasant. The fairy tale about misunderstanding by Helena Lehečková, whose linguistic expertise extends to language disorders and problems, does not have an idyllic ending – far from it. Her passionate philological notes are perhaps at times aimed at older readers but the underlying issue rests in the area of human relationships across cultures, obvious even to today's seven-year-olds: love without words is not possible because without this key we cannot unlock another's heart.

Helena Lehečková (1952) graduated in Finno-Ugric, English and Czech studies from the FF UK. Since 1986 she teaches Czech at the University of Helsinki and she authored a number of Czech textbooks for Finns. Apart from Slavonic studies she is also involved in the area

of neurolinguistics and speech disorders. As well as translating books from Finnish (e.g. *Medvídek Uto* /Teddy Uto/ by Elina Karjalainen or a series about a clumsy bugaboo Huu by Hannu Mäkelä), she also contributed to the body of literature for children and young people by original books *Čertice Trucajda* /Trucajda, the Girl Imp/ (2003), *K čertu!* /To Hell!/ (2007) and *Meluzína Severýna* /Severina the Banshee/ (2013), which are also set in the world of fairy tales.

Lucie Dvořáková (1959) – for more information see page 9.



VRATISLAV MAŇÁK

O NEBESÁŘI/ THE SKYDWELLER

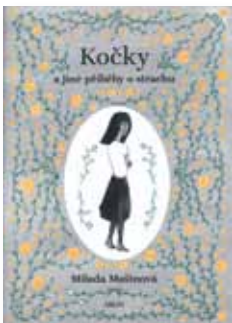
Illustrated by Jan Hísek
Dalovice u Karlových Varů, ART 2016 Publishers,
36 pages
ISBN 978-80-906384-1-9
Age: **9+**

Vratislav Maňák's original fairy tale exudes rich Andersenian imagination, while remaining an autonomous account of the search for a light, which has the power to ignite life and goodness in people. A mountain valley is flooded by murky waters which extinguish this life-giving light, among other places also in the house where little Clara lives with her sick mother. The girl with a symbolic name embarks on a long journey in search of the Skydweller who could give her the warming flame which would save her mother. But the understanding guardian of the sky will not surrender this treasure easily. She has to answer his three stellar questions. This talented author offers to a wide range of reader age groups a lyrical parable of love, courage and intriguing mystique, hidden between the sky and the earth, reflected in the dreamy mezzotints by Jan Hísek.

Vratislav Maňák (1988) graduated in journalism and media studies at FSV UK where he currently lectures. He also works for Czech Television. His short story debut *Šaty z igelitu* /The Plastic Dress/ won the Jiří Orten award in 2012. He also writes for children: in 2014 he published a fairy tale féerie *Muž z hodin aneb Proč se na podzim mění čas* /The Man from the Clock or Why Do Clocks Go Back in Autumn/ (2014, Magnesia Litera nomination). The material from one of his bedtime stories created for Czech Radio series *Hajaja* was

used as the basis for a comical travel log piece *Expedice z pohlednice* /Expedition from a Postcard/ (2016).

Jan Hísek (1965), a prominent painter and graphic artist of his generation studied at VŠUP at Milan Hegar's and Jan Solpera's studio. His work centres mainly on the mezzotint technique, which he also used to decorate Viola Fisherová's book of fairy tales *Co vyprávěla Dlouhá chvíle* /The Tales of a Tedium/ (2005, 2016). He employed a variety of similarly subtle graphic techniques to accompany tens of titles, such as Tolkien's fairy-tale *Kovář z Velké Lesné* /Smith of Wootton Major/ (1995), an anthology of Icelandic legends *Mrtvému nože netřeba* /The Dead Do Not Need Knives/ (2008) in Jón Árnason's arrangement, a selection from the works by Vítězslav Nezval *Moře láska má* /The Sea, My Love/ (2010) or Oscar Wilde's fairy-tale *Šťastný princ* /The Happy Prince/ (2014). He is also a much sought after creator of bibliophile prints.



MILADA MAŠINOVÁ

KOČKY A JINÉ PŘÍBĚHY O STRACHU /CATS AND OTHER STORIES ABOUT FEAR

Illustrated by Petra Josefína Stibitzová
Prague, Argo 2016, 152 pages
ISBN 978-80-257-1677-9
Age: **15+**

Five stories with an attached novella about a one-eyed cat tyrant throw human wrecks on the verge of adulthood, to whom life was not at all kind, into the jaws of terror. Milada Mašínová's prose therefore calls upon her peer reader, who is hopefully only temporarily absorbed by a conviction that when the world does not treat you right, dwelling in the depth of misery constitutes an appropriate response. But what if this is only something we tell ourselves? As we read about orphans from orphanages, young pregnant teenagers, those with deceased siblings, or a castaway adrift with a lunatic, the characters parading in front of us in this book are fatally incapable of emotions they never received themselves, and therefore cannot pass onto others. The young author uses exaggerated gestures, inspired by the period horror creations of Hoffmann, Poe or Maupassant, to set a scene of icy despair in "Emo" tones, underlined by accompanying illustrations in black and grey pallets with ice green accents. Unsightly blemishes on the face of the pre-war 'Golden Era' meet here with current levels of alienation so vast that today's young people, lost in the crowd, need to come up with a plan for a change, and fast.

Milada Mašínová (1988) is currently in the final stages of her screenwriting and dramaturgy studies at Prague FAMU. She also works in the Centre for programming for children and young people in Czech TV. Her debut libretto

in the comic book trilogy *Mor* /Black Death/ (two volumes published to date, 2015 and 2016, with P.J. Stibitzová) follows the story of a heroine who is, together with her family, placed under a claustrophobic quarantine. She also produced a prosaic piece entitled *Zvíře* /The Animal/ (2012), which stands out among other projects completed as part of her studies.

Petra Josefína Stibitzová (1988) – for more information see page 4.



MARKA MÍKOVÁ

ŽVEJKAČKY / BUBBLEGUM

Illustrated by Juraj Horváth
Prague, Baobab 2015, 36 unnumbered pages
ISBN 978-80-7515-015-8
Age: **10+**

This volume embodies a truly unorthodox format which evokes a giant piece of chewing gum in a see-through wrapper and contains around thirty poems and song lyrics, so it can be seen as an up-to-date summary of the author's poetic style. The choice of the title is further reflected in the content, where the phenomenon of chewing is playfully built upon, and its thematic scope enlists situations in which this sugary treat plays a part. Marka Míková's inspiration comes from sprightly family moments, joys and troubles, which form our everyday lives. Even though the rhyme she uses is not a regular one, the rhythmical potential entices to a song, also perhaps because of humorous interjections. Among the rhymes the reader will also find microstories about what it is like to go fishing with dad or taste auntie's fantastic *svíčková* (a sirloin of beef). Double spread illustrations by Juraj Horváth enhance the joy of reading and singing along with this book by creating imaginative parallels between the pictures and the text.

Marka Míková (1959) graduated from the school of puppetry at DAMU, acted in a several fairy-tale films and was a member of music bands Dybbuk, Panika and Zuby nehty. Míková also worked as a director in children's theatre Minor. Currently she works in dubbing. Her debut *Roches a Bžunda* /Roches and Funcase/ became the Most Beautiful Czech Book in 2001. Her Icelandic *Knihafoss* /Bookfoss/

(2007) was, along with her prose *Mrakodrapy /Skyscrapers/* (2012), and *Škvíry /Cracks/* (2014), nominated for Magnesia Litera. Her story for boys *JO537* (2009), featuring a novel narrative approach, won its author a Golden Ribbon. In 2015 Míková also published a story about a teddy bear from „Sinhapour“, entitled *Jonáš spěchá domů* /Jonah is Coming Home/.

Juraj Horváth (1974) graduated from the illustration and graphics studio at VŠUP, which he became the head of in 2003. He devotes his time to drawing, graphic art, design and illustrations, and together with his wife Tereza Horváthová publishes books at Baobab publishers. He illustrated or graphically designed tens of titles (e.g. *Egbérie a Olténie* /Egberie and Oltenie/ by Sylva Fischerová or *Muž z hodin* /The Man from the Clock/ by Vratislav Maňák). For his inventive approach he received the Most Beautiful Czech Book award on a number of occasions. Employing his woodcut technique to accompany the adaptation of Herbert T. Swarze's collection of native Indian stories *Příběhy z parní lázně* /Tales from the Smokehouse/, Horváth received the World's Most Beautiful Book award at the Leipzig Book Fair in 2001.



**ADÉLA RŮČKOVÁ
MORAVCOVÁ**

VÝLETOVNÍK / THE EXCURSIONATOR

Illustrated by the author
Prague, Slovart 2016, 48 pages
ISBN 978-80-7529-207-0
Age: **10+**

Siblings Vitek and Stephanie – old acquaintances from two geographical atlases for school children – join up with a friend who had just passed his leaving certificate and, accompanied also by the dog Crisp, visit memorable places of Czech countryside. The educational-artistic book by Adéla Růčková Moravcová uses a combination of techniques to explore the beauty of sandstone rock castles, caves, corroding deep under our feet, graceful ancient ruins and flooded quarries, and other spots suitable for camping or water tourism. Comics, resembling the style of the old favourites *Rychlé Šípy* /The Fast Arrows/ meet with commentary supplemented by maps, date box inserts and quizzes. The overview of each geographical phenomenon at hand and its occurrence around the country comes complete with practical tips which, given the financial circumstances of the underage tourists, are well worth noting. Based on her own background in the scouts group Yellow Leaf, the author turns to her young fellow explorers in a connective first person narrative, to remind them of what is most important: apart from the sea, our small country has an abundance of all the miracles of nature on offer. All you have to do is venture out!

Adéla Růčková Moravcová (1984) graduated in hydrobiology from PřF UK and then worked in laboratories in Prague and in Brussels. She is a self-taught artist in the field of illustrations

for children and young people. Apart from Vitek and Stephanie's geographical expeditions in books entitled *Můj první atlas České republiky* /My First Atlas of The Czech Republic/ (2011) and *Můj první atlas Evropy* /My First Atlas of Europe/ (2014, both based on text by Vít Štěpánek), she accompanied also the picture book *Knížka pro děti do auta* /The Book for Kids in the Car/ (2011). She created a board game *Perníková chaloupka* /Hansel and Grethel/ (2009) and she is involved in creative projects for various non-profit making organisations (České Švýcarsko o.p.s., SOS Children's Villages, Skutečně zdravá škola and others).



