

# H A ♥ E L C H A N N E L

Václav Havel Library  
Annual report 2020





# Václav Havel Library Annual report 2020



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Tel.: (+420) 222 220 112, email: [info@vaclavhavel.cz](mailto:info@vaclavhavel.cz)

The Václav Havel Library is registered according to the Law on Libraries  
under registration no. 6343/2007 at the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic

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It only makes sense as a living or vital organism that occupies a place that cannot be overlooked in overall public and political life. [...] The Library must in some way be original as such, in itself, in its everyday nature, as a permanently existing phenomenon or place.

Václav Havel,  
A Few Sentences on the Václav Havel Library, Hrádeček

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Sídlo Knihovny Václava Havla: Ostrovní 13, Praha 1.



# The Václav Havel Library

The Václav Havel Library (hereinafter the “VHL”, “VH Library”, also referred to as “KVH” in Czech) gathers, researches, makes public, disseminates and defends the philosophical, literary and political legacy of Václav Havel, a major figure of modern Czech history who was a writer, playwright, thinker, human rights campaigner and Czechoslovak and Czech president. It also focuses on persons, events and phenomena linked to the legacy of Václav Havel and attempts to popularise them and place them in the period and contemporary context.

Since August 2014 the Václav Havel Library has been headquartered at Ostrovní 13, Prague 1. Space on the ground floor of the building is given over to the exhibition Havel in a Nutshell and club events. The VH Library puts on all kinds of seminars, readings, lectures, concerts and theatre performances at the venue. The first floor houses offices, the archive, a constantly expanding library and a reading room for the public.

## The Václav Havel Library's key missions include

- employing educational projects, debates, readings, theatre performances, concerts, lectures and other cultural activities to introduce the general public and specialists to the historical importance of the struggle for human rights and freedoms in the totalitarian era and the creation of civic society in the democracy-building period
- organising archival, archival research, documentation and library activities focused on the work of Václav Havel and documents and other items linked to him, including expert analyses of their influence on society and its self-reflection
- organising academic research and publishing activities mapping the “world of Havel”





# People of the Václav Havel Library

## Founders

Dagmar Havlová  
Miloslav Petrusek (deceased 2012)  
Karel Schwarzenberg

## Board of trustees

Michaela Bakala (deputy chair)  
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Gabriel Eichler (chair)  
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Božena Jirků  
Martin Palouš  
Jacques Rupnik  
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Milan Šimečka

## Supervisory board

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Ondřej Jonaš  
Luděk Niedermayer

## Statutory representative

Michael Žantovský, executive director

## Library team

Zuzana Barincová – production assistant  
Veronika Pikola Brázdilová – production, foreign relations  
Anna Freimanová – editor  
Barbora Grečnerová – education coordinator  
Pavel Hájek – head of production  
Petr Kalaš – archivist/librarian  
Nikola Lukešová – executive assistant  
(since November 2020)  
Zdenka Potměšilová – custodian  
Lucie Prachařová – executive assistant  
(until November 2020)  
Karolína Stránská – office manager  
Libuše Šídllová – custodian

Petr Štefek – archive  
Jáchym Topol – chief dramaturge  
Martin Vidlák – head of Documentation Centre

Kristýna Florian – instructor, external employee  
Magdaléna Hromková – instructor, external employee  
Jan Hron – digital archive administration,  
external employee  
Tomáš Javora – video recordings, external employee  
Rozálie Stejskalová – assistance in Archive, instructor,  
external employee  
Jana Šeráková – instructor, external employee  
Natálie Šimůnková – assistant – social networks,  
external employee  
Lucie Zíchová – instructor, external employee

Alžběta Baumanová – production assistant,  
external employee  
Lucie Kopecká – production assistant, external employee  
Natálie Kučírková – production assistant,  
external employee  
Helena Preissová – production assistant,  
external employee  
Viktorie Preissová – production assistant,  
external employee  
Anežka Richterová – production assistant, administrative,  
external employee  
Barbora Šikulová – production assistant,  
external employee  
Lenka Vondrysová – production assistant,  
external employee  
Marie Zlamalová – production assistant,  
external employee

## External collaborators

Jiří Bělohradský – server administration  
Klára Binarová – production – Václav Havel Human Rights  
Prize

Jakub Čermák – multimedia  
 Václav Doubravský – IT support  
 Zuzana Janečková – production – Václav Havel Human Rights Prize  
 Antonín Jelínek – multimedia (since April 2020)  
 Luděk Kubík – graphic design  
 Eva Lorencová – editing and teaching work  
 Ondřej Němec – photo archive  
 Radka Prošková – production (until April 2020)  
 Nina Rutová – programmes for schools instructor  
 Kristýna Šlajchrtová/CarltonClan – graphic design  
 Jana Vejříková – Přepišto.cz, transcription of spoken word and texts  
 Adéla Volfová – production – Václav Havel European Dialogues  
 Ian Richard Willoughby – English translations  
 Erika Zlamalová – Ivan M. Havel Archive/production/social networks  
 Hynek Zlatník – English translations

#### Volunteers / interns

Eliška Schneiderová – Střední škola knižní kultury, o.p.s.

#### Services

Building administration: Atkins and Langford  
 Development, s. r. o.  
 Audit: Delloite Audit, s.r.o.  
 Accounting services: VGD, s. r. o.  
 Webmaster: 2142 net, Jiří Šolc  
 Cleaning: UNIVERSAL úklidová služba  
 Commission book sales: KOSMAS, Academia

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 Aneta Piňosová  
 Ivanka Reichlová



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Filip Simon  
Josef Šporgy  
Jáchym Topol  
Ms. Tamášová  
Martin Vidlák

**Institutions:**

Faculty of Arts, University of Ostrava  
Libri prohibiti, Prague  
National Archives, Prague  
New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, New York  
Tabook, Tábor  
Nation's Memory Institute, Bratislava  
Contemporary History Institute, Czech Academy of Sciences  
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Czech Centres  
Czech Television  
Czechoslovak Documentation Centre  
Czech Radio  
Činoherní klub theatre  
People in Need  
Dejvické divadlo theatre  
Díky, že můžem  
DILIA  
Faculty of Theatre, Academy of Performing Arts  
Divadlo Archa theatre  
Divadlo Husa na provázku theatre  
Divadlo Na zábradlí theatre  
Divadlo v Dlouhé theatre  
DOX Centre for Contemporary Art  
American Spring festival

Khamoro festival  
Stranou festival  
Tvůrči Afrika festival  
French Institute in Prague  
Google Cultural Institute  
Music and Dance Faculty, Academy of Performing Arts  
European Values Initiative  
Europeum Institute for European Policy  
Arts and Theatre Institute  
One World in Schools – People in Need  
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Prague 6 Town Hall  
Prague Municipal Library  
International Festival of Documentary Films  
Moravian Provincial Library Brno  
Muzeum Kampa  
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FORUM 2000 Foundation  
Hanns Seidel Foundation Prague  
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National Archive  
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National Theatre in Prague  
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National Technical Museum in Prague  
NaVýchod  
NEWTON Media  
Czech Literary Translators' Guild  
Palác Lucerna  
Polish Institute in Prague  
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Prague Civil Society Centre, NF  
Prague House in Brussels  
Council of Europe Strasbourg  
Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty  
Respekt

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Sinopsis  
Litera  
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Andrej Krob  
Karel Schwarzenberg

01

KNIHOVNA  
VÁCLAVA HAVLA  
LEDEN 2020



02

KNIHOVNA  
VÁCLAVA HAVLA  
ÚNOR 2020



03

KNIHOVNA  
VÁCLAVA HAVLA  
BŘEZEN 2020



06

KNIHOVNA  
VÁCLAVA HAVLA  
ČERVEN 2020



10

KNIHOVNA  
VÁCLAVA HAVLA  
ŘÍJEN 2020



09

KNIHOVNA  
VÁCLAVA HAVLA  
ZÁŘÍ 2020









# A Word from the Director

## A Year of Trials and Inspiration

2020 was extraordinary in all respects not only for the Václav Havel Library, but also for the Czech Republic and the world. The pandemic which struck us with full force in March 2020 became an unexpected, merciless but also greatly inspiring test of all the existing methods of work, well established procedures, feature formats, forms of communication with the public, and the abilities, independence and motivation of every member of the Library's staff. I dare to say that all my colleagues as well as the Library on the whole successfully passed this test.

The key asset in this situation was the internet TV – the Havel Channel, which after six months of intense work saw the onset of the pandemic and which immediately became the basic form of our communication with the public. It is important to remember that the Havel Channel is not only a technical means but also a production group of young professionals who, with their style of work, attempt to address especially younger groups of viewers and listeners, and in the future is a guarantee that we will not only keep pace with the times, but in many respects will also inspire others.

During last year we gathered a great deal of experience, feedback and new ideas, thanks to which the Havel Channel is today appreciably higher in quality. This is the work we want to continue in the future, too.

Despite the difficult situation, we succeeded in providing the full extent of the Conference for the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize, even though in two parts and in a virtual format. The thematic focus of the conference on women's rights, the participation of important female personalities such as M. Albright and S. Cihanouska, and, last but not least, the convincing stories

of the finalists and the winner, Loujain Al-Hathloul, gave a new dimension to our work in the area of human rights.

It would not have been possible to hold the Prague-based Václav Havel European Dialogues at the peak of the first pandemic wave. However, we organised dialogues on Václav Havel's contribution to Czech-German relationships in Munich in January, and dialogues on free media and free society in Brussels in December.

Even more dynamic development than we had expected was seen with the Library's educational agenda. With school attendance restricted, we collaborated with several hundred secondary schools on organising webinars and discussions to replace school classes. We created an extraordinary competition for the best student essay on the topic of the pandemic. In cooperation with young influencers and activists, we are developing a new programme stream, Young Track.

