

The twenty-eighth issue of *Word and Sense* focuses on the unusual fates of personages and texts, on the extraordinary and the excluded. This purpose is achieved in full measure by the **Studies and Sketches**, dedicated to an exceptional and often ostracized woman whose writing never failed to spark both respect and, conversely, resentment and rejection. The life and work of Jana Krejcarová-Černá often resurfaces as an easy means of provocation and as a popular myth. The texts of Petr Zajac, Josef Vojvodík, Gertraude Zand, Matteo Colombi, Natascha Drubek, Xavier Galmiche and Anna Militz create an unusual mosaic of techniques which attempt to overcome obliviousness on the one hand, and on the other the tendency towards scandal which accompanies Jana Krejcarová. The foreword by Gertraude Zand and Matteo Colombi provides a concise explanation of the significance that Jana Krejcarová had for Czech culture in the latter half of the 20th Century, and its overall earnestness sets the tone for balanced interpretations which do not succumb to deep-seated preconceptions. The sketches and studies relating to Jana Krejcarová are complemented by a portrait of the author Ladislav Dvořák. However, Zuzana Pokorná does not present him as a forgotten and practically unknown author, as a sort of pearl of the deep; she is concerned with a much more fundamental phenomenon — the role of eternity and reality in creative texts. The text titled *Eternity in the Short Stories of Ladislav Dvořák* questions the meaning of facts in such texts, and why it is not simply a matter of ‘mirroring’ reality. In that sense, the article again thematizes one of the key problems which accompanies the interpretations of Jana Krejcarová’s texts. In her contribution, *Charles-Ernest Rorate. A Chapter from the History of Czech Revival Mystifications*, Marie Škarpová presents the remarkable activity of Václav Michael Pešina of Čechorod, a catholic priest and poet from the group surrounding Josef Jungmann, who offered the interpretation of early modern Czech utraquist liturgical Rorate chants as Charles-Ernest Rorate, i.e. as old Czech advent folk songs of worship, which, according to Pešina, were introduced into St. Vitus Cathedral and other Czech churches by Archbishop Ernest of Pardubice with the support of Charles IV.

**Retrospective** anticipates the 110th anniversary of the birth of Egon Hostovský. In the **Translation** section, the text-lecture by Tilman Kasten aims to commemorate outlawed Czech-German connections using the example of a specific cultural transfer between two novels; Durych’s *Wandering* and Döblin’s *Wallenstein*. At the same



time, this translation introduces the persona of the German bohemist who in this year became the first recipient of the Otokar Fischer Prize for German bohemists, an award whose aim it is to promote the renewal of ‘amputated’ cultural connections on the professional exchange level.

In the section **Critical Views**, Ines Koeltzsch’s review of *Crossroads*, an anthology of the journalistic texts of Milena Jesenská, which was prepared for Torst Publishing House by Marie Jirášková, provides a close link to the texts relating to Jana Krejcarová-Černá. In his detailed review, Ladislav Futtera examines an altogether different anthology of life work — a collection of writings by Josef Čermák, *The Path May Go Far Indeed...* The third contribution, devoted to a noteworthy figure in Czech literary history, is Tereza Šnellerová’s text dealing with the compendium dedicated to Jan Lopatka, published by Revolver Revue. The review is not only a summary, but attempts to capture the significance of the compendium in the context of contemporary criticism. Two reviews turn our attention to monographs occupying the scarcely known territory of Czech literary history — Kateřina Smyčková introduces Miloš Sládek’s book *The Word from Their Hearts, or Sunday Sermons in Post-White Mountain Bohemical Postils and the Traditional Pericope System*, published by the Monument of National Literature, while Martin Tichý comments on the publication of Lucie Merhautová, *Parallels and Intersections. Czech Literature and German Modernist Journals (1880–1910)*, focusing on the reception and translation of Czech literature in a German environment outside the borders of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. In her extensive review, Catherine Ebert Zeminová explores the collective monographic *Attempts at a Renaissance of the West* (eds. Anna Housková and Vladimír Svatoň. FF UK, Praha 2016).

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Translated by Veronika Volná.