JAN NEJEDLÝ (ED.)

MALÝ HUMORISTA/ THE LITTLE HUMORIST

Illustrated by Jaromir Plachy
Prague, Meander 2016, 188 pages
ISBN 978-80-87596-90-6
Age: **7+**

A nation which prides itself so much on its wit should not underestimate the care that should be invested in the next generation of potential humorists. Otherwise this world-healing viewpoint faces its demise as is, after all, clearly apparent from many of the amateur videos available in cyberspace. It is for this reason that a specialist in comical folklore put together a pocket guide for school-attending comedians. The broad scope of the art of entertainment represented here ranges from the brevity of silly deeds to fantastical trickery. However, all the crafty riddles, teasers and tricks, deadly killing jokes and compilations of insanities from school diaries, crowned by other pottiness, which Jan Nejedlý offers here as noteworthy, stem from the conviction that humour is nothing alien to us. As Christian Morgenstern said, "laughter is a gate, through which much good enters", even if there are some poos and a pinch of blasphemy thrown into the mix.

Jan Nejedlý (1971) graduated from PedF UK and worked as teacher and journalist e.g. in the literary magazines *Nové knihy* and *Tvar*. At present he is the editor in chief of the monthly publication *Rodina a Škola*. His systematic interest in surrealism, pataphysics, the sources of humour and the more basal layers of folk creativity were incarnated into his bestiary of urban myths *Nová pražská strašidla* /Prague's New Ghosts/ (2012). His collection of play-

school and school humour gems entitled *Mistr sportu skáče z dortu* /Little Arabella Miller Found a Furry Caterpillar/ was published in 2014. He edited an anthology of the Czech surrealist poet Karel Šebek *Dívej se do tmy, je tak barevná* /Look into the Darkness, It's So Colourful/ (1996) and the anthology of erotic texts *Jezelec na delfíně* /The Dolphin Rider/ (2005, with R. Kopáč). He also made his mark as screenwriter of dadaistic videos.

Jaromír Plachý (1986) studied at the animation studio at VŠUP. He focuses on developing computer games, animations, illustrations and comic books. He is the author of the game *Botanicula* (2012), which he created for the Amanita Design studio and for which he received numerous awards at home and abroad. His music video *Nunová tango* (2010) won the main prize at the Anifilm festival in Třeboň and in Turin. His series of comic strips *Jiné světy* /Other Worlds/ (2007–2011) and the comic book *Kmen a jiné příběhy* /Tree Trunk and Other Stories/ (2007) was lauded by jury members at the Komiksfest festival; he also authored the comic book *Koule a Krychle* /Ball and Cube/ (2010). His drawings feature in Daniela Fischerová's collection *Tetovaná teta* /The Tattooed Aunt/ (2015).



NIKKARIN

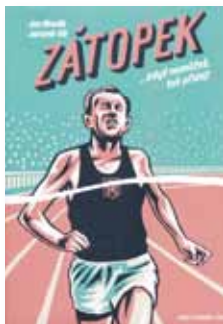
130: ČAS HVĚZDOPLAVCŮ/ THE ASTRAL VOYAGERS

Illustrated by Nikkarin
Prague, Labyrinth 2015, 112 pages
ISBN 978-80-87260-70-8
Age: **12+**

The third volume of the intended tetralogy *130* by scriptwriter and illustrator Nikkarin comes a "long" five years after the second volume *Hodní, zlí a oškliví* /The Good, Bad and Ugly Crowd/, as the fans of the series often complain. The introduction, which once more takes the form of film credits, familiarises the reader with the protagonists, after which Nikkarin induces a three-part plunge into a post-apocalyptic space, and throws in three comic strips about an animal called Kňoch and a nine-page picture gallery. Antonie and Crusader meet with Bo, who has just returned from a chronoarea where time passes outside of all the known conventions, and together they fight Lupus's band of villains who, however, gained strengths both through mutation and further ruthlessness. This black-and-white comic, oscillating between sci-fi and fantasy, was not born out of thin air but is a spirited reaction to various impulses of the medium, to advances in film production and computer games and playfully incorporates quotations from the cult movie series *Star Wars*.

Nikkarin (1987), real name Michal Menšík, is a self-taught artist. He draws and writes his original comic books and has recently emerged as much demanded illustrator of books and magazines for young people. He is a regular contributor to the quarterly publication *Raketa*. He illustrated Alena Ježková's novel *Dračí polévka* /Dragon Soup/ (2011), the

short-story anthology *Závrať* /Vertigo/ (2013) and the travel journal *3333 km k Jakubovi* /3,333 Km Till James/ by Petra Braunová (2014). He is also featured in the comic-book album *Ještě jsme ve válce* /Still at War/ (2011), describing authentic fates of Nazi and communist regimes' victims in former Czechoslovakia. The latest in his comic book series was preceded by albums *130: Odysea* /130: Odyssey/ (2009) and *130: Hodní, zlí a oškliví* /130: The Good, Bad and Ugly Crowd/ (2010).



JAN NOVÁK – JAROMÍR 99

ZÁTOPEK... KDYŽ NEMŮŽEŠ, TAK PŘIDEJ! / ZÁTOPEK... IF YOU CAN'T RUN ANYMORE, RUN FASTER!

Illustrated by Jaromír 99
Prague, Argo and Paseka 2016,
200 unnumbered pages
ISBN 978-80-257-1761-5 (Argo)
ISBN 978-80-7432-717-9 (Paseka)
Age: **12+**

This original comic book dedicated to the memory of our long-distance running legend Emil Zátopek (1922-2000), the four-time Olympic gold winner, holder of numerous records and the title of the Greatest Athlete of the 20th Century, was published under the auspices of the Czech Olympic Committee. The career of the sportsman who lived, trained and won in the era of increasing communist totalitarianism is captured in the libretto by a renowned writer born in the glory years of this "Czech Locomotive" from Kopřivnice, who also experienced the despotism of the regime in his younger years. The co-authors thus also highlight the runner's moral profile and his protests against the persecution of his long-time friend Stanislav Jungwirth. The graphic novel culminates with Zátopek's victory of the marathon in Helsinki – when he ran it for the first time in his life – and offers glimpses of the social reality of the 1952 Czechoslovakia. The competitive nature of the environment is expressed by the combination of cool blue and brick red used on the athletic ovals, chosen by the colourist Filip Raif.

Jan Novák (1953) emigrated together with his parents at the age of sixteen via Austria to the US, where he studied at the University of Chicago. He made his name as a prose writer (mostly writing in English), translator and a film scriptwriter. He continues to regularly visit his old home country. His debut collection of

short stories entitled *Striptease Chicago* (1982) deals with the rarely idyllic life stories of emigrants, which also feature in his prose *Milionový jeep* /The Willys Dream Kit/ (1989, both published in Czech in 1992). His novel describing the lives of the Mašin brothers *Zatím dobrý* /So Far So Good/ (2004 and 2011) was awarded the Magnesia Litera book of the year for 2005. His novel *Děda* /Grandpa/ received the Josef Škvorecký award in 2007. He also published an unconventional biography of the director Miloš Forman with whom he works entitled *Co já vím* /What Do I Know/ (2013).

Jaromír 99 (1963), given name Jaromír Švejdlík, is an artist and member of the music bands Priessnitz and Umakart. He became known for his comic book trilogy *Alois Nebel* (2003) based on libretto by Jaroslav Rudiš. He was also involved in its film adaptation (2011), which uses the rotoscope animation technique. He was awarded the Muriel prize for his original comic book *Bomber* (2007). In 2013 he was commissioned by a British client to create a graphic novel based on Franz Kafka's *Zámek* /The Castle/.



ANNA NOVOTNÁ

KDO SE SMĚJE NAPOSLED... / WHO HAS THE LAST LAUGH...

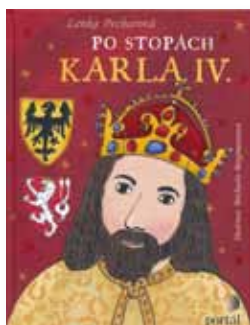
Illustrated by Jiří Votruba
Prague, Práh 2016, 128 unnumbered pages
ISBN 978-80-7252-658-1
Age: **8+**

As an extension of the guide book entitled *Kdo jinému jámu kopá...* /Don't Wish onto Others.../ this second "more and less serious dictionary of proverbs and sayings" by Anna Novotná affords almost five hundred new opportunities to illustrate that at the heart of every live language are groupings and comparisons, the meaning of which is not possible to fully derive just from the words themselves. They are called idioms – an explosive concoction dearly loved by every poetic soul. Certain older expressions are often "all Greek" to the younger readers so in cases of the more colloquial usage of the language the author explains the ties that common Czech has to German, while in the more formal context she draws attention to words borrowed from Romance languages and to pieces of wisdom adopted from the Bible. In this context, body parts are highly malleable, especially the head (including "sharp tongues") as well as the goings on inside the skull (where it is for example possible to "fry your brain"). Each page of the dictionary contains four or five sayings accompanied by sketches by Jiří Votruba, which transform the illustration of the meaning into a nonsensically comical abbreviation.

Anna Novotná (1959), graduated in Czech studies and psychology from FF UK and currently works as a publishing editor and a translator. She captured the attention of young readers with her creative educational trilogy

from artistic backgrounds: *Opera nás baví* /We Enjoy Opera/ (2005, with Jiřina Marková), *Divadlo nás baví* /We Enjoy Theatre/ (2008) and *Balet nás baví* /We Enjoy Ballet/ (2010). She is also the co-creator of the Czech language textbook for foreigners *Czech for You*. Her first playful dictionary of Czech idioms entitled *Kdo jinému jámu kopá...* /Don't Wish onto Others.../ was published in 2013.

Jiří Votruba (1946) graduated from the Department of Architecture at ČVUT and exhibits his work as a painter, illustrator and a graphic artist both individually and as part of group projects. He created posters for various festivals (EXPO in Aichi 2005). His tendencies toward pop-art are clear from the creative educational encyclopedias *Opera nás baví* /We Enjoy Opera/, *Divadlo nás baví* /We Enjoy Theatre/ and *Balet nás baví* /We Enjoy Ballet/ (Golden Ribbon 2010) and from the books of poetry for children and young people – among others he also illustrated the anthologies *Malý pražský chodec* /The Little Prague Pedestrian/ (2013) and *Malý český poutník* /The Little Czech Wanderer/ (2014) by Ondřej Hník. Quite striking are his illustrations with which he accompanied Zdeněk Svěrák's children's stories (*Pan Buřtik a pan Špejlička* /Mr. Sausage and Mr. Toothpick/, 2010) or those included in the first reader books by Kateřina Závadová (*Písmenka a pan Antonín* /The Letters and Mr. Anthony/ 2013).