Moving the club programme into the online world saw us experimenting with new "young" formats, namely podcasts, short interviews, questions and readings. We will be facing a great challenge to maintain everything new when we return to the traditional "physical environment". We in no way want to lose the great benefits we have enjoyed, such as the greatly increased sizes of audiences, digital imprints and greater flexibility in implementing the programmes for international Czech audiences. The results, which in their way are a source of pride for us, would have been unattainable without the trust and support of our founders, board members, sponsors, supporters, performers, and also viewers and listeners. Our warm thanks go to all of them.

Michael Žantovský

Director and statutory representative

15 June 2021

# THE DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

**administers a specialised library of 6,753 catalogued titles, an extensive photography archive and written documents whose digital processing has reached 53,063 entries, and a publicly accessible permanent exhibition and reading room. Access to the digital archive is free of charge to researchers following registration.**

The Documentation Centre administers a collection of physical documents, artefacts, audio-visual materials and photographs, and continuously adds digitised archives from loans and gifts from institutions and private individuals to its collections. In addition, it develops its own research activities and participates in the preparation of the Library's program, exhibitions and book production.

The state of emergency declared in the spring and autumn led to a decline in the number of visitors to the reading room, and of researcher inquiries in general. The Documentation Centre took the opportunity to work on the description and cataloguing of archival materials, which could not be done in previous years due to anniversaries.

After three years, we said goodbye to our colleague Rozálie Stejskalová, whom we would like to thank for her careful work. We welcomed Eliška Schneiderová from the Secondary School of Book Culture for a two-week internship. However, we were unable to accept other applicants, as the Library could not meet all the restrictions imposed by the state of emergency.

## THE ARCHIVE

continued to constantly digitise selected archive documents as well as describe and catalogue them.

The large data volumes produced include the cataloguing of part of the presidential correspondence of Václav Havel, descriptions of 110 items of the Originální videjournal, purchased in 2019 including licence rights, and 250 programmes of trips and visits by President Václav Havel in 1990–1996, donated

from Lucie Svobodová and photographer Tomki Němec. We also catalogued photographs and dedication sheets for state honours and other awards granted to Václav Havel, including honorary doctorates and the accompanying academic gowns.

The three-year project entitled *The Other Europe* continued.

The Václav Havel Library obtained an extraordinary audiovisual acquisition both in content and extent from the British Imperial War Museum in 2018, consisting of a six-part series called *The Other Europe*, a film documentary, and the accompanying footage mostly shot on 16-mm film.

*The Other Europe* is a six-part documentary series shot in 1987–1988 in Central and Eastern European countries, principally Czechoslovakia, Hungary, East Germany, Poland and Romania. It was produced for the UK's Channel Four by the now defunct company Panoptic and was written and presented by the French political scientist and journalist Jacques Rupnik, directed by Tom Roberts and produced by Nick Fraser. Czechoslovak Television broadcast the series in the early 1990s.

The documentary series contains authentic testimony on the reality of life behind the Iron Curtain in the second half of the 1980s from leading representatives of the domestic anti-communist opposition and exiles, figures from the arts world and regular citizens. The archival value of the material is substantial in view of the fact that there is no analogous audio-visual material exploring this subject so thoroughly and with such international scope.

The aim is to gradually process around 100 interviews and place them in a publicly accessible database on the website othereurope.com. The Václav Havel Library received a strategic grant from the Visegrad Fund and a Europe for Citizens grant from the European Commission for this purpose. The project's partners are the National Széchényi Library in Budapest, the European Solidarity Centre in Gdansk, the Nation's Memory Institute in Bratislava and Dresden's Gedenkstätte Bautzner Straße; they are also involved in processing the materials.

In 2020 the first 24 interviews were published: Czechoslovakia – 8, Hungary – 10, Germany – 4, Poland – 2.

## THE ARCHIVE IN NUMBERS

At the end of 2020, the total number of processed events and documents amounted to 53,063; the number of processed events in the life of Václav Havel was 15,303; the number of processed texts by Václav Havel was 2,994; texts about Václav Havel 14,722; bibliographic entries 27,777; processed correspondence 6,527; photographs 2,086; video recordings 281; and audio recordings 560. At the end of the year, the book catalogue reached a total of 6,753 books and periodicals, of which approximately one-quarter feature texts by Václav Havel. Physically, 4,622 books and 1,412 magazines are held at the library.

The Documentation Centre responded to 150 individual queries during personal visits by researchers or via email. Some 513 new researchers were registered in the digital archive.

New works on "Havel" themes were created with the help of materials accessible in the Documentation Centre's archive and library and were subsequently added to its book collection.

Ahmed Hamed, an Egyptian Bohemian Studies scholar and assistant professor at the Department of Czech Language of the Cairo University, successfully passed his master's thesis, for which the archive provided him with many video recordings from the president's public addresses. Other contributions to the database were this year's theses on Havel topics from Czech universities: a dissertation by Filip Simon for the Institute of Political Science – Department of Foreign Relations of the FSV UK, entitled "The Attitude of Presidents of the Czech Republic towards European Integration", a thesis by Lenka Fišbachová for the Department of Economy and Administration of MUNI, entitled "Václav Havel's Opinions on the Economy", and a bachelor's thesis by Aneta Piňosová of the Department of History

of Art, Faculty of Arts of Palacký University Olomouc, entitled "The Life and Work of Oldřich Škácha". The archive also received two earlier theses by Richard Navara of the Institute of Creative Photography of the Faculty of Arts and Nature of the Silesian University in Opava, namely a bachelor's thesis "President Václav Havel's Photographers" (2005) and a master's thesis "Photographer Oldřich Škácha" (2009).

Extraordinarily successful were the internships of Ivan Beliayev (Russia) and Minna Suikka (Finland). Ivan Beliayev, who was an intern at the VHL in March and April 2018, published Václav Havel's first autobiography in Russia in 2020, entitled Václav Havel – A Life in History. Minna Suikka, an intern in 2017, translated and, in 2020, published a book of essays and presidential addresses, entitled Euroopan toivo. Esseitä ja puheita 1978–2002. The Archive carried out online interviews with both of them in the autumn and presented them through the Havel Channel.

A new autobiography of Václav Havel by David Gilbert Barton, "Havel. Unfinished Revolution" (University of Pittsburgh), was published, and Wild Boar on Venison: The Václav Havel Cookbook was translated into Polish and published as "Havel od kuchni". Paolo Verlengi in Italy published "Parola di Václav Havel. Teatro, rock e resistenza dietro il Muro di Berlino". All these publications were added to the book stock, which we are gradually expanding through purchases, donations or in exchange for the titles which the VHL has produced.

Among the more important acquisitions are some valuable samizdats (with texts by Milan Šimečka, Jaroslav Šabata, Andrej Stankovič, Jan Grossman and Adam Michnik) and the discovery and purchase of second-hand volume which included the Hungarian edition of Disturbing the Piece (Long Distance Interrogation) and the play Protest. An important and extensive part of the acquisitions are digitised samizdat periodicals from the Scriptum.cz public database and the digitisation of all loans of Informační servis from the Institute of Contemporary History of the Czech Academy of Sciences (for this acquisition, we held a debate with three of the founding members of the editorial board of Informační servis, which is available on the Havel Channel).

Documents in low quality and resolution which the Documentation Centre still keeps or has access to were newly digitised. If the totals of some items dropped compared to previous years, this is due to the systematic removal of multiple entries that naturally occur in the digital archives. The Documentation Centre will continue to do so in subsequent years.

## NEW ADDITIONS

An outstanding acquisition was that of some ten boxes from the estate of Zdeněk Urbánek, donated to the archive by David Dušek. The following made personal contributions to the archival and library collections: Josette Baer, Ivan Beliaev, David Dušek, Jan Faktor, Anna Freimanova, Lenka Fišbachova, Michal Gregorini, Jiří Gruntorád, Ivan M. Havel, Pavel Hájek, Tereza Herz Pokorná, Jan Hron, Ondřej Havelka, Daňa Horáková, Karel Hviždala, Vladimír Hulec, Viktor Kolář, Růžena Kulhánková, Petr Kalaš, Ms. Malátková, Dave McMullin, Miroslav Masák, Ondřej Němec, Tomki Němec, Richard Navara, David Ondříček, Pavel Odstrčil, Martin Palouš, Aneta Piňosová, Ivanka Reichlová, David Růžička, Tomáš Růžička, Filip Simon, Josef Šporgy, Jachym Topol, Ms. Tamášová, Martin Vidlák.

Institutions that made contributions were: Contemporary History Institute at the Czech Academy of Sciences; Libri prohibiti, Prague, West Bohemian Museum, Pilsen; Faculty of Arts, University of Ostrava; National Archives, Prague; Tabok, Tábor; Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes, Prague; Nation's Memory Institute, Bratislava; New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, New York.

The Documentation Centre also received many books and magazines as donations from publishers or authors at presentations of books during club evenings at the Library in exchange for its own publications or as gifts for cooperating on exhibitions and other events.

## THE LIBRARY

The Archive's Library continued to focus on expanding its bibliography of works by Václav Havel. The number of entries at the end of the year stood at 27.777. The bibliography is freely accessible, linked to the book catalogue and maps to the greatest possible extent texts published both domestically and abroad.

At the close of 2020 a total of 591 new entries of publications, including 129 books, 138 periodicals and 324 electronic books (digitised books and periodicals), had been added to the book catalogue. The total number of new volumes in 2020 (i.e., including duplicates) reached 593.