LENKA PECHAROVÁ

PO STOPÁCH KARLA IV. / IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF CHARLES IV

Illustrated by Michaela Bergmannová
Prague, Portál 2016, 144 pages
ISBN 978-80-262-1022-1
Age: **9+**

Non-fiction titles introducing Charles IV to children in a novel way were not as plentiful during this anniversary year as those simply looking to show off. The appearance and the reception received by Lenka Pecharová's guide, supplemented by inviting illustrations, is based on its sophisticated didactic apparatus. With the author's help, the readers, teachers and parents learn not only about the monarch's political achievements but also about the atmosphere of the Middle Ages and the new building projects of the peak of the gothic era, about the tedium of travel, about festivities and celebrations or the monetary system of the time. All these topics are accompanied by excerpts from chronicles and other materials and further developed in the form of activities and riddles. Thanks to the cooperation with the Prague City Museum, which invites children from third and fourth classes to take part in interactive workshops focusing on the era of this most loved of Czech rulers, this book gains a new interactive dimension.

Lenka Pecharová (1973) teaches history and maths at Veselá škola, denominational primary school in Prague 1. She published the following titles in Portál: *Od blechy po slona – Zábavná matematika pro 1. stupeň ZŠ* /From a Flea to An Elephant – Fun Maths for Primary Schools/ (2012) and *Počítáme s vitaminy – Zábavná matematika pro 1. stupeň ZŠ*

/Counting with Vitamins – Fun Maths For Primary Schools/ (2015).

Michaela Bergmannová (1972) graduated from the department of animation and multimedia at FAMU and her creative efforts are directed at children. She illustrated the didactic titles *Výři nesýčkují* /Oh No, an Owl!/, *Logopedické pohádky* /Logopedic Stories/, *V ZOO není žádná nuda* /Great Fun at the ZOO/, published by Portál, as well as a book of children's stories *Nanukova dobrodružství* /Nanook's Adventures/ (2013) written by Alžběta Dvořáková and *O modrém světle* /The Blue Light/ (2014) by Daniela Krolupperová. She also works with the magazine *Sluníčko* and the Czech Television where she directed a TV series for the youngest viewers *Moje zahrádka* /My Garden/.



VLASTIMIL PEŠKA

NOVÉ POVÍDÁNÍ O PEJSKOVÍ A KOČIČCE /NEW STORIES ABOUT DOGGIE AND PUSSYCAT

Illustrated by Jaroslav Milfajt
Prague, Paseka 2016, 112 pages
ISBN 978-80-7432-718-6
Age: **5+**

When in 1929 Aventinum first published Josef Čapek's collection of original children's stories *Povídání o pejskovi a kočičce* /All About Doggie and Pussycat/, nobody anticipated that it was destined to become one of the most popular books for the youngest children. In it, personified domestic animals encounter experiences which young listeners are perfectly capable of grasping. The narrative style used by the author in some episodes where he engages readers in a dialogue was also quite innovative at the time. The same narrative strategy was employed by Vlastimil Peška and Jaroslav Milfajt in *Nové povídky o pejskovi a kočičce* /New Stories About Doggie and Pussycat/, successfully adapted for theatre Radost in Brno. The authors kept the original children's characters in their narrative, added a mischievous rabbit, adhered to Čapek's style of language and sentence construction and skilfully developed their themes. The dog and the cat celebrate Christmas, go to the cinema, paint their house and create a modern household to the amusement of the new generations of little readers.

Vlastimil Peška (1954) is a music composer, director, scriptwriter and actor who joined Studio Ypsilon as an actor after completing JAMU in Brno. He works as a director in Czech theatres since 1984. Between 1990 and 1993 he was employed as a dramaturg for the orchestra of traditional instruments BROLN in

Czech Radio Brno, where he also became the director of the theatre Radost in 1994. He published the musical fairy-tale *Dlouhý, široký a bystrozraký* /Long, Broad and Sharp-sight/ (1997) and a book in which he captured the history of Ořechovské theatre. He is a double Thalia Award laureate.

Jaroslav Milfajt (1958), scenography graduate from Prague DAMU, dedicated his career to puppet theatre, children's theatre and pedagogy. He created over 300 stage and puppet designs for domestic as well as foreign customers. He works with directors Stanislav Moša, Petr Kracik, Petr Svojtka, Jan Borna and others – especially noteworthy are his creations in productions of *Jméno růže* /The Name of The Rose/, *Chicago* or *Pokrevní bratři* /The Blood Brothers/ staged in Brno City Theatre or the opera *Nabucco* in Opava. Milfajt is also well known for his interior and exhibition designs.



MARKÉTA PILÁTOVÁ

KIKO A TULIPÁN/ KIKO AND THE TULIP

Illustrated by Daniel Michalík
Prague, Meander 2016, 72 pages
ISBN 978-80-87596-89-0
Age: **8+**

In this sequel to her fairy-tale story about a Japanese girl called Kiko, Markéta Pilátová brings her heroine to the castle in Velké Losiny near Šumperk, which Pilátová became familiar with as a child. While her dad, „a book doctor” and restorer, fully immerses himself in the next mysterious book, the lonely little girl who left her friends behind in Kroměříž finds refuge in the castle garden, where she plays and fantasises. During her evening walks around the garden she befriends dwarfs which come to life and her curiosity leads her to the noble Archivist. Origami, the art of paper folding – especially its masterpiece creation, *kudasama* flower ball, which Kiko is an expert in – comes to play an important part in the encounter with the Lord of Inanimate Things, who spreads evil around and who, in the distant past, swallowed up the wisdom and healing power of herbs complete with the herb-women.

Markéta Pilátová (1973) studied Romance studies and history at UP Olomouc and currently works as a publicist, Spanish translator and as a Czech teacher for descendants of Czech emigrants in Brazil and in Argentina. Her debut novel *Žluté oči vedou domů* /The Yellow Eyes Will Lead You Home/ (2007) was nominated for Magnesia Litera, as was her prose *Má nejmilejší kniha* /My Most Beloved Book/ (2009). In children’s literature she made her mark with the fairy tale *Kiko a tajemství papírového motýla* /Kiko and the Secret of

a Paper Butterfly/ (Magnesia Litera nomination in 2010). Her books *Víla Vivivíla a stíny zvířat* /Vila Vivivíla and the Animal Shadows/ (2009), *Víla Vivivíla a piráti jižního moře* /Vila Vivivíla and the Pirates of the South/ (2010) and *Jura a lama* /Jura and Lama/ (2012) are aimed at the youngest readers. Together with Marek Ždánský, a zoo keeper in the Prague Zoo, Pilátová wrote the story of a female gorilla Moja (*Gorilí táta* /The Gorilla’s Dad/, 2013).

Daniel Michalík (1974) graduated from the technical college in Železný Brod and the film and television graphics studio at VŠUP under the direction of Jiří Barta. He first became involved in glassmaking and exhibited his creations also in Japan. At present he devotes his time to graphical design, free-form art and digital illustrations. He became known also for his accompaniment to Markéta Pilátová’s book *Kiko a tajemství papírového motýla* /Kiko and the Secret of a Paper Butterfly/ (2010) and to Radek Malý’s humorous guide *Poetický slovníček dětem v příkladech* /The Poetic Guide for Children/ (2012).



JAN PRCHAL

STO A JEDNA POVĚST Z POLNÉ A OKOLÍ/A HUNDRED AND ONE LEGENDS FROM POLNÁ

Illustrated by Marcela Makovská
Prague, Novela bohemia 2016, 172 pages
ISBN 978-80-87683-59-0

DRUHÁ STOVKA POVĚSTÍ Z POLNÉ A OKOLÍ/ANOTHER HUNDRED LEGENDS FROM POLNÁ

Illustrated by Marcela Makovská
Prague, Novela bohemia 2016, 184 pages
ISBN 978-80-87683-60-6
Age: **10+**

For the collection of legends and folk stories from the area around Polná, where Bohemia and Moravia meet and where the brighter moments in history gave rise to the magnificent Our Lady church, the fortified nobility dwelling, the Jewish quarters and the well-known ‘mrkvance’ fair, the local historian used as inspiration among others the folklore inheritance of the expatriated German-speaking area near Jihlava. The rippled Vysočina countryside is well suited to supernatural beings, while farming the story land gave rise to many stubborn individuals, whose hot heads are a good match for any Leshy. Two large size volumes take delight in centuries-old customs and the beauty of disappearing crafts, including that of lettering. Jan Prchal’s rendition of the tales, superstitions and memories that for centuries have been passed on by ‘word of mouth’ is so captivating that he manages to preserve not only their original entertainment value but also their geographical purpose, which records the memory of the land – with the added hint of warning that it is not advisable to venture there, where rascality may anger the dark forces.

Jan Prchal’s (1950) original occupation was a mechanic of textile machinery. He also worked as a musician, publicist, publisher, bookseller and a self-taught artist. In his role as a folklorist, he focuses on collecting folk rhetoric from the Polná microregion and on its

promotion. He pays tribute to his home e.g. in the monographies *Polná* (2010 and 2014), *Polná v 19. století* /Polná in the 19th Century/ (2005), *Polná ve 20. století* /Polná in the 20th Century/ (2006), *Brzkov* (2012), *Polná na pohlednicích* /Polná on Postcards/ (2013, DVD) and *Naše krásné zvony hoří posud* /Our Beautiful Bells Keep Burning On/ (2013, co-authorship). Since 1996 Prchal edits and publishes the quarterly historical magazine *Polensko*. His latest venture is an introductory volume of *Pověsti z Vysočiny* /The Highland Stories/ (2016).

Marcela Makovská (1958) is a glass painter who creates book illustrations in her spare time. Between 1997 and 2000 Makovská produced a set of book covers for the re-issues of prose by the Polná native and a representative of country realism Vlasta Pittnerová (1858–1926). Her pen-and-ink drawings also accompany the literary collection by Milada Kislingerová *Polenské pověsti a povídky* /Legends and Stories from Polná/ (2000).