The whole stock of books was relocated at the end of the year with the help of the intern Eliška Schneiderová in order to obtain room for further additions. The review of the stock, commenced in 2019, was completed and concluded with a detailed report

as of 31 December 2020. The collection of periodicals was assigned new signatures, almost all of which were attached. Books were assigned new signatures last year. The Library made a list of unnecessary duplicates and books whose topics lie outside the thematic scope and which can be disposed of later if there is need for further room for new additions. As part of the reconstruction of the stage in the Library's Club Room, we extended the library shelves behind the stage and added more books, took an inventory and made an up-to-date list of all volumes located there. Especially multiple copies, donated books and own production of the VHL were used to add to the shelves.

The digital catalogue of books and periodicals is freely available without prior registration on the website of the Documentation Centre, while publications from the book collection are solely provided to researchers to study in the reading room. The archive and library's reading room was open to the public every Tuesday from 9 am to 5 pm; it was also accessible at other times by prior arrangement.

## THE PHOTO ARCHIVE

In 2019 more than 600 photographs were processed. These were prints from the archive of the photographer Oldřich Škácha, from the personal archive of Ivan M. Havel and photo documentation of 16 events (359 photographs) organised by the Library in 2020.

The Photo Archive prepared a variety of projections of photographs for the Library's events and for various other events at home and abroad and collaborated on the handling of a number of research questions, publication requests from various periodicals and one-off publications, and the preparation of photographs for the Library's book productions. It also helped to prepare photographs for texts published on the Havel Channel and social networks.

## THE PAVEL JURÁČEK ARCHIVE

The Pavel Juráček Archive arose in February 2014 when his son Marek Juráček handed over six banana boxes and a typewriter case from his father's estate to the Václav Havel Library. Thousands of pages of manuscripts, typescripts, photographs, documents and personal and official correspondence are gradually being catalogued and digitised. The result of this work should be not only to map the life and work of one of the key figures of the New Wave of Czechoslovak film in the 1960s, but also to make his literary works accessible in the book series *The Works of Pavel Juráček*.

The aim of the Václav Havel Library is to ensure that Pavel Juráček finds a place in the broader cultural consciousness and to notionally build on the deep friendship he shared with Václav Havel. Soon after Juráček's death in 1989 Havel said of him: "Pavel was a friend of mine whom I liked very much. He was one of the most sensitive and gentle people I have known – that's why I cannot write more about him."

In 2020 the archival materials continued to be catalogued and classified for the preparation of other volumes of the proposed 13-volume edition of the Works of PJ. This especially applied to the period of his Munich exile (1977–1983) which will be included in the volumes entitled *Nejlepší léta třínohého koně* (The Best Years of a Three-legged Horse) and *Golem*. Work on the preparation of a collection from Pavel Juráček's correspondence saw major progress. Last but not least, the PJ Archive took a significant part in the preparation of the last, fourth volume of PJ's Diaries (for details, see Publishing Cooperation).

## EQUIPMENT

External backup of the digital archives and the data repository was completed. A new repository designed solely for audiovisual materials for the Havel Channel was put into operation.

## COOPERATION ON PUBLIC EVENTS AND PROJECTS

The Documentation Centre devoted a great deal of its efforts to providing support for club and publishing activities and initiated several events and discussions that led to it receiving further archival materials and information for future researchers. (See also *The Other Europe*, p. XX.)

### On the Library's program

The Documentation Centre provided support for many events and features presented on the Havel Channel and social networks, prepared photographs and quotes by Václav Havel, and chose attractive passages from older features for new publication. It also initiated some discussions, subsequently acquiring new documents and archival materials for future researchers.

At the time of the easing of the emergency measures, it contributed to organising the celebrations of 17 November by preparing Václav Havel's Living Room which, after previous years at the piazzetta of the National Theatre, was moved online and streamed live from Ostrovní St.

### On the presentation of VHL-produced books

All events relating to books were substantially disturbed by the epidemiological situation. The first sales event of the year, the Ostrava Book Festival, was held at the end of February with no restrictions. The Prague Book World in May and Pilsen Book World in September were cancelled. At the end of May, Prague hosted only the first year of Bookfest – a festival of small publishers on the Avoid Floating Gallery ship. In June we opened a small stall at the Library's event in the Wallenstein Loggia, near Jičín. The *Knihex*, to be held in spring, was postponed, and was eventually held in *Kasárna Karlín*, Prague on 5 September instead of June. Its annual winter part was held in December as usual, but only online. In September we also attended the *Brak* book festival in Bratislava, while the planned *Žilina Literary Festival* was cancelled. The last event where we were able to meet our readers in person was the *Tabook* in Tábor, South Bohemia in the first week of October. The annual sale of books in Václav Havel's Living Room on 17 November as part of *Korzo Národní* in Prague was cancelled and the whole event went online.

There are still questions over further book fairs and festivals in 2021, as their organisers have already announced postponements or rescheduled them. It must be mentioned that all the traditional events which we participated in despite the circumstances were very successful for us, compared to sales in previous years.

### On editorial work

*Hovory v Lánech 1994* (Talks from Lány, 1994) were prepared for publication in digital format in 2020.

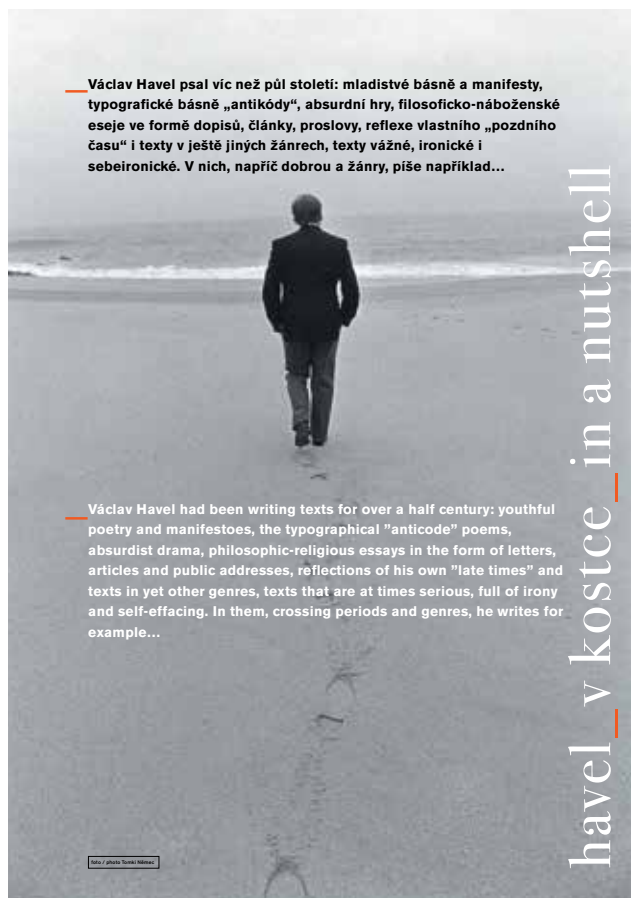
### On exhibitions

The exhibitions prepared with contributions from the Documentation Centre were postponed due to the pandemic.

## REPOSITORY

Throughout its existence, the Václav Havel Library has prepared and put on dozens of exhibitions. Some of them – focused not only on the life and work of Václav Havel but also on various cultural, historical and social phenomena in the Czech lands in the latter half of the 20th century – have become part of its archive.

Since the second half of 2019, we have been offering these exhibitions to other educational and cultural institutions for free use through a digital repository, accessible via the Library's home page at [www.vaclavhavel.cz](http://www.vaclavhavel.cz).



Interest in this service in 2020 was, just like most cultural projects held by other organisations, affected by restrictions related to the pandemic.

### With a Passion Freedom

The photographs of Pavel Hroch capture the events of the Velvet Revolution but also the period of transformation at the start of the 1990s when things that had previously been impossible and scarcely imaginable took place in Czechoslovakia: a period of joy, carnivalesque festivity, vision, hopes and great – and perhaps naive – faith in the future.

→ 03/01/20 – 28/02/20

Library of the Faculty of Law, Charles University, Prague

→ 02/03/20 – 10/03/20

Jan Kepler Gymnazium (grammar school), Prague

### Flickers of Freedom, or The Late '80s in the Photographs of Miloš Fikejz

→ 03/01/20 – 30/01/20

Jan Palach Gymnasium (grammar school), Mělník

### Hey, It's Havel!

Exhibition comprised of a selection of photographs that reached the Václav Havel Library in the first half of 2016 within Hey, it's Havel!, an appeal to those who had a camera with them, or a friend with one at hand, when they ran into VH.

### Samizdat and Expedice Edition

An exhibition dedicated to the series of books and more established by Václav Havel and friends in 1975. It introduces visitors in a highly attractive and accessible manner to the production of banned books in normalisation-era Czechoslovakia and how they were smuggled abroad, as well as the people who dedicated themselves to secret “underground” publishing and the dangers they faced.

→ 03/01/20–30/01/20

Townhall, Jaroměřice nad Rokytnou

→ 01/09/20 – 11/10/20

Municipal Library, Ústí nad Orlicí

### Havel in a Nutshell

A collage of texts, documents and photographs capturing Václav Havel as a child of a wealthy family of entrepreneurs,

thoughtful teenager, stage hand and man of the theatre, prisoner of conscience, final Czechoslovak and first Czech president, citizen, human rights advocate and key figure of the history of the second half of the 20th century.

→ 03/01/20 – 21/01/20

Primary School, Hořovice

→ 02/03/20 – 10/03/20

SPŠ akademika Heyrovského (secondary school), Ostrava

#### Anticodes

Exhibition comprising the most noteworthy visual poems that Václav Havel created, in particular in the first half of the 1960s. Playful, witty, apposite and also chilling

→ 02/03/20 – 10/03/20

Library of the Faculty of Law, Charles University, Prague

→ 02/03/20 – 10/03/20

1st International School of Ostrava

→ 01/09/20 – 10/10/20

Municipal Library, Písek

→ 17/11/20 – 21/12/20

Artwall, Strakonice

### **We Had the Underground and Now We Have SFA**

Exhibition highlighting the symbolic role that Václav Havel played in underground literature in the 1970s and 1980s. Artistic texts from Ivan Martin Jirous, Fanda Pánek, Egon Bondy, Vratislav Brabenec and Jaroslav Hutka are illustrated by the photographs of Bohdan Holomíček.

### **I Just Cannot Live Differently!**

Collage of period documents and photographs held to mark the 30th anniversary of the trial of the Committee for the Defence of the Unjustly Prosecuted.

### **Plato on Kampa – LOTR at Hrádeček**

Documentary exhibition exploring the Kampademia as a unique intellectual community active, mainly in the 1970s and 1980s, outside official university structures.



# PUBLISHING ACTIVITIES

The central focus of the Library's publishing program is the life and work of Václav Havel, his family and close collaborators and friends. For clarity, the program is divided into six series: Václav Havel Library Notebooks, Václav Havel Library Editions, Student Line, Talks from Lány, Works of Pavel Juráček and Václav Havel Library Conferences. Titles that cannot be incorporated into any of the given series but which are nonetheless important for the Library's publishing activities are issued independently, outside the series framework.

## BEST-SELLING TITLES

### Published in 2020

Filip Topol, Pavel Hájek (ed.): Kilián Nedory

Pavel Juráček, Pavel Hájek (ed.): Příklad pro začínajícího kata / Podobenství 1966–1968 (Case for a Rookie Hangman / Parable 1966–1968)

Václav Havel, Anna Freimanová (ed.): Já nejsem smutný (I'm Not Sad) / Audience & Vernisáž (Audience and Unveiling)

### Published in previous years

Michael Žantovský and collective: Kančí na daňčím. Kuchařka Václava Havla (Wild Boar on Venison: The Václav Havel Cookbook) (2019)

Anna Freimanová, Tereza Johanidesová (eds.): Má to smysl! Rozhovory s Václavem Havlem z let 1960–1989 (It's Worth Doing! Interviews with Václav Havel, 1960–1989) (2019)

Václav Havel, Anna Freimanová (ed.): Moc bezmocných a jiné eseje (The Power of the Powerless and Other Essays) (reprint) (2012, 2014, 2016)

## SOLD-OUT TITLES

Václav M. Havel: Mé vzpomínky. První úplné vydání (My Memoirs: The First Complete Edition) (2018)

Krystyna Wanatowiczová: Miloš Havel – český filmový magnát (Miloš Havel – Czech Film Magnate) (2013, 2017)

Anna Freimanová (ed.): Síla věčnosti Olgy Havlové (Olga Havlová's Power of Pragmatism) (2013, 2017)

Václav Havel, Anna Freimanová (ed.): Moc bezmocných a jiné eseje (The Power of the Powerless and Other Essays) (reprint) (2012, 2014, 2016)

Jan Hron (ed.): Perzekuce Václava Havla. Dopisy a dokumenty z let 1968–1989 (The Persecution of Václav Havel: Documents and Letters, 1968–1989) (2015)

Anna Freimanová (ed.): Gauneři z Horních Počernic (Crooks from Horní Počernice) (2015)

Filip Topol: Angus Burge (2015)

Pavel Juráček: Prostřednictvím kočky (By Means of a Cat) (2014)

Filip Topol: Fantazie G moll (A Fantasy in G Minor) (2014)

Martin C. Putna: Měli jsme underground a máme prd (We Had the Underground and Now We Have SFA) (2009)

Martin C. Putna: Spiritualita Václava Havla (The Spirituality of Václav Havel) (2009)

Ladislav Hejránek: Havel je uhlík (Havel is Carbon) (2009)

## THE VÁCLAV HAVEL LIBRARY NOTEBOOKS

The Václav Havel Library Notebooks are an irregular quarterly published since 2009. They are in their way a laboratory



and experimental space presenting the research of the Library's Documentation Centre (in the form of reprints of texts unknown or inaccessible to the public) and newly created Havel studies in the fields of culture and oral history. They are intended for students and the general public.

An originally planned collection of newspaper articles entitled *Václav Havel v normalizačním tisku (1977–1989)* (Václav Havel in the Normalisation Press (1977–1989)) was moved to the publishing plan for 2022 due to time restraints on the editor, TV presenter Jakub Železný; in all likelihood it will be published as an e-book.

## THE VÁCLAV HAVEL LIBRARY EDITIONS

The Library's "flagship" series, established in 2010, focuses on the publication of extensive studies of key significance in understanding the life and work of Václav Havel.

In 2020 we worked on the editing of Martin Palouš's publication, *Ohlédnutí* (Looking Back), which is a collection of his shorter texts from the late 1970s to the present. The volume, number 12 in the series, should be published at the turn of 2021/2022.

## THE STUDENT LINE

The Library has been issuing themed collections from the works of Václav Havel, intended primarily for students or those encountering his work (and life) for the first time, in this series since 2012. Individual volumes are supplemented by essays by experts on Havel's oeuvre and rich photographic accompaniment.

No new titles were added to this series in 2020, as we decided to draw the attention of students using drama texts by Václav Havel. For more, see the Pocket VH Plays series.

## TALKS FROM LÁNY

Talks from Lány (1990–2000), a series of transcriptions from a series of radio interviews with Václav Havel, was established in 2013 and in 2016 retransformed from classic printed to electronic form.

In 2020 the fifth edition in the series, *Hovory v Lánech 1994* (Talks from Lány, 1994) was readied for publication and made its way to distribution in June 2021.

## THE WORKS OF PAVEL JURÁČEK

The series was established in spring 2014, shortly after Marek Juráček (Pavel Juráček's son) decided to donate the entirety of his father's estate to the Library. The initial encounter with the preserved typed and handwritten manuscripts made clear the indisputable literary and cultural-historical value of the estate, which will require further systematic work. To this end a partial Pavel Juráček Archive was created while a framework plan to publish his works was also put in place.

Number 7 in the series Works of PJ went to the printers in 2020. It focuses on perhaps the most discussed of Juráček's films, *Case for a Rookie Hangman*, and was ceremonially launched at the Literary Festival in Ostrava.

### Pavel Juráček, Pavel Hájek (ed.): Případ pro začínajícího kata (Case for a Rookie Hangman)

Taking on the motif from the third book of Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift, a canonical novel of Anglo-Saxon literature from 1726, Pavel Juráček shows how little it takes (in this case, to depart from a road with a No Entry traffic sign) to see that one pulls the shorter end of the line in one's relationship with the world. However hard he tries, life unfolds and will only unfold within the limits defined by the society to which he belongs, and he will depend on the society's written and unwritten laws, secrets, lapses and powerful ones. That his main mission is to be part of the machine which needs him and also consumes him. And that he cannot but lean on himself.

The *Case for a Rookie Hangman* includes all of Juráček's texts relating to the preparation and production of the 1969 movie: the synopsis, explication, film story, and two versions of the literary script. For the sake of completion, the volume is complemented with an extensive selection of diary notes, unpublished correspondence and archival materials.

## VÁCLAV HAVEL LIBRARY CONFERENCES

This series was established in autumn 2014 with the aim of mapping the proceedings of selected conferences in the preparation and holding of which the Library has been involved, whether as (co)organiser or guarantor. Compared to regular conference proceedings, the preparation of these volumes receives extraordinary care, including in terms of design; each is accompanied by a piece by an artist for whom the subject has a close connection and a resonance.

No volumes were issued within this series in 2020.

**Pavel Juráček**

**Případ pro  
začínajícího  
kata**

/podobenství 1966-1968/



Knihovna Václava Havla

Publishing activities



**Václav Havel**  
Já nejsem smutný



**Václav Havel**  
Chyť zajíce, ať ho máš



**Audience + Vernisáž**  
Hry do kapsy

**Zahradní slavnost**

Hry VH do kapsy

**FILIP TOPOL**  
Kilián Nedory



## POCKET VH PLAYS

The Library's newest series, founded at the end of 2019, gives students and others the unique chance to carry Václav Havel's plays with them, even if they don't have a bag or backpack over their shoulder. At the turn of the year the titles *Já nejsem smutný* / Audience + Vernisáž (I'm Not Sad / Audience + Unveiling) and *Chyť zajíce, ať ho máš!* / Zahradní slavnost (Catch the Hare So You've Got Him! / The Garden Party) were readied for publication by Anna Freimanová.

In addition to the handy format, this Václav Havel Library series is characterized by useful accoutrements – additional texts that explore the historical, cultural and personal context of the plays' gestation and deliver a clear biography of the author, a selected bibliography and other useful information about the plays themselves, the writer and the period

**Václav Havel, Anna Freimanová (ed.):  
Já nejsem smutný / Audience + Vernisáž (I'm  
Not Sad / Audience + Unveiling)**

This volume features the one-act plays *Audience* and *Unveiling* and places Václav Havel's most successful theatrical character, the banned writer Vaněk, at the centre of the action. In the years of normalisation of society under President Husák, the timid but principled hero isn't ready to give in to police state dictate and does his best not to betray his principles and to live according to his conscience.

In *Audience* two utterly different worlds collide at one table – a shy, quiet intellectual and an animalistic boor in the form of the brewery brew-master – to contest duels with the methods of the secret police, which neither of them can win. "I'm not sad," Vaněk persuades those around him, though he has to roll barrels at a brewery, has secret police sniffing around him and is forced to drink gallons of beer, which he doesn't like, by his boss...