**MILADA REZKOVÁ –
LUKÁŠ URBÁNEK**

DOKTOR RACEK – CESTA KOLEM SVĚTA ZA 31 PÍSMEN / DR. GULL: JOURNEY AROUND THE WORLD IN 31 LETTERS

Illustrated by Lukáš Urbánek
Prague, Labyrint / Raketa 2016, 172
unnumbered pages
ISBN 978-80-86803-40-1
Age: **5+**

Doctor Gull is no brat. First he collected the annual Golden Ribbon on his motorbike, then he picked up another on the slopes of dadaist poetry, and now he is instructing us from his rocket ship to find the letters of the alphabet spread over all the continents. He does it "from A to Z/then scoot right back." The journey around the globe brings us not only to Queensland and Yukon but also to Xunderwitcham (who would have thought!), WC (everyone has to go there at some point) and Tibet because the hero values freedom. In the spirit of Šrut's playful nonsense style, the poetess Milada Rezková brings Dr. Gull to places where the dried up sayings produce something fittingly witty, while Lukáš Urbánek fills the lined paper of school copies with collages that could have come from the scissors of the youngest readers themselves. This literary palaver in the rhythm of punk is supplemented by recipes, comic strips, riddles and an A–Z dictionary of interjections.

Milada Rezková (1979) worked as a producer in Gallery Rudolfinum and qualified in the field of linguistics and literary culture at PedF University Hradec Králové. In co-operation with artist Lukáš Urbánek she created the picture books *Doktor Racek jede na prázdniny /Dr.Gull on Holiday/* (2008) and *Doktor Racek na horách /Dr. Gull in the Mountains/* (2009). Together they also contribute to the magazine *Raketa*. In the book entitled *Babočky*

/Vanessas/ (2010) they gently steer attention to the irreplaceable bond that exists between seniors and the youngest generation. Their adventure collage *Hurá na kajak! /Kayak Hooray!/* (2013, Golden Ribbon for artistic achievement of the year) playfully celebrates a major figure of Czech photography, Ladislav Sitenský.

Lukáš Urbánek (1973) graduated in film and TV graphic art from VŠUP. He focuses on film animation, regularly collaborates on comic-book workshops and the "baby-punk" project *Kašpárek v rohlíku*. Besides long-term collaboration with the poetess Milada Rezková for which he received three Golden Ribbons, his illustrations also appeared in the collection of Japanese kaidans *Štrašidelný chrám v horách /The Haunted Mountain Temple/* (2009) or the humorous prose by Rudolf Král *Emma a pusinkový lupič /Emma and the Thief of Kisses/* (2015). His comic book *Adamův deník /Adam's Diary/* became the Most Beautiful Czech Book of 2007.



**TAŤÁNA RUBÁŠOVÁ –
JINDŘICH JANIČEK**

WILLIAM & MERIWETHER – PODIVUHODNÁ ROBOTÍ EXPEDICE / WILLIAM & MERI- WETHER: AN EXTRAORDINA- RY ROBOT EXPEDITION

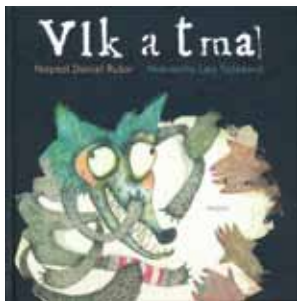
Illustrated by Jindřich Janiček
Prague, Labyrint and Take Take Take 2016, 96 pages
ISBN 978-80-87260-83-8 (Labyrint)
ISBN 978-80-906111-3-9 (Take Take Take)
Age: **12+**

This epic comic-book diary of the mission of two highly intelligent machines to the post-apocalyptic Earth deals with the same subject matter we know from Pierre Boulle or Cormac McCarthy's dystopias. The robots' first names William and Meriwether – as well as their chic hats – bear a resemblance to the prospectors of the American Wild West, William Clark and Meriwether Lewis, as they search for a new living space for our flourishing kind. What the two metal explorers discover in the wilderness, however, are only "un-corroded" curiosities from the human era: a hockey puck, silkworm, headphones... Regardless of where they are – by the river, in mine shafts or in a state-of-the-art temple of civilisation – the two of them constantly nudge each other, which gives them a distinctly human quality, although in their search they continuously come across mountains of material, which their highly efficient software struggles to analyse. This is a comedy full of misunderstanding and malice, edging towards tragedy: if planet Earth were no longer suitable for the old and there were no sensible youths to be found on it in the near future, all that remains is unfounded robot optimism.

Taťána Rubášová (1988) studies screenwriting and script editing at FAMU. She works as an editor in Czech Television and writes texts for the sci-fi comic *Přicházíme v míru ve jménu lidstva /We Come in Peace on Behalf of the*

Human Race/ (2015, with J. Janiček). Her short film *Na knížeci /At Knížeci/* (2014) won in My Street Films project, which runs in cooperation with the London documentary film festival; her remake of *Americká krása /American Beauty/* (2014) won the first prize in the Done in 60 Seconds competition.

Jindřich Janiček (1990) graduated in the field of animation at Tomáš Baťa University in Zlín and currently studies at the illustration studio at VŠUP. He works as a book and magazine illustrator as well as creating screen printed posters and designs. His illustrations can also be found in the collection of diary entries by his grandfather-legendaire entitled *K večeru spustil se déšť /The Rain Came Before the Evening/* (2016) or in a holiday travelogue *Annie a berlepsové /Annie and The Supdogs/* (2014) by Vendula Borůvková. Together with graphic artist Nikola Klímová they run an art studio and a publishing house Take Take Take.



DANIEL RUŠAR

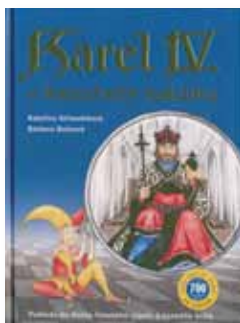
VLK A TMA / THE WOLF AND THE DARK

Illustrated by Lea Točeková
Prague, Paseka 2016, 32 pages
ISBN 978-80-7432-719-3
Age: **4+**

There is indeed “safety in numbers” when it comes to wolves and the dark. That is perhaps why there will always be books about fear of the dark written for pre-schoolers, although this one is slightly different. It is not every day that the story of a faint-hearted young wolf is told by an old grey-haired wolf and the listeners are two wolf pups. They will not set a foot in the forest but they are all ears when it comes to the stories of the “scaredy-cat’s” ventures into dark corners, his first hunt and other encounters along the way. Illustrator Lea Točeková expressively alternates day and night scenes in their basic colours and makes a clever use of detail to create the appropriate atmosphere: the wolf pups holding binoculars, using a magnifying glass to look at insects, or an owl sitting on their noses while they sleep.

Daniel Rušar (1975) graduated in English from Pardubice University. He works as a personal development tutor in Bratislava. *Vlk a Tma /The Wolf and The Dark/* is his first children’s book. He also published a book of short stories entitled *Frisbee* (2006). His novella *Jaro kříplů /Spring of the Crippled/* (2011), dealing with the willpower of physically handicapped teenagers, received the annual Most Beautiful Book for children and young people award. In Rušar’s latest book *Kamzíkův velký skok /Lizard’s Big Leap/* (2016, illustrated by Luboslav Paľo) the main character has to come to terms with the death of a loved one.

Lea Točeková (1979) graduated in the field of graphic design from VŠVU Bratislava and in book design in Trier, Germany. Her work was exhibited in Wittenburg; she lives in Berlin. She devotes her time to painting, screen-printing and illustrations, in which she uses unorthodox techniques. Her illustrations can be found in children’s book by Slovak author Braňo Jobus *Plajko* (2015).



KATEŘINA SCHWABIKOVÁ

KAREL IV. V KOUZELNÉM KUKÁTKU / CHARLES IV THROUGH THE MAGIC SPYGLASS

Illustrated by Barbora Botková
Prague, Slovart 2016, 48 pages
ISBN 978-80-7529-182-0
Age: **10+**

Jester Wenceslas’s spyglass is yet another magic contraption, which the advocate of the school of historical education, Annales, brings to children so they can zoom in on the everyday life – in this case that of the top representative of the Czech royal elite in the Middle Ages. The double spreads of this art-educational profile of the life of the Roman emperor and King of Bohemia, Charles IV, use the spyglass “magnification” to bring us back seven hundred years and show us what it meant to be an unwanted son of an unloving father, who goes on to become a knight, an adventurer and a devout Christian, who buried several of his wives and offspring. This picture is therefore far from rosy: as ruler-cultivator Charles comes to life also as marriage diplomat, who embraces an ancient version of public relations. Kateřina Schwabiková’s creative approach to “learning through play”, which offers children who are interested in history bold modern techniques unburdened by obsolete didactic approaches, has matured into wine more exquisite than that brought to the king by his trusty companions.

Kateřina Schwabiková (1978) graduated in history–elementary humanities at PedF UK. She works at the Charles University Institute of History and Archives and the focus of her historical research lies in the period of the Hussite revolution and some aspects of early modern education. She also translates popular-science

literature from German using her maiden name Anděrová. She made her contribution to literature for young people in the field of art-based education with two volumes of the *Cesta dětí do staletí /Kids in the Past/* series with the subheadings *Jak Běla a Kuba poznávali naši historii /How Bianca and Jamie Learned about Our History/* (2013) and *Jak Běla a Kuba putovali za našimi panovníky /How Bianca and Jamie Learned about Our Monarchs/* (2015).

Barbora Botková (1983) studied French and art education at the Palacký University in Olomouc. Besides her responsibilities as secondary-school teacher she also makes free-form art, graphic designs and illustrations for books and comic books. Her other collaborations besides Kateřina Schwabiková include the homeland study book series by Petra Braunová; her pictures also appeared in the poet Jiří Žáček’s comic book *Šípková Růženka /The Sleeping Beauty/* (2011).



KLÁRA SMOLÍKOVÁ

KRÁLÍK MÁLEM KRÁLEM / HOW CHARLIE ALMOST BECAME A KING

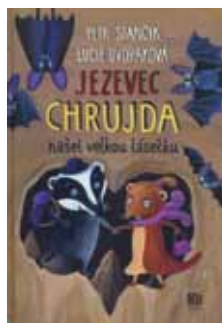
Illustrated by Kateřina Čupová
Prague, Fragment 2016, 48 pages
ISBN 978-80-253-2886-6
Age: **6+**

This inventive and prolific author succeeded in her attempt to differentiate her treatment on this year's Carolingian anniversary from numerous other publications, and she delivers the legacy of Charles IV to the youngest readers in a very effective form. The anxious rabbit Charlie, a pupil in a school full of rabbits, deals with teasing from others by cutting out a paper crown, which he places on his head and stands in front of a mirror or a shop window, so that he can enjoy brief moments of confidence he seems to otherwise lack. His reflection instantly connects him with the "Father of the Homeland" who speaks to Charlie about the 14th century values still current in the present day (which knows feudalism only from the stage of school theatres – and unfortunately also from disdain and bullying). But where does the true nobility of the powerful lie? The most important thing for the king's majesty is to wear his royal virtues in his heart, which can then no longer drop down into his pants. Only then can he become the hero of his own story.

Klára Smolíková (1974) studied aesthetics and cultural studies at FF UK and her first job was at the Hussite Museum in Tábor. A primary-education methodologist and collaborator of children's magazines, her comic-book librettos often focus on advocation history (*Horác a Pedro v zemi Bójů* /Horace and Pedro in the Land of the Boii/, 2006). She frequently collab-

orates with her first husband, illustrator Honza Smolík. Their books on medieval history include *Husité* /The Hussites/ (2012), *Řemesla* /Crafts/ (2013), *Jak se staví město* /How to Build a City/ (2014) and *Husův dům* /The House of John Hus/ (2015). Their comic book album *Viktorka a vesmírná dobrodružství* /Victoria and Her Adventures in Space/ was awarded the 2015 Golden Ribbon. She is also the author of the novel *H.U.S. – Hus úplně světověj* /H.U.S. – Hus Unambiguously Superlative/ (2015) and the editor-in-chief of the comic book quarterly publication *Bublífků*. In addition, Smolíková also created the screenplay for the bedtime story series *Vynálezce Alva* /Alva the Inventor/ (2012).

Kateřina Čupová (1992) is a student of animation at Tomáš Baťa's University in Zlín and her main areas of interest are comics and illustration. She works with the reviews *Bublífků a Aargh!* and her work was also published by the magazine *Vějíř*. The overall impression of the book *Králík málem králem* /How Charlie Almost Became a King/ greatly benefits from her dynamic colour pencil drawings.



**PETR STANČÍK –
LUCIE DVOŘÁKOVÁ**

JEZEVEC CHRÚJDA NAŠEL VELKOU LÁSEČKU / CHRÚJDA THE BADGER FOUND HIS GREAT LOVE

Illustrated by Lucie Dvořáková
Prague, Meander 2016, 24 unnumbered pages
ISBN 978-80-87596-91-3
Age: **5+**

The creative growth of the former head of Czech pataphysicists, which can be – apart from the calming effects of middle age – attributed also to fatherly emotions, can be detected from his artistic expression. However, the latest books by Petr Stančík are still rich in brilliant language-based comedy, which is not easy to find among his fellow writers. For the third time we encounter the main protagonist, the distinctive badger warrior from the Habříneček forest: a silent and yet industrious Chrujda, who does not hesitate to leave his barrow in order to defend the common good or his own sacred rights to animal happiness. When he takes on his rival, the elegant fitch Stinklord, who is equally as determined to win the heart of weasel Annie, a lot is revealed during a trip to a cave, where in the darkness, which surrounds the cheerless river Splashy, lurk packs of bloodthirsty suckers. Luckily, the badger knows how to chase away his fear as well as his love rival, so he will be leaving his stink behind no longer.

Petr Stančík (1968), poet, prose writer and essayist of surrealist conviction. Until 2006 he inhabited the literary world under the pseudonym Odillo Stradický of Strdice. He studied at PedF UK and DAMU and worked as a teacher, TV director, lyricist, and consultant. He also compiled anthology of Czech poetry entitled *Ryby katedrál* /Cathedral Fish/ (2001). His novel *Pérák* /The Spring Man/ (2008) is a hyperbo-

le commentary on the fate of a mythical Prague superman from the protectorate era. His humorous detective story *Mlýn na mumie* /Mummy Mill/ (2014), set in Prague during the Austro-Prussian War, received the 2015 Magnesia Litera for best prose. To the youngest readers Stančík dedicated previous collection of stories from the Habříneček forest (*Jezevec Chrujda točí film* /Chrujda the Badger Shoots a Film/, 2014; *Jezevec Chrujda staví nejdrív urychlovač a pak zase pomalič* /Chrujda the Badger Builds an Accelerator First and a Decelerator Second/ 2015) and an interactive vegetable thriller *Mrkev ho vcucla pod zem* /A Carrot Sucked Him Under Ground/ (2013).

Lucie Dvořáková (1959) – for more information see page 9.



PETR HUGO ŠLIK

TAJEMSTVÍ JESKYNĚ POKLADŮ / THE SECRET OF THE TREASURE CAVE

Illustrated by Petr Morkes
Prague, Albatros 2015, 152 pages
ISBN 978-80-00-04074-5
Age: **10+**

Elementary, dear Sherlocks! A message tapped out on the pages of a Jules Verne library book turns into an invitation to a wonderful adventure for children, so reluctant to give up their mobile phones and tablets. Two boys Vojta and Jindra, whose characters and interests perfectly complement each other, embark on a journey which involves solving several-decades-old mystery, and with the help of a cunning cousin they are keen to succeed. Clues lead them to the sewer, they cross path with a fishwife, they have to escape their stalker and the history of their home town, where it may be necessary to find out to what extent the cruel events of 1953 influenced the lives of their counterparts at the time. Šlik's chase after gold that that does not always shine would benefit from a little less linguistic rigidity. Although it is only fair to acknowledge that the author accelerates tension with the skills of a rally driver and pounds self-involved, apathetic adults who are all, bar two or three exceptions, in a dire need of a psychologist.

Petr Hugo Šlik (1976) studied geodesy at ČVUT and worked as a land-surveyor. He is also known as a musician and artist. He captured the attention of adult readers with his crime dramas from the period of the newly found Czechoslovak Republic, *Stín černého motýla* /The Black Butterfly's Shadow/ (2008) and *Strach pod Karpaty* /Fear in the Carpathians/ (2011). In his prose *Den, kdy se*

potkali /The Day They Met/ (2014) and *Tržiště* /The Market Square/ Šlik tests the subtlety of contemporary fiction. His passion for the Vršovice football club led him to writing a reportage about their famous Australian tourney *14 míčů pro Bohemians* /14 Balls for the Bohemians/ (2011). This is his first attempt to reach out to young readers.

Petr Morkes (1973) graduated from the architecture department at ČVUT and from animation at FAMU and is one of the most sought-after artists. In cooperation with Pavla and Tomáš Etrych he published three crime series with the main protagonist dachshund inspector Vrtapka (2007), which were originally published in children's magazines. He also created his own series for the monthly magazine *Sunny speaks English*. Decidedly parodic pictures by this SUK award laureate accompany, among others, also stories by Jiří Kahoun *O létajících strojích* /Flying Machines/ (2013) or Ilona Fišerová's adventure prose *Na orlích křídlech* /On Eagles' Wings/ (2014), and they can also be found in textbooks and popular science books (*Kniha čísel* /The Number Book/, *Kapitánem svého počítače* /Be The Captain of Your Own Computer/).



**JANA ŠRÁMKOVÁ –
FILIP POŠIVAČ**

KUBA TUBA TATUBAHN

Illustrated by Filip Pošivač
Prague, Běžíliška 2015, 48 pages
ISBN 978-80-906112-4-5
Age: **6+**

Little Jakub's musical talent is so self-evident that some suspect he came into the world already holding his tuba, although he would like to be able to do other things apart from spending all his time at the music school, blowing like a brass troubadour. To make matters worse, some of his classmates see him for his thunderous instrument as a 'clunkhead' who wants to be different from others. When he hides from them in the Prague underground, Jana Šrámková's terse text which accompanies this Golden Ribbon winner for illustrations, provides him with numerous magical adventures. Kuba's time spent in the Undermetro world, deep under the platforms, where pushy Mr. Tatubahn rules, will delight young fans of the Prague public transport colossus, as Dada of the same magnitude as Kuba's talent unfolds. All that is left for Jakub to do is find his way back to the instrument, which is such an important part of the boy himself, that without it he can never be whole again.

Jana Šrámková (1982) studied at the Evangelical Theology Seminar and graduated from the Literary Academy in creative writing and editing. She writes for the magazines *Respekt*, *A2* and for the Czech Radio. Her prosaic debut *Hruškadóttir* /Peardóttir/ (2008, Jiří Orten Award in 2009) enjoyed considerable acclaim. In 2010 she published the children's book *Putování žabáka Filemona* /Travels of

Philemon the Frog/. She also created the little books of fairy tales *O panáčkoví* /The Little Man/, *Kolala petřinská* /The Petřín Hill Kolala/ (both 2014) and *Lední medvědi odcházejí za štěstím* /The Polar Bears' Search for Happiness/ (2016) for the *Mikroliška* series. A poetic encounter of the youngest and the oldest generation is the topic of her book entitled *Zuza v zahradách* /Susie in the Gardens/ (2015).

Filip Pošivač (1986) graduated from the studio of film and television graphic art at VŠUP. He is involved in book and magazine illustration (periodical *HraNa*) and in animated films (*Až po uši v mechu* /Deep in Moss/, *O Josefce a Bertikovi* /Josefa and Bertie/, *Nový druh* /The New Kind/ and more). His love of nature shines through not only in his artistic conception of the collection of Taiwanese myths *Pomsta hadů* /Revenge of the Snakes/ (2010), but also in his illustrations with which he accompanied the anthology by Petr Borkovec *Všechno je to na zahradě* /It's All In The Garden/, (2013) and in the selection of rhymes and poems by Josef Václav Sládek *Od žezulky k Mikuláši* /From Cuckoo to St. Nicholas/ (2016).