*Unveiling* also represents a clash of different outlooks on life. The married couple Michal and Věra have invited over old friend Vaněk in order to show off their new fancily renovated apartment stuffed with antique furniture and modern kitchen appliances. Are they really so happy in their fake paradise as they want their pal, a blacklisted writer doing manual labour in a brewery, to believe?

**Václav Havel, Anna Freimanová (ed.):  
Chyť zajíce, ať ho máš! / Zahradní slavnost  
(Catch the Hare So You've Got Him! / The  
Garden Party)**

The satirical 1960s comedy *The Garden Party* was among the first Czech absurdist plays and, in the 1960s at the legendary Divadlo Na zábradlí theatre, it was the first play by Václav Havel performed on stage.

A young chess lover, the hard-working Hugo Pludek, sets off to “be something”. He soon grasps the laws of success and finds his feet in a world of phrases and red tape, adapting himself pliantly to whatever will take him to the top. But... is he still Hugo Pludek?

### EXTRA-SERIES

Work published outside the above series does not differ significantly from the Library's regular output in thematic terms; the main difference is chiefly in genre (sound recordings, DVD) and visual conception (graphics, format).

In 2020 the VH Library brought out two such new titles:

Following the Czech publication of *Cikánský baron jsem já* (I'm a Gypsy Baron), an extensive autobiography from the eminent Romany civic activist Emil Ščuka, its three-volume version in the Romany language was published in April. Financial support was provided by the State Culture Fund and the International Conservatory in Prague.

At the beginning of September 2020, a slim volume of texts by Filip Topol, *Kilián Nedory*, was published, dedicated to his legendary alter ego. The book became a bestseller right after publication, and its print run of 2000 sold out before December despite the restrictions related to the pandemic. The reprint, scheduled for January 2021, also enjoyed great interest from readers.

During 2020, work also continued on the following books: *Bláhové psaní* (Naïve Writing), an editorial selection from texts by Filip Topol with yet unpublished short stories, sketches, verses and, last but not least, also a theatre play; *Lucerna / Barandov*, an extensive monograph of the building activities of the Havel family; and primarily, *Zápisky z podzemí* (Notes from the Underground), an unpublished manuscript by Václav Havel concerning the first months of existence of Charter 77 and his imprisonment, edited by Michael Žantovský.

**Emil Ščuka: Cikánský baron jsem já (I'm  
a Gypsy Baron)**

A three-part book of memoirs by Dr. Emil Ščuka, who has played an important role in the process of emancipation of the Romany minority in the Czech Republic and in the formation of the Romany nation in the international context, accelerated after the fall of communism in Central and Eastern Europe in the “miraculous year” of 1989. In the first part, *Good Lord*, Ščuka explores his childhood, school education and experiences as a Romany state prosecutor in the final decade of communist dictatorship.

The second part, *One Swallow Doesn't Make a Summer*, looks at the rise of the Romany political movement in Czechoslovakia after the Velvet Revolution and its leaders' experiences in the revived Czechoslovak and later Czech democracy.

The third part, *I'm a Gypsy Baron*, concerns Ščuka's efforts in the international arena. There the focus was not on the Roma issue within the framework of the Czechoslovak Republic established by Masaryk and the two states created on its territory in 1993 but an issue broader in scope. The key issue of the transition from the “short” 20th century to a new era, the contours of which are forming around us in the first decades of the 21st century, is the existence of the Roma nation as a distinctive whole; it has no territory on which to declare sovereignty and to implement a national agenda but nevertheless aspires to be an equal partner to other European nations in the process of European integration and, in this context, to pursue the long-term goals of “national revival”.

**Filip Topol, Pavel Hájek (ed.): Kilián Nedory**

A collection of texts by Filip Topol on the topic of his legendary and mysterious “friend” Kilián Nedory, most of which have as yet remained unpublished. The first part of the book is the novel *Jámy a vítr* (Hollows and Wind), the second part is a collection of sketches, lyrics, verses and prose.

The book was published as the first volume in the intended two-volume edition entitled *Filip Topol's Archive*.

### PUBLISHING COOPERATION

In this area the Library, alongside publishing biographical books about Václav Havel, focused in 2020 on cooperation on the publication of Pavel Juráček's *Deník* (Diary) (TORST publishing house). The collaboration consisted in the provision of archival materials, consultations with the authors and carrying out pieces of research for the fourth, concluding volume of diary entries from 1975–1988; it should come out on TORST in autumn 2021.



# HAVEL CHANNEL

**Havel Channel is the internet television channel of the Václav Havel Library, aiming to disseminate the intellectual, literary and political legacy of Václav Havel irrespective of distance, geographical boundaries or states of emergency. Its main features are debates, educational projects and interviews. A great deal of time is also dedicated to conferences, authors' readings, and recordings of theatre performances and concerts.**

The concept of the future TV channel of the Václav Havel Library originated in 2017 in connection with the preparation and production of the e-learning series on human rights in the life and work of Václav Havel, *Každý může změnit svět* (Everyone Can Change the World) ([www.zmenitsvet.cz](http://www.zmenitsvet.cz)). It is therefore coincidental that the final development stage of the television channel and the launch of broadcasts came simultaneously with the first two lockdown waves resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. It was a chance which, as seems to be the case around the world, will divide the time into "before" and "after", and which, as it usually goes, favours those who are well prepared.

Immediately after the declaration of the first state of emergency, on 10 March 2020, we offered all the "ready-made" programmes of the future Havel Channel to those interested through our social networks. They were primarily educational projects – the e-learning series entitled *Každý může změnit svět* (Everyone Can Change the World) ([www.zmenitsvet.cz](http://www.zmenitsvet.cz)), *Rok revoluce* (The Year of Revolution), *Číst Havla* (Reading Havel) – which met with extraordinary interest amongst pedagogues as well as students. And we also started to develop and try shorter formats that were primarily aimed at encouraging and motivating society. These were fifty spots in cycles entitled *Zobání z archivu* (Searching the Archive), *Tři otázky pro* (Three Questions for ...), *Dobrá zpráva je, že...* (The Good News Is that ...) a *Číst Havla v karanténě* (Reading Havel in Quarantine), in which the performers (actors Martha Issová, Ivan Trojan, Anna Geislerová, Jiří Bartoška and others) read passages from Václav Havel's work from their homes. The life of the Library, not least

its mission, were in no way threatened by the pandemic; it "merely" accelerated its transfer to the online world, a move we had already been considering for some time.

In April 2020, the VHL team was joined by the cameraman, film editor, sound engineer and film director Antonín Jelínek, thanks to whom we were able to not only organise the first Virtual Debates from the Václav Havel Library, but also provide complete equipment for our TV studio.

In the summer months, while maintaining full online operation, we prepared the first version of our television's website at [www.havelchannel.cz](http://www.havelchannel.cz) and worked towards launching it. Having considered all the technological alternatives, we eventually decided to develop the website as fully open and user-friendly, i.e., not to operate it in its own closed regime like other internet television channels do, such as Seznam Television, MallTV and DVTv, but to publish videos and live streams through our own accounts on YouTube and Facebook.

Since the very beginning, it has not been our goal to protect the contents of the Havel Channel from our visitors, but to offer them an opportunity to view us just like they are accustomed to.

The ceremonial launch of the Havel Channel took place on 9 September 2020 on the roof of the Lucerna Palace and was attended by many friends and supporters of the Václav Havel Library.

Until the end of 2020, we broadcasted more than 100 original features, varying in duration (the longer ones, more permanent, are marked with a – in the following chapters), provided access to more than 1000 recordings from our club features

from 2011–2020, and have thus become an important spot on the media map of the Czech Republic. Speaking in statistical terms: In less than three months, the programmes on the Havel Channel attracted more than one million views (111 384 views on YouTube and 959 102 on Facebook).

The fact that the Havel Channel project could be produced at this extent is primarily due to the kind support from its main partner – the Karel Komárek Family Foundation.



# THE WORLD OF VÁCLAV HAVEL

The program under the heading The World of Václav Havel comprises a variety of domestic and foreign events linked to the life and philosophical legacy of Václav Havel that the Library organises or is actively involved in. In 2020 its central plank was the fifth annual Václav Havel Human Rights Prize, alongside the project Václav Havel European Dialogues and participation in international and domestic events.

## VÁCLAV HAVEL EUROPEAN DIALOGUES

The Václav Havel European Dialogues is an international project that aims to initiate and stimulate discussion on issues determining the direction of contemporary Europe while referring to the European spiritual legacy of Václav Havel. The project takes its main inspiration from Václav Havel's essay The Power of the Powerless. More than other similarly focused projects, the Václav Havel European Dialogues aim to offer the "powerless" a platform to express themselves and so strengthen their position within Europe.

It is conceived as a long-term project and involves cooperation with other organisations in various European cities. Individual events, which take the form of conferences, discussions, debates or meetings, are targeted primarily at secondary and tertiary-level students, as well as specialists and members of the public interested in European issues.

### 23. 1. | Bayerischer Landtag | Munich Havel in München

European Dialogues was established in 2014, aiming to talk about current European topics not only in Prague but also in other European countries. Inspired by Havel's essay, The Power of the Powerless, the project aims to offer the "powerless" a platform to express themselves and so strengthen their position within Europe.

Regional identity and Czech relations in the EU were discussed by Bernd Posselt (member of the EP), Karel Schwarzenberg

(Czech MP and former Minister for foreign affairs), Tomáš Kafka (Ministry for Foreign Affairs) and Rosi Steinberger (Alliance 90/The Greens), and other guests.

The meeting was held in German in cooperation with the Bavarian Parliament and Bavarian Land Central for Political Education, Europe Direct Informationszentrum Munich and the General Consulate of the Czech Republic in Munich.

Organisers:

Bavarian Parliament, Bavarian Land Central for Political Education, Europe Direct Informationszentrum Munich, the General Consulate of the Czech Republic in Munich and the Václav Havel Library.

### 9. 12. | Havel Channel | Brussels – Prague Do Free Media Equal Free Society?

Programme:

#### 18.30 Inauguration of the Conference

Edita Hrdá, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the EU

Pavel Klucký, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Belgium

Introduction by Michael Žantovský, director of the Václav Havel Library

#### 18.45 – 19.45 Panel discussion

Věra Jourová, Deputy Chairman of the European Commission for values and transparency

Václav Štětka, Senior Lecturer in communication and media studies, Loughborough University



Havel in Munich

VÁCLAV HAVEL EUROPEAN DIALOGUES 2020

Do **FREE** Media  
Equal **FREE** Society?

9th December 2020 18:30 - 19:45 ONLINE

The event will be live-streamed on Facebook of each organising partner and also via [www.havelchannel.cz](http://www.havelchannel.cz)

**Symposium**  
**Václava Havla**  
**o lidských právech**  
**Václav Havel human**  
**rights symposium**

společně pořádá KnVH a F2000.

**12. a 14. 10. | HAVEL CHANNEL**

Tento virtuální formát, který nahrazuje každoroční Konferenci Václava Havla k Ceně za lidská práva, a bude i součástí letošního FORA 2000, vychází ze současných omezených podmínek pořádání velkých mezinárodních konferencí s ohledem na epidemii koronaviru.

Yevhen Hlibovytsky, Member of the board of trustees of the Ukrainian Public Service Broadcaster

Dan Michaels, Head of the Brussels office of The Wall Street Journal

#### Organisers:

Permanent Office of the Czech Republic in the EU, Czech Embassy in Belgium, Czech Centre in Brussels, Václav Havel Library

The annual Prague conference, scheduled for the first half of May 2020, was held on 11–12 May 2021, due to the pandemic.

## VH HUMAN RIGHTS PRIZE

The prize is bestowed in memory of Václav Havel, playwright, fighter against totalitarianism, leader of the 1989 Velvet Revolution, Czechoslovak and Czech president, and a symbol of vigilance against despotism. Individuals, non-governmental organisations and institutions advocating for adherence to human rights may be nominated. Alongside a diploma and a plaque, laureates of the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize receive a reward of EUR 60,000.

A seven-member committee headed by the president of the Parliamentary Assembly or their designee selects the recipient of the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize. Three jury members are named by the office of the Parliamentary Assembly and three by the Václav Havel Library in conjunction with the Charter 77 Foundation, conditional on none of them being currently in the Parliamentary Assembly. The committee assesses all the nominees and chooses three finalists, whose names are made public a month before the announcement of the winner at the first autumn plenary session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. All three finalists are invited to the prize announcement in Strasbourg before moving on to Prague for an international conference in honour of the laureate. The six independent members of the committee are appointed for two years and are allowed to continue for a second term.

In light of the pandemic, the announcement of the three finalists as well as of the winner of the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize was moved to 2021. However, we decided to remember the Prize in 2020 in its traditional October slot through an online conference entitled Václav Havel Human Rights Dialogues: Women's Rights at a Time of Crisis.



### 13-14. 10. | Havel Channel

#### **Václav Havel Human Rights Dialogues: Women's Rights at a Time of Crisis.**

Václav Havel Human Rights Dialogues: Women's Rights at a Time of Crisis followed on the tradition of holding an autumn conference to honour the laureate of the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize, which the Library bestows together with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Charter 77 Foundation.

The program was launched on Tuesday 13 October by the Debate with Respekt newspaper dedicated to the position of women in contemporary Czech society. It was moderated by Silvie Lauder. The guests were sociologist Marcela Linková; co-founder of the Konsent organisation, Johanna Nejedlová; and lawyer Pavla Špondrová.

On Wednesday 14 October, the main part of the program, held under the title Václav Havel Human Rights Dialogues: Women's Rights at a Time of Crisis, was organised by the Václav Havel Library in cooperation with Forum 2000 and as part of the Václav Havel Symposium on Human Rights. The symposium was inaugurated by Michael Žantovský, director of the Václav Havel Library, as the moderator of the international Dialogue on Women's Rights at a Time of Crisis, which was attended by the former US minister for foreign affairs Madeleine Albright, leader of the Belarusian democratic opposition Svjatlana Cichanouska, and Polish sociologist and journalist Karolina Wigura. Immediately after the close of the international dialogue, the program continued with two interviews by Jakub Szántó with leading representatives of women's rights: Najia Nasim (director of the Women for Afghan Women, an organisation which was one of the three finalists of the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize in 2015) and Hülya Gülbahar (a Turkish lawyer specialising in human rights who, at the invitation of the VHL, spoke at the conference for the VH Human Rights Prize in 2018).

Václav Havel Dialogues were concluded with short interviews entitled Three Questions for ..., in which Michaela Bakala, Magda Vášáryová, Nora Fridrichová and Tereza Engelová responded.

Organisers: The Václav Havel Library, Charter 77 Foundation, Forum 2000 and Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

The Václav Havel Human Rights Dialogues were held owing to kind support from the Sekyra Foundation.



*Presentation of The Works of Pavel Juráček in the Czech Centre in Berlin*



*Bohdan Holomíček: I'm Not Sad*



*Between Havel, Wallenstein and Magor*

## THE VÁCLAV HAVEL LIBRARY ABROAD

- 13–14/01 Czech Centre in Munich – Anniversary of the state visit by Václav Havel (Munich, Germany)
- 24–26/01 The presentation of the VHL and The Pavel Juráček Archive (Berlin, Germany)
- 11–13/09 BraK Book Fair (Bratislava, Slovakia)

## DOMESTIC EVENTS

### 16. 1. | Bohdan Holomíček: I'm Not Sad

Ceremonial launch of the Pocket VH Plays series.

The newly established Library book series, Pocket VH Plays, gives students and others the unique chance to carry Václav Havel's plays with them even if they don't have a bag or backpack over their shoulder. It is characterised by a pleasant format, a nice, easily legible font and above all unique content – what more could a reader wish for?

The first volume in the series is entitled *Já nejsem smutný (I'm Not Sad)* and contains *Audience* and *Unveiling*, the first two plays in which the legendary character Ferdinand Vaněk appeared.

The book and series as a whole was launched by Bohdan Holomíček, who shared recollections alongside photographs from the period when Václav Havel was writing the Vaněk plays.

### 10. 2. | Václav Havel: The Memorandum

The theatre group at Prague's Jan Neruda Gymnasium performed the play, directed by Filip H. Härtel.

The protagonist of *The Memorandum* (1965) is not a particular individual but ptydepe, an omnipresent yet elusive, incomprehensible and unmanageable artificial language. Václav Havel demonstrates language's immense power over mankind. Over our thoughts, actions and attitudes. But above all, he shows how easy it is to become part of such an artificial and ultimately nonsensical and aimless system in which we can in the end lose ourselves.

### 26. 2. | Prague – Berlin – Munich – Warsaw – Budapest – Washington – Moscow

During the first two months of his presidency in 1990, Václav Havel was able to visit the capitals of the neighbouring countries and both superpowers of the time. By doing so, he laid the foundations of Czechoslovak and Czech foreign policy on which we are still building today. Overcoming the issues of the past, close links to the neighbouring countries, regional cooperation,



Euro-Atlantic direction and freedom of own decision-making in matters of foreign policy are its enduring principles.

The first visits of Václav Havel were discussed by participants, witnesses and experts, such as Michael Žantovský, Alexandr Vondra, Tomáš Kafka, James Krapf, György Varga and Mirosław Jasiński.

The event was held in cooperation with the US Embassy in the Czech Republic.

### 13. 6. | Between Havel, Wallenstein and Magor

Half a day with the Václav Havel Library. A swift Saturday collage across genres and time: a workshop, discussion, screening, (authors') reading, theatre performance, music. A day when you could try for yourself what it feels like to suddenly find yourself seated between Václav Havel, Albrecht of Wallenstein and Ivan Martin Jirous.

#### Programme:

- 16.00 Havel workshop by Barbora Grečnerová with a screening of selected e-learning mini-series
- 16.30 Presentation of the VHL Archives by Veronika Pikola Brázdilová and Petr Kalaš
- 17.00 Commented screening of photographs by Ondřej Němec
- 18.00 Regional Facts: the Baroque in Jičín and local legends, presented by Pavel Hájek
- 19.00 Surprise by the Director of the Václav Havel Library, Michael Žantovský
- 20.00 Audience, the single-act play by Václav Havel, performed by the Divadlo na tahu theatre, directed by Andrej Krob and introduced by Anna Freimannová
- 21.00 The Swan Songs: Jáchym Topol reading poetry by Ivan Martin Jirous written in nearby Valdice prison, with musical accompaniment by Jakub Čermák.

### 18. 9. | Václav Havel: Vision 2000

Screening of a documentary by Juraj Herz that is virtually unknown in this country. It features President Václav Havel in conversation with the Oscar-winning actor Maximilian Schell about his vision for the millennium, which remains pertinent to this day.

The actor and the politician are also connected by the fact that at the time, Havel was barred from leaving Czechoslovakia and Schell read his acceptance speech at the presentation of the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade in Frankfurt in October 1989.

Tereza Herz Pokorná moderated the evening.

### 7. 10. | I Hid it Somewhere

Presentation of the most recently discovered work by Václav Havel.