PETRA ŠTARKOVÁ

JAK TO CHODÍ V LIDSKÉ HLAVĚ / HOW THE BRAIN WORKS

Illustrated by Libor Drobny
Prague, Portál 2016, 96 pages
ISBN 978-80-7432-719-3
Age: **8+**

From a pre-school age we all ask inquisitive questions about situations that arise from the differences in our personalities, when we are forced to react to unexpected events. Petra Štarková created thirty one chapters in which she invites school children and their parents to contemplate the basis of the workings of human psyche which is, given its sociobiological essence, enormously complex. They are playfully introduced: each new entry begins with a story of three friends, accompanied by "the brain" Philip, which helps us to perceive the mechanism of emotions and various types of memory but also to understand how fear is born, or how attention deficit disorders or serious illnesses of the nervous system manifest themselves. This expertly executed art-educational title also contains a number of tests and suggestions, which are colour coded in the same way as the introductory texts, thus supporting the interaction of children with the grown-ups.

Petra Štarková (1975) is a psychology graduate from UP Olomouc. She publishes scientific and popular-science texts in periodicals *Psychologie Dnes*, *Sociální služby* and on the website *Psychology Today*. She also worked in the Centre for the handicapped Kociánka in Brno and as a volunteer at phone and internet helplines for children and young people. At present she runs her own psychological practice. Her debut in the field of fiction was enti-

tled *Piráť jménem Šampaňský* /Pirate Named Champagne/.

Libor Drobny (1984) studied at the Film School in Zlín (creative workmanship in animated film) and at the Tomáš Baťa Univerzity also in Zlín (classic animation). He focuses on illustrations for children's books and textbooks, animation, comic books, spatial designs and digital photography. He contributes to the magazine *Mateřídouška* with his comic strip *Suri & Kata*, which also continues to be published in a book form (*Suri & Kata, agenti s.r.o.* /Suri & Kata, agents Ltd./ 2013; *Suri & Kata – Sebrané spisy I* /Suri & Kata – Collected Works I/, 2016).



PETRA ŠTARKOVÁ

PIRÁT JMÉNEM ŠAMPAŇSKÝ / PIRATE NAMED CHAMPAGNE

Illustrated by Petr Modlitba
Prague, Triton 2015, 124 pages
ISBN 978-80-7387-862-7
Age: **8+**

Cragged trees in the garden tend to harbour many secrets. Petra Štarková's adventure book uses this observation to offer its readers relatively original stories of three friends – Jiřík being the most imaginative of the boys. His dreams, in which he spends time with his friends at sea and on land, come true and they find themselves in the company of Alfonse Nostradamus Champagne and his English-speaking parrot. Who could resist searching the island for treasures, especially since times are not as savage as they were in R.L. Stevenson's era. The white snowflakes of the descending winter may temporarily chase away the buccaneer and his shallop but if the supplies of imagination get replenished, the snow thaw will see his return. From the start, the author makes no secrets of the fact that this book was born out of cooperation with her son – a storytelling strategy which usually fails to captivate wider audience. However, Štarková has succeeded in creating a thrilling novel for boys.

Petra Štarková (1975) – for more information see top of the page.

Petr Modlitba (1968) is a self-taught painter who specialises in the area of paleontological illustration. He participated in the reconstructions of prehistorical life in the Moravian Museum in Brno and his work is represented in the Anthropos Pavilion, e.g. his mural at the

entrance to the exposition, which is a replica of aboriginal Australian rock art. He exhibits at home and abroad. Inspired by the work of Josef Augusta and Zdeněk Burian, he illustrates popular-science books for young people and adults (*Mluvící prahrnec a jiné papříběhy* /Talking Pre-Historic Pot and Other Stories/, *Historie, kterou nikdo nezapsal* /Unrecorded History/ and others).



TOY BOX

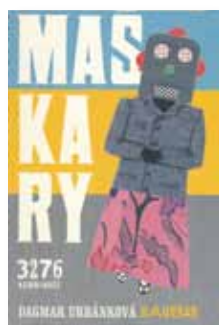
MOJE KNIHA WINNETOU / MY BOOK WINNETOU

Illustrated by the author
Prague, Labyrinth 2015, 208 unnumbered pages
ISBN 978-80-87260-64-7
Age: **14+**

The current masterpiece by the artist Toy Box will touch the heart of every reader. It leaves us wondering: does this graphic novel talk about our loved ones who are just as real as are fictional characters, which we are unable to let go off even after their death? This autobiographical comic book brings us stories about the author's friends – the squatter Semtexdesign who lived mainly in the Dutch commune ABM and died of cancer, and Martin who continues to keep Karl May's brave Apache Winnetou alive in his romantic dreams, despite all the doggery Winnetou is subjected to by the white man. This book brings us not only an expressively illustrated view of the life of anarchist communes abroad but also describes the battle for squat Milada in the Prague quarter Holešovičky. And suddenly we are released from the ever-present stealthy sadness because as long as we pay attention to them, our heroes will continue to live in our hearts – thanks to the cleansing childlike vision which we all, one way or another, nurture in our souls.

Toy Box, thoroughly hidden behind her pseudonym, studied scenography at DAMU and also graduated in media communication studies at Josef Škvorecký Literary Academy (with a graduate project entitled *Robot Dream*). Her work appears in magazines *A2*, *Nový Prostor*, *Respekt*, *Aargh!*, *Zkrat*, *Raketa*; she is also involved in organising workshops. She contrib-

uted to the book *Ještě jsme ve válce / Still At War/* and to the comic-book anthology *Generace Nula /Generation Zero/*. For her original comic book *Moje kniha Winnetou /My Book Winnetou/* she received the Muriel prize for the best comic book and the best drawing, as well as the 2016 Golden Ribbon in the respective categories.



DAGMAR URBÁNKOVÁ MAŠKARY / MASQUARADE

Illustrated by the author
Prague, Baobab 2016, 28 cardboard pages
divided into thirds
ISBN 978-80-7515-036-3
Age: **4+**

After the success of *Cirkus ulice /Street Circus/* Dagmar Urbánková chose the same path for her next book, which comes in the shape of an accordion fold with a cardboard cover and a ring bind, and which invites all the toys to join in a dress up. Her figural creations are enhanced by a simple, yet effective linguistic dimension. Each of the three fold-up strips contains a part of a simple sentence, which can be randomly swapped, as can be the head, body and a legs of the resulting comical figure. The cover informs us it is thus possible to achieve 3,276 combinations – and we cannot but admire how effortlessly these new combinations link up with the humorous text. This time the diversity of characters does not stem from the human mummery alone but they are joined by animals and popular literary and book characters (Fantomas, Pippi Longstocking, Marge Simpson, Harry Potter and more.) The back of the cardboard cover invites pre-schoolers to be creative: the most important message to be passed on.

Dagmar Urbánková (1972) studied scenography at Prague DAMU. She worked on artistic designs for children's theatre Minor, she writes poetry and prose, writes and performs theatre and illustrates books. She devoted several original books to the youngest readers: *Byl jeden dům /Once Upon a House/* (2004, 2016), *Adam a koleno /Adam and the Knee/* (2007), *Chlebová Lhota /Chronicles of*

Breadburg/ (2010) and an accordion fold book *Cirkus ulice /Street Circus/* (2012). Her art reflects her spontaneous playfulness, which leads her to use natural objects as well as food materials.



DAGMAR URBÁNKOVÁ

UŽ MĚKONĚ VYVÁDĚJÍ/ A PEACH OF CAKE

Illustrated by the author
Prague, Baobab 2016, 112 pages
ISBN 978-80-7515-034-9
Age: **8+**

The subheading of this little volume with mint green cover is "A fantastical collection of mistakes, misunderstandings, hitches, ambiguities, crosstalk and misconceptions from childhood." We can therefore look forward to a "corrector" similar to that created in the past by Ludvík Souček, although Dagmar Urbánková's take on the list of slips of the tongue and literally interpreted concepts is charged with self-criticism. She includes "mishearings" collected within her family, based on the political climate of the time and heaps of childhood innocence ("...that when you cut a pig open, sausages fall out..."). She also uses her illustrations as witty editorials of these displacements – for example with the picture of a coat of arms wearing a belt in place of an official logo of the Salvation Army (*Armáda [s]pásy /Army [with]belts/*). At the end of the book the reader will find a list of those who inspired it and in many cases also the correct interpretation of the situation in question. If this pleasantly quirky little book awakens in its readers the desire to compile a private list of a similar nature, it has served its purpose.

Dagmar Urbánková (1972) – for more information see previous page.



ŠÁRKA VÁCHOVÁ

TAJEMSTVÍ SRDCE/ THE SECRET OF THE HEART

Illustrated by the author
Prague, Česká televize – ČT Edice 2016,
112 pages
ISBN 978-80-7404-181-5
Age: **6+**

King Mordykhor, who often ventures beyond the realm of humanity, is terrified by the prophecy which states that only the secret of the heart can guarantee an eternal life. He employs dark magic to conquer his kind royal neighbours and causes their newborn son to be sent down the river to a foster home. We all know what comes next. The fairy-tale threads lead Jiřík to the services at the court of the disagreeable ruler, where he innocently lets in an old woman with the gift of a snake, and after hearing the newly discovered language of the birds, he overfills the king's chalice. Šárka Váchová's adaptation of the classic story of Goldilocks with added motives from Erben's other collections has a broad framework, which for the older reader brings to the foreground the environment in which the characters navigate, but also looks after the needs of the youngest readers, who are in the process of developing their love of books. From time to time it is necessary to sprinkle older material with the water of life to revive it in its most natural form, even if it means adding hundreds of extra words to the length of the original.

Šárka Váchová (1947) studied puppetry and stage design at DAMU, where she subsequently taught. For over forty years she has worked with puppet theatres, film makers and television productions. Her animated film *Paní Bída /Lady Poverty/* (1983) was awarded 1st prize at festivals in Chicago and in Zlín. She also artistically

contributed to several TV series and to the costumes in various feature films. The puppet family of the woodcarver Tomš from her twenty-part series of bedtime stories *Chaloupka na vršku /The Cottage on the Hilltop/* (2006–2013, book form in two volumes 2009 and 2013) has now been admired for several years as part of a moving exhibition. Her love of folklore resonates in her book *Vánoční koledy /Christmas Carols/* (2010) and in her illustrations to Pavel Cmíral's *Pohádky z vánočního stromku /Christmas Tree Tales/* (2004).



MARTIN VELÍŠEK

MŮJ STÁT / MY STATE

Illustrated by Milan Starý
Prague, The Book Club 2016, 108 pages
ISBN 978-80-242-5293-3
Age: **8+**

On their "travels with the Czech lion in search of the seven state symbols" the fifth graders Elli and Tom embark in the style of the best art-educational traditions on a quest to learn about the objects which represent our political sovereignty, both at home and abroad. In the introductory comic, as well as in the individual entries, the authors examine the appearance of the large and small form of our state symbol, national flag, national colours, president's standard, national anthem and seal (together with the currency, valuables and national symbols). They analyse their current state and heraldic development throughout the Middle Ages, in the newly established Czechoslovak Republic or the later federation. The book published at the initiative of the association for Days of Czech statehood includes a list of conditions under which these symbols can and cannot be used and reminds young readers that "this country" – as we often hear from the members of the parliament – is their home, their native land which deserves their respect.

Martin Velíšek (1968) was born in Greek Athens and graduated from AVU at studios of painting and conceptual tendencies. He exhibits his graphic art featuring anthropomorphised animals, which has received many awards abroad, both individually and as part of collaborative projects. He is also academically active at PedF UK where he devotes his time to

theory of art. In collaboration with Miroslav Petříček he created a collection of essays *Pohledy, které tvoří obrazy* /Image-Creating Views/ (2012). He authors many texts which accompany popular art and science programs for children linked to exhibitions in the National Museum and the National Technical Museum; his previous collaboration with Milan Starý resulted in the permanent exhibition for children *Příběh Pražského hradu* /The Story of the Prague Castle/.

Milan Starý (1970) graduated in Czech language and art at PedF UK and now produces illustrations for books, magazines and advertising. He contributes to magazines *Sluníčko* a *Mateřídouška* and organises summer art workshops. He focuses mainly on the area of illustrations that accompany art-educational and scientific titles. He illustrated, among other, his wife Ester Stará's books *Žežicha se neříká* /Wabbit? Rabbit!/ (2004, 2013) and *Žvanda a Melivo* (2008), which focus on the speech ability of youngest school children, or Daniela Krolupperová's book *Proč mluvíme česky* /Why We Speak Czech/ (2011) or the guide to the rules of etiquette *Slon v porcelánu* /Bull in a China Shop/ (2006) by Ladislav Špaček. He is a double laureate of the SUK prize.



MARTIN VOPĚNKA

NOVÁ PLANETA – PRASTARÝ PŘÍBĚH Z DALEKÉ BUDOUCNOSTI/ NEW PLANET – ANCIENT STORY FROM A DISTANT FUTURE

Without illustrations
Prague Mladá fronta 2015, 624 pages
ISBN 978-80-204-3731-0
Age: **12+**

Its subject matter places this extensive novel in the genre of "young adult" literature, somewhere between dystopia and fantasy. At first we find ourselves on a New planet, the school and family order of which we perceive through the eyes of twelve-year-old Daniel, who lacks a chance to mature on this technologically depersonalised planet. His stepbrothers send him through channels reserved for the deceased "on a trip" to the Old planet, from which he has no way of returning home and where everybody competes for survival in harsh conditions similar to those in societies of the early middle ages. Daniel makes his mark here as a constructor of unusual modern contraptions, which can be perceived as the author's tribute to the knowledge accumulated during the previous era of this planet. The story provides us with generous helpings of various visions of future developments, their successes and pitfalls. Its resolution nears an analogy with the story of Joseph and his brothers from the biblical family of the forefather Jacob, resulting in a mixture of savage scenes and children's grasp on reality.

Martin Vopěnka (1963) studied at the nuclear and technical physics department of ČVUT. Writer and traveller, in 1990 he established the publishing house Práh. His novel *Pátý rozměr* /The Fifth Dimension/ (2009) not only offers a dramatic story but also introduces an alternative philosophical view of the universe. In his

book entitled *Nebarevné vzpomínky* /Colourless Memories/ (2013) Vopěnka captures the atmosphere of the sixties influenced by an autobiographical reflection. For very young readers he created the encyclopedia *Poznávám svět* /Seeing the World/ (2002 and 2011). In 2011–2013 Vopěnka published a dystopic trilogy about a "sleeping town" (*Spící město* /Sleeping Town/, *Spící spravedlnost* /Sleeping Justice/, *Spící tajemství* /Sleeping Secret/), which was also published in Slovakia. His novel *Nová planeta* /New Planet/ was awarded a Golden Ribbon in the category of fiction for young people.



MARTIN VOPĚNKA

O DUŠI A DÍVCE – POHÁDKY Z HOR/ THE SOUL AND THE GIRL: TALES FROM THE MOUNTAINS

Illustrated by Iku Dekune
Prague, Mladá fronta 2016, 144 pages
ISBN 978-80-204-4219-2
Age: **10+**

The cover together with the pastel tones of the illustrations beckon the reader to open this collection of fairy tales, which surprise us with the author's original interpretation of ancient legends. Most of them take place in remote areas beyond the reach people – on top of snow and ice covered mountains – and include motives from cosmogony, such as the story of how the Creator in the form of a white bird predicted changes in the mountain landscape and the unmerciful treatment this prophet was subjected to by the animals. Touching are also stories told by an old raven, in which there is an absence of a loving parent or parents can no longer live together and the young leave in search of their own happiness. The well-travelled author does not shy away from tragic topics such as the case of a bear cub who succumbs to the temptation of narcotics. Iku Dekune's animal portraits and scenes, which on many occasions span across the double spread, provide a counterbalance to these aspects with its very own imagination.

Martin Vopěnka (1963) – for more information see previous page.

Iku Dekune (1969) graduated in graphic art from the Musashino Art University in Tokio and lives in Prague with her husband since 2002. Her work combines European culture with the canons of Japanese art from which stems her international acclaim. For her illustrations in

Das Meerhäschen by the brothers Grimm she received the 2003 Grand Prix at the Bratislava Biennial of Illustrations and her pictorial accompaniment to *Wild Geese* by Mikhail Bulatov (published in Czech under the title *Divoké labutě*) was lauded as Japan's Most Beautiful Book in 2005. She also created illustrations for Božena Němcová's fairy-tale *O dvanácti měsíčkách* /The Twelve Moons/ published by a leading Tokyo publisher Kaiseisha in 2008. Her rich illustrations also accompany the selection of works by K. J. Erben *Živá voda* /Water of Life/ (2011) or the dystopia for younger school children *Zajatci stříbrného slunce* /Prisoners of the Silver Sun/ (2015) by Miloš Kratochvíl.



ILSE WEBEROVÁ

DOBRODINEC BÁRUCH – ŽIDOVSKÉ POHÁDKY / DO-GOODER BARUCH: JEWISH FAIRY TALES

Selected and translated by Zlata Kufnerová,
illustrated by Lenka Jasanská
Prague, Verzone 2015, 96 pages
ISBN 978-80-87971-04-8
Age: **7+**

Another acclaimed project by Verzone publishing re-creates the multicultural atmosphere which arose from the democratic environment of the pre-Munich Czechoslovakia. Ilse Weberová's extraordinary Jewish fairy tales translated by Zlata Kufnerová call upon the spirit of traditional religious customs as well as the vibrant folk culture of this heavily tested nation. The essence of these adapted fairy tales is fundamentally universal – greed and arrogance get punished – and they stand out by the variety of their themes and humanistic appeal. One of the stories talks about a lost Jewish boy Josel, who has an ancient song to thank for reuniting him with his family. For readers who may feel lost in the culture of the author's religious background, the book concludes with a glossary.

Ilse Weberová (1903–1944) was born in Vítkovice, which later became the industrial part of Ostrava, where she lived until the Nazi occupation. While she managed to get her older son onto the Winton train to Britain, she was with her family interned in Terezín and in 1944 died together with her second son in Auschwitz. She started publishing as a young poetess; she also translated from Czech to German and vice versa and worked for the radio. She collected material for *Jüdische Kindermärchen* (Jewish Fairy Tales, 1928); *Die Geschichten um Mendel Rosenbusch* (Mendel Rosenbusch Stories, 1929) and *Das*

Trittrrollerwettrennen (The Scooter Race, 1930). Anthology of her work was published in English, Hebrew and Italian.

Lenka Jasanská (1964) graduated from Prague SUPŠ and studied culturology at FF UK. Since 1990 she works in advertising, creates illustrations for children's books and graphic designs for art catalogues or bibliophile prints. The book *Himalájské pohádky* /Himalayan Fairy Tales/ (2012) adapted by Miroslav Pošta and accompanied by Jasanská's illustrations won the Golden Ribbon for publishing achievement. She also created illustrations for Jan Vladislav's collection of fairy tales entitled *Propánakrále!* /Ohdearyme!/ (2013).



**WU ČCHENG-EN –
JAN JIRÁŇ**

**OPIČÍ KRÁL/
THE MONKEY KING**

Edited by Jan Jiráň, illustrated by Zdeněk Sklenář
Prague, Albatros 2016, 232 pages
Praha, Albatros 2016, 232 stran
ISBN 978-80-00-04326-5 (Albatros)
ISBN 978-80-87430-62-0 (Galerie Zdeněk Sklenář)
Age: **8+**

Every nation's literary collections always include several works which left a dramatic mark on its literary development. For the Middle Kingdom such intensity lies in *Journey to the West* written at the end of the sixteenth century by Wu Cheng'en – even today everybody in China is still familiar with its hero: the Monkey King or the mischievous monkey Sun. When this master of seventy two transformations "concludes his training and becomes immortal" he, together with the monk Tripitaka and pig Zhu Bajie, embarks on the journey to the Western paradise to find sacred scriptures, and on his travels he really has to use his clever monkey brain. Jan Jiráň retells his story full of animals and people, which documents the poetic and rhetoric richness of the early modern period China, based on the translation by sinologist Zdeňka Heřmanová and for the benefit of contemporary Czech readers. Further enriched by Zdeněk Sklenář's 1961 illustrations, this new adaptation is an extraordinary undertaking in the field of literature as well as typography, which also includes an epilogue by the Chinese film actor who created the main character.

Jan Jiráň (1957), a musician, actor, director and a theatre lecturer is a member of the theatre group Studio Ypsilon since 1987. Prior to that he was part of a singing duo with Martin Stropnický, at present he plays in the band Botafogo. Together with the prose writer Marian Palla they created a western-style parody Ve

znamení hada /The Sign of the Snake/ (1994) which they followed up in the same tone by *Vlak do Santa Fé* /Train to Santa Fe/ (1997). For his directing efforts in the field of spoken word he received several platinum records and the annual award from the Audiobook Publishers Association (2015). He was also involved in the making of the four part film adaptation of *Opičí král* /The Monkey King/.