Three years ago, the Václav Havel Library issued a one-off publication under the title *The Case of Charter 77: Vol. I. – Assault*, a fragment of a more substantial text in which Havel describes the weeks and months of persecution that followed the publication of Charter 77 at the start of 1977. The fragment, in which factual descriptions of events displaying Havel's typical attention to detail alternate with equally characteristic reflections on absurd aspects of the whole situation, was hidden by Havel to ensure the StB couldn't find it – and then he forgot where. It was only in 2016 that it was discovered in the estate of Havel's close friend, Zdeněk Urbánek, by his grandson, David Dušek. As has now become clear, it was just a small part of a more comprehensive text that is both a unique period testimony and work of literature.

The new Havel discovery was presented by Michael Žantovský, director of the Václav Havel Library, and David Dušek. Jáchym Topol read excerpts.

### 21. 11. | The Night of Theatres at the Václav Havel Library

Václav Havel: The Beggars' Opera. Našlose theatre ensemble from Sedlčany

In Václav Havel's *The Beggars' Opera*, thieves and mafiosi from the underworld behave like the highest political echelons do – they speak the same language and use the same means in their fight for power. A scoundrel is a scoundrel, an intriguer is an intriguer, whether they are seated at the Castle or in a pawnshop.

The amateur theatre ensemble from Sedlčany already made a successful guest performance in the Václav Havel Library with Václav Havel's first play, *The Garden Party*. They rehearsed *The Beggars' Opera* online, directed by Jaroslava Trojanová, during the spring lockdown. They could only do one live performance before another lockdown came.

For the 2020 Night of Theatres, they prepared at least a short film report from remote rehearsals of this play.

This was also to commemorate the 45th anniversary of the world premiere of this play in the pub in Horní Počernice, directed by Andrej Krob and his Divadlo na tahu theatre. The author and actors were able to trick the Secret Police, but for that they faced consequences for several years.

# Václav Havel Library Club

The Václav Havel Club is one of the Library's key activities for the public and is part of the World of Václav Havel. Within its framework, events targeted particularly at students and those interested in literature, theatre, contemporary history, political debate and general social themes are held at the Library's premises.

## HUMAN RIGHTS AT HOME AND ABROAD

### 6. 1. | Amputations: Stories from an Undeclared War

Igor Pomerantsev, a poet, radio dramatist and journalist with the BBC and Radio Free Europe, introduced a pictorial book by five authors focused on the tragedy of the war in Eastern Ukraine.

Amputation is a versatile metaphor for the excising of part of the body, of state territory and also of human consciousness. The heroes of Igor Pomerantsev's poetry collection *Amputace (Amputations)* are 12 volunteer soldiers who set off to protect their country and returned from the war without limbs. How to live? To forget or to remember? To reconcile oneself or to fight? As the officer Andrej Skorochod says, losing a leg is forever but losing Crimea or Donbas is not.

The evening also included a screening of excerpts from the documentary film *Amputation (2017)* by Igor Pomerantsev and Lydia Starodubceva. Other authors of the anthology, Boris Khersonskiy and Lyudmila Khersonskaya, also presented their work. Boris Khersonskiy's 2014 collection *Missa in tempore belli (Mass in a Time of War)* was a response in poetry form to the shock at the "amputation" of Crimea and the undeclared war in Donbas.

The Ukrainian poet Lyudmila Khersonskaya also focuses on the Russian-Ukrainian conflict. Czech readers had their first opportunity to become acquainted with her work with a selection from the 2018 collection *Vaulting the Ditch*. The translator and psychiatrist Džamila Stehlíková also shared her impressions from a trip to Eastern Ukraine in 2014.

Introduced by Michael Žantovský, director of the Václav Havel Library.

Interpretation into Czech was provided.

### 9. 1. | Amnesty

An amnesty may be criminal, premeditated or based on a desire for fundamental change. The new Czechoslovak president Václav Havel declared an amnesty on 1 January 1990. Later referred to as the great amnesty, it became associated with a rise in crime. However, it was intended to help society come to terms with a regime regarded as unjust to all as well as to allow a transformation of the repressive penal system.

The amnesty and the extent to which it was used to change criminal justice was discussed by philosopher and journalist Fedor Blaščák and lawyer Lenka Marečková, co-authors of the book *Amnestie (Amnesty)*, published on the 30th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution in an attempt not to defend the amnesty but to lay out the facts and place them in context, and John Bok, who along with Lenka Marečková and other dissidents helped calm unrest and revolts in Prisons at the turn of 1990.

Organised by the Václav Havel Library in cooperation with publishers Slovart.

### 9. 3. | The Kiev Maidan in the Eyes of Czech Journalists

Ukraine's bloody Revolution of dignity took place six years ago. How much have the country and the then revolutionaries changed? What remains of revolutionary ideals? How does experience of revolution and persistent state of war bring together, or divide, a country? What to do with aggressive Russia? And how do the Czech public actually perceive Ukrainian events? Do

we have anything in common? These questions were discussed by elite Czech journalists who not only were “there” six years ago but follow Ukrainian events to this day.

Guests: David Stulík, Jefim Fištejn, Josef Pazderka, Jakub Szántó and Petra Procházková.

Petr Vizina chaired the discussion.

### **21. 9. | A Quarter-Century with Lukashenko – What Next?**

Though Belarus is on the eastern border of the European Union, it remains an unknown country to the bloc’s citizens. It only makes the newspapers when its authoritarian leader decides to ignore a pandemic or plays at elections that are in fact nothing of the sort. The regime responds hysterically, censorship swings into full effect and opposition names are struck off electoral lists in advance or end up in jail before they have even tried to protest.

Guests: Kryścina Shyjanok, Petr Hlaváček, Ondřej Soukup.

Petruška Šustrová chaired the discussion.

### **13. 10. | Debate with Respekt: Women’s rights in a time of crisis**

Discussion featuring editors from the weekly Respekt and their guests on a topical issue.

Guests: sociologist Marcela Linková; co-founder of the Konsent organisation, Johanna Nejedlová; and lawyer Pavla Špondrová.

Chaired by Silvie Lauder.

### **13. 10. | Festival of Democracy at the Václav Havel Library**

The Festival of Democracy took its lead in terms of theme from the 24th Forum 2000 conference, which in 2020 was held purely online under the title “New world on the horizon? How to revive responsibility and solidarity.” Guests in discussions and lectures focused on finding a path to the renewal of responsibility and solidarity in a radically changing world.

### **16.00 – 17.30 The Role of Human Rights in the 21st Century**

When the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was approved in 1948 the world was a rather different place. Wars lasting several years and the horrors of the Holocaust had left their mark on a major part of society. In 2018 we celebrated the 70th anniversary of the approval of the UDHR as well as the 65th anniversary of the existence of the European Convention on Human Rights. Both key documents are undergoing a stress



*Festival of Democracy*

**FESTIVAL  
DEMOKRACIE**



test in the form of a transformation of the political milieu, a rise of illiberal regimes and climate change. Further challenges include digitalisation, artificial intelligence and issues surrounding the right to privacy and free speech in the online sphere. The world is changing – and the democratic systems of the entire world have to make an adequate and timely response.

Guests: Anna Šabatová, former ombudsman; Linda Sokáčová, Amnesty International ČR director; Šimon Pánek, Člověk v tísni, executive director; Aleš Gerloch, head of the Department of Legal Theory and Legal Education, Faculty of Law, Charles University; and Jan Kysela, head of the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Law, Charles University.

Chaired by Jan Macháček.

## 29. 10 | Donbas – A Report from Ukraine's Conflict

The work of Slovak reporter Tomáš Forró centres on crisis zones and military conflicts around the world. He presented the Czech translation of his new book *Donbas* (Paseka, 2020), in which he describes his reporting assignment inside the war in Ukraine, at the Václav Havel Library.

What surprised him most? What dangerous situations did he find himself in? What kind of people did he encounter and how did he go about getting their personal testimonies? A discussion evening with the author and other journalists focused on events in Ukraine, chaired by Ondřej Soukup.

Organised by the Václav Havel Library in cooperation with the Paseka publishing house.

## 11. 11. | Debate with Respekt: Belarus Contemporary

Is change in Belarus still possible, or has Lukashenko the dictator strengthened his power, and the hope for free elections gone? And what can the West, including the Czech Republic, do for Belarus?

Guests: Max Shchur, a Belarusian writer and translator; Tomáš Brolík, journalist, Respekt; Kryšcína Shyjanok, the BLR ČR initiative, translator.

Chaired by Ondřej Kundra.

## 2. 12. | Ukraine's Independence

Ukraine celebrated twenty-nine years of independence. At the Pride Parade in Maidan, the slogan was "Independence can't be joked about". The fragility of freedom and democracy, the Russian-Ukrainian war and the paths to peace in the Ukraine were discussed by Jan Šír of the Faculty of Social Sciences,

Charles University, and David Svoboda of the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes.

The debate was chaired by Jáchym Topol.

## DEBATES ON TOPICAL ISSUES – US, EUROPE, THE WORLD

### 14. 1. | Debate with Respekt: Suleimani and the Threat of War

Donald Trump started his greatest gamble and the world is considering whether it is or is not a safer place.

Guests: Zora Hesová, analyst and a scholar of Islamic studies, Charles University; Tomáš Lindner, a foreign editor of Respekt; Jan Daniel, Association for International Affairs; and Karel Schwarzenberg.

The debate was chaired by Ondřej Kundra.