Zdeněk Sklenář (1910–1986), an influential Czech painter and graphic artist, graduated in drawing and painting at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design and between the years 1968–1976 and taught at VŠUP. His main artistic influence was the work of Jan Zrzavý. In 1942 he published Erben's *Kytice* /The Bouquet/ and a year later Mächa's *Máj* /May/, both accompanied by his illustrations. In 1959 he was commended with the gold medal at the Leipzig Book Fair for his graphic approach to the book *Czechoslovak Glass* by Karel Hetteš. At the same festival he also received a silver medal for his graphic interpretation of Goethe's *Faust* with illustrations by Delacroix and for the publication of Ovid's *Proměny* /Metamorphoses/ with illustrations by Pablo Picasso. In 1961 he added his own illustrations to the book entitled *Milostné povídky staré Číny* /Love Stories from Ancient China/ and for other paintings with Chinese themes he received a gold medal at the Internazionale d'Arte biennial in Florence in 1971.



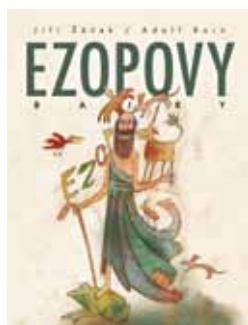
ŠTĚPÁN ZAVŘEL
**SEN V BENÁTKÁCH/
VENICE TOMORROW**

Translated by Petra Nováková,
illustrated by the author
Prague, Labyrint / Raketa 2016,
36 unnumbered pages
ISBN 978-80-86803-37-1
Age: **5+**

Environmentalists estimate that the city on stilts, hammered into the bottom of the Adriatic lagoon, will be flooded by the rising oceans sometime around the year 2060. Exiled artist Štěpán Zavřel was already ahead when in 1974 he tried to imagine through the eyes of first-grader Martin what Venice would look like if it was flooded to the church rooftops. In the boy's dream, in which he is accompanied by a little mermaid from his art class picture, everywhere is flooded with all the colours of the sea from the turquoise of Gautier's poems to the cinnabar of the corrals. Between the Basilica devoted to the boy's namesake, the Doge's Palace and the Rialto Bridge, there are swimming fish and crayfish, jellyfish and cockles, even an octopus, which means that the underwater world has finally freed itself from all the noisy tourists. This picture book, full of sombre watercolours, only uses thirty sentences to remind the reader that nature will find its own course. The author thus gently motivates the youngest readers to soon become active in the preservation of this monument of human craftsmanship – ideally with the panache of the lion guarding the Venetian symbol.

Štěpán Zavřel (1932–1999) started as a colourist in Jiří Trnka's studio Bratři v triku. He studied at FAMU and after he emigrated (1959) also at Accademia di Belle Arti in Rome. His private as well as creative life is tied to Italy – he lived in

Rugolo near Venice, and in the German-language region. In the publishing house Bohem press, which he co-founded in Zurich in 1971 together with another exile Otakar Božejovský, he published many original books, such as *Sen v Benátkách* /Venice Tomorrow/ (originally in German, 1974), miniatures *Der letzte Baum* (1977), *Der Schmetterling* (1980) or *Létající dědeček* /Grandfather Thomas/ (1991). The highest creative achievement of this Christian artist, decorated by numerous awards, are illustrations for the adaptations of Biblical stories *Mit Gott unterwegs* (1996) by Regins Schindler. His watercolours and wood-carvings also decorate books by Max Bolliger (*Die Kinderbrücke*, 1977), Eveline Hasler (*Die Blumenstadt*, 1987) and Vladimír Škutina (*Ukradený Ježíšek* /Stolen Christmas/)



JIRÍ ŽÁČEK

EZOPOVY BAJKY / AESOP'S FABLES

Illustrated by Adolf Born
Prague, Slovart 2015, 96 pages
ISBN 978-80-7391-987-0
Age: **7+**

One of the last volumes produced by the co-authors of forty years, Jiří Žáček and Adolf Born, returns to the legacy of the ancient Little Asia fabulist. Aesop's miniatures, which were at first successfully spread only by spoken word, had been translated and re-told many times. They exist in so many versions that it is rarely noted that they most likely go back as far as the early sixth century B.C. Each generation gets to know them from a very early age and the prickles of pontification are often blunted by those who adapt them and serve them along with humorous sayings (Golden Egg or Who wants more ends up with nothing). Conflicts, arguments and tricks from the world of animals, people and ancient gods lead the reader beyond a smile, to contemplation, and are accompanied by epic illustrations sensitive to comedy, which were so characteristic of Born's bipeds and quadrupeds.

Jiří Žáček (1945) graduated from the civil engineering department of ČVUT and until 1991 worked as a publishing editor. His very first poetry books for children *Aprílová škola /April Fool School/* (1978), *Ahoj, moře /Sea Ahoy/* (1980), *Kolik má Praha věží /How Many Towers Does Prague Have?/* (1984) and *Pro slepičí kvoč /That's Why!/* (1986) proved highly popular with readers. Author of the popular *Slabikář /Primer/* (with Helena Zmatlíková's illustrations) and screenplay for the *Krysáci /The Rat Pack/* TV series (2010), Žáček adapted

classical folklore from all parts of the world in volumes entitled *Hrůzostrašné pohádky pro malé strašpytlíky /Terrifying Fairy Tales for Little Scaredy-Cats/* (2011), *Čarodějné pohádky pro malé kouzelníky /Magic Fairy Tales for Little Wizards/* (2013) and *Chytré pohádky pro malé rozumbrady /Clever Fairy Tales for Little Smarty Pants/* (2014; all illustrated by A. Born).

Adolf Born (1930-2016), painter, author of graphic art and illustrator, studied at VŠUP and AVU. His illustrations appeared in four hundred titles of various genres for all age categories. In the field of creativity for children he became well known for his illustrations in TV series by Miloš Macourek *Mach a Šebestová* (1977, in book form in 1982). His co-operation with Jiří Žáček dates back to the poet's debut *Aprílová škola /April Fool School/*. His creations were exhibited at dozens independent and collective exhibitions around the world and honoured with numerous awards (Golden Ribbon, Most Beautiful Book of the Year, BIB Golden Apple, etc.)

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Jana Čeňková (1957) graduated from FF UK, Czech studies–pedagogics, and works at the journalism department of the FSV UK Institute of Communication Studies and Journalism. She specialises in history and critical reflection of literature and illustration for children and young people and has authored numerous book monographs and studies as well as librettos for exhibitions in this field. Čeňková was the editor, among other, of anthologies from the works of František Hrubín (*Křídla lásek mých /All My Loves' Wings/,* 2010), Karel Jaromír Erben (*Živá voda /Water of Life/,* 2011) and Josef Václav Sládek (*Od žežulky k Mikuláši /From the Cuckoo to St. Nicholas/,* 2016). She is the head editor of the collective monograph *Válečné dětství a mládí (1939–1945) v literatuře a publicistice /Childhood and Youth at Time of War (1939–1945) in Literature and Journalism/* (2016). She is the honorary chairwoman of the IBBY Czech Section, member of the Czech PEN and Magnesia Litera civic association, where she also acted as member of jury.

Petr Matoušek (1968) graduated from FSV UK, journalism and publishing science. In his role as literary critic and editor he focuses on English-language fiction and children's literature. Matoušek was in charge of the *Nové knihy* weekly, worked in the daily *Lidové noviny* and his essays and programmes are featured in the *Hospodářské noviny* newspaper and on the Vltava radio station. He edited the anthology *Britská čítanka – Hedvábný manšestr /The British Reader: Corduroy of Silk/* (2001, 2004, 2008) and translated books by the Monty Python Terry Jones (*Pohádky k neuvěření /Fantastic Stories/,* 2014, *Bajky z divokých vaječ /Animal Tales/,* 2016). Matoušek is active in the juries of the Franz Kafka Award and Magnesia Litera. He collaborated with leading Czech publishing houses on the publication of 270 translations from anglophone literatures for both adults and young people.

WINNERS OF ANNUAL AWARDS IN THE CATEGORY OF LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

2016 GOLDEN RIBBON – WRITERS

Children's Fiction Category

- **Miloš Kratochvíl** for the book *Zajatci stříbrného slunce /Prisoners of the Silver Sun/* (Triton) – featured in the 2014/2015 catalogue

Fiction for Young People Category

- **Martin Vopěnka** for the book *Nová planeta /New Planet/* (Mladá fronta) – see page 26

Non-fiction Literature for Children and Young People Category

- **Robin Král** for the book *Vynálezárium /House of Inventions/* (Běžiliška) – featured in the 2014/2015 catalogue

Critical Reception of Literature and Art for Children and Young People Category

- **kolektiv autorů** for the book *Jiří Šalamoun aneb Představitelné pohledy na svět /Jiří Šalamoun or Imaginable Views of the World/* (Baobab)

2016 GOLDEN RIBBON – ILLUSTRATORS

Books for Young Children Category

- **Filip Pošivač** for her illustrations in the book *Kuba Tuba Tatubahn* (Běžiliška) – see page 22

Books for Older Children and Young People Category

- **Jiří Stach** for her illustrations in the book *Plop! Zdařilé verše a prózy* (Meander) – featured in the 2014/2015 catalogue

Non-fiction Literature for Children and Young People Category

- **Jana Hrušková** for the book *Vynálezárium /House of Inventions/* (Běžiliška) – featured in the 2014/2015 catalogue

Artistic Achievement of the Year Category

- **Martin Raudenský** for her illustrations in the book *Ko-text* (Fakulta umění a designu UJEP)

2016 GOLDEN RIBBON – COMIC BOOK FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- **Toy Box** for the book *Moje kniha Vinnetou /My Book Winnetou/* (Labyrint) – see page 24

2016 GOLDEN RIBBON – LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

- **Ivan Binar**
- **Květoslav Hísek**

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Winner

- **Robin Král** for the book *Vynálezárium /House of Inventions/* (Běžiliška) – featured in the 2014/2015 catalogue

Other nominees

- **Olga Černá** for the book *Klárka a 11 babiček /Katie and 11 Grannies/* (Baobab) – featured in the 2014/2015 catalogue
- **Renáta Fučíková** for the book *Praha v srdci /Prague in the Heart/* (Práh) – see page 8

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A Selection of Czech Books for Children and Young People 2015/2016

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