### 5. 3. | Slovakia and Czechia at a Crossroads?

Until the final moment, it was unclear how the elections in Slovakia would go. Would the rise of the extreme right continue, or could a government be formed from democratic opposition parties? Meanwhile in the Czech Republic it seemed that neither scandals nor opposition parties could undermine the position of PM Andrej Babiš. What did the last elections tell us about Slovak society? What shape is Czech and Slovak democracy in more than 30 years after attaining freedom? And what role should journalists play in this area?

Debate participants: writer and journalist Martin M. Šimečka, SME daily journalist Zuzana Kovačič Hanzelová and Deník N journalists Kirill Ščeblykin and Filip Zajíček.

Lenka Kabrhelová moderated.

### 6. 5. | VHL Online Discussion: Will the European Union Survive the Pandemic?

Even though it seemed that the virus crisis in Europe had seen, at least for the time being, its culmination, no one was able to tell how the crisis would continue and how we would be able to cope with its health, economic and social impacts.

EU member states had so far fought the disease primarily at the national level. Was the EU caught napping or did it lack the appropriate competence? Many European officials, including the chairwoman of the EC, von der Leyen, are worried about the future cohesion of the European Union, Euro zone and the Schengen area. Critics claim that the EU bodies are unable to cope with the crisis, while others rather encourage principal



VHL Online Discussion: Will Czech Culture Survive the Pandemic?



reforms. There is no unity even in the approach to non-liberal trends and issues of democracy and state of law in Hungary, Poland and other countries. How is the role of the EU during the crisis seen by European citizens and voters? Can the EU get out of this crisis in better shape, or could the development actually intensify its crisis? These topics were discussed by the deputy chairman of the EC, Věra Jourová, members of the EP, Michal Šimečka and Alexandr Vondra, and Martin Buchtík, director of the STEM analytical institute.

The event was chaired by Michael Žantovský, director of the Václav Havel Library.

### **13. 5. | VHL Online Discussion: Will Czech Culture Survive the Pandemic?**

Which cultural organisations does the Culture Rescue Programme advised by the minister apply to? Will only contribution-based organisations see support coming? And how are freelance artists going to withstand the crisis? The virus stopped cultural life, and it isn't clear whether many planned projects in various genres will actually be carried out, while some others, after much effort has been invested in them, can be rescheduled – but to when?

The present and future of (not only) the cultural scene is full of questions. Finances for live culture is one of the topics that appear regularly in the Czech milieu. But are they able to be voiced with the same loudness at a time when economic stability, and maybe even the actual democracy of states, is facing great challenges? And can culture revert to the same shape it had been in before the pandemic?

Guests: Zlata Holušová, director of the Colours of Ostrava music festival; singer David Koller; Milan Gelnar, director of the Argo publishers; Leoš Válka, founder and director of DOX – Centre for Contemporary Art; and Jiří Peňás, editor of Echo weekly.

The event was chaired by Michael Žantovský.

### **27. 5. | VHL Online Discussion: Will the Media Survive the Pandemic?**

Printed media are experiencing a huge crisis, as the pandemic has moved the public into the online world. News servers, on the contrary, are taking advantage of the situation and we are experiencing the en-masse introduction of paid plans. Public corporation media excel in informing and in performing their journalism, but as a result of the crisis, they have ceased to produce cultural, art, documentary and other more demanding formats, by which they actually question one of the reasons for their existence. At the time of the crisis, CNN Prima News



began broadcasting as a new TV news station, etc. The media will certainly survive the pandemic, but nothing will be like it was before. What was the shape of the Czech media before the crisis, and what will they be like when they emerge from it?

Guests: Professor of Media Studies Jan Jirák (FSV UK and MUP); Filip Rožánek (Lupa.cz), a journalist focusing on the media; and sociologist Marína Urbániková (FSS MU).

The event was chaired by Martin Groman, chairman of the Ferdinand Peroutka Association.

### 1. 6. | Drought in Czechia

In connection with both climate change and the intensive economic usage of the landscape, the subject of drought has become increasingly common. Indeed, the Czech environment minister has spoken of the worst drought in 500 years. However, a glance outside one's window might give the impression that nature in the Czech Republic is blooming. Is the Czech countryside genuinely drying up? Do we have the power and the technology to keep water in the ground? And does the will to do so exist?

Taking part in the debate were Jan Skalík, head of the Save the Forests programme of Czech Friends of the Earth; student activist Kristýna Dvořáková; chairman of the Agricultural Association of the CR, Martin Pýcha; Adam Vizina from the T.G. Masaryk Water Research Institute; and forester and farmer Daniel Pitek.

Chaired by Professor Bedřich Moldan.

Introduced by Jáchym Topol.

### 4. 6. | China and the Czech Republic – A Strategic Partnership?

In early June in the final year of normalisation, people in Czechoslovakia followed the events of the “Beijing Spring” via foreign broadcasts, sympathising with the victims of the Tiananmen Square massacre. A quarter-century later, the Czech government launched a “restart” of Czech-Chinese relations and the People’s Republic of China became our strategic partner.

Recent years have seen an unprecedented rise in Chinese influence around the world, though at the same time there is increasing distrust of Beijing and tensions between China and the US are intensifying. In a report in 2019 the European Commission declared China to be a “systemic rival”. The coronavirus pandemic has revealed both the weaknesses and strengths of the Chinese political system and its crude methods in both domestic and international politics. In the meantime, the Czech Republic’s China policy, which is controlled by the Office of the President and the more or less undisguised interests of private entities, is floundering.



*Drought in Czechia*



*Will Freedom Survive the Pandemic?*

Professor Olga Lomová and guests from Sinopsis discussed the direction being taken by China and the direction the Czech Republic ought to be taking.

### 16. 6 | Debate with Respekt: Czech-Russian Relationships. Why Are They So Bad?

A debate on the up-to-date topic of the so-called ricin case. Guests: Pavel Novotný, politician and chairman of Praha-Řeporyje; Michael Romancov, political geographer and pedagogue; Veronika Víchová, head of the Kremlin Watch Programme, European Values; and Gabriela Svárovská, state official and diplomat who worked in President Václav Havel's Office. The debate was chaired by Ondřej Kundra.

### 25. 6. | Will Freedom Survive the Pandemic?

A virtual debate about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the basic rights and freedoms associated with the principles of liberal democracy, inspired by the Czech edition of the book-length essay *Is it tomorrow, yet?* How the pandemic changes Europe by the sociologist and politologist Ivan Krastev.

The issue was debated by Ivan Krastev, Center for Liberal Studies, Sofia; Jiří Přibáň, University of Cardiff, Wales; Jacques Rupnik, Fondation des Sciences Politiques, Paris; Magda Vašáryová, CEVRO Institut, Prague; Karolina Wigura, Kultura Liberalna, Warsaw; and moderated by Michael Žantovský, Václav Havel Library, Prague.

The event took place in cooperation with the Charles University Centre for Political Philosophy, Ethics and Religion, and Karolinum Press.

### 8. 9. | Debate with Respekt: The Czech Mission to Taiwan

The journey by Senate Chairman Miloš Vystrčil to Taiwan was one of the most important events in our post-November foreign policy. What did it show, how did it affect our relations with China and what are its benefits and risks?

Guests: Journalists Tomáš Etzler and Kateřina Šafaříková; Miloš Vystrčil, politician and chairman of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic; and Pavel Fischer, chairman of the Committee for Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security.

The debate was chaired by Ondřej Kundra.

### 30. 9. | Debate with Miloš Vystrčil

A debate with Miloš Vystrčil on freedom, the role of human rights in foreign policy, on parliamentary democracy and the importance of the Senate, chaired by Michael Žantovský.



*Debate with Miloš Vystrčil*

## 1. 10. | Petr Fischer: Was That a Crisis?

What did Czech society, and the entire world, go through in the initial months of the Covid-19 threat? What did we learn about ourselves?

Petr Fischer, one of few Czech journalists capable of precisely and quickly identifying events and revealing the meaning of gestures and speeches, closely monitored and interpreted government measures, politicians' moves and the response of citizens.

The sociologist Tereza Stöckelová and the computing expert and social media analyst Josef Šlerka discussed the social, political and economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic with Petr Fischer. The author of the book's foreword, the legal philosopher and sociologist Jiří Přebáň, also attended.

Organised by the Václav Havel Library in cooperation with the Novela bohemia publishing house.

## 2. 11. | Lost in Translation VI: How the Pandemic Affected the Book Market

Did the first wave of the corona virus change the market in books and edition plans? What impact does the current situation have on the already difficult conditions translators of literature endure? Translators, editors and publishers discussed what to do next in the time of the pandemic.

The event was held by the Czech Translators' Guild in cooperation with the Václav Havel Library, the Překladaatelé Severu (Translators from North Bohemia) association and the Knihex platform.

Guests: publisher Veronika Benešová Hudečková, translator Tereza Semotamová, translator Michal Švec and editor and translator Hana Zahradníková.

Chaired by Anna Štičková.

## 5. 11. | Presidential Election in the USA and What It Means

What the American presidential election brought and what it means for the future of the United States and the whole world was discussed by five leading diplomats and experts in American policy.

The Czech-English conversation on the topic of one of the most important events this autumn was attended by Rastislav Káčer, the new ambassador of Slovakia to the Czech Republic and a former ambassador of Slovakia to Washington; Petr Kolář, a former Czech ambassador to Washington and Moscow; and Cameron Munter, a former US ambassador to Islamabad and Belgrade and a former deputy ambassador in Prague. During



*Squeezed-out Europe, Or Europe's "Eastern Question"*



*Martin Řezníček: The Disunited States?*

the debate, we connected live to Martin Palouš, a former Czech ambassador, in Miami, Florida.

Chaired from the Václav Havel Library by Michael Žantovský. The event was held as part of the American Spring festival.

### 19. 11. | Squeezed-out Europe, Or Europe's "Eastern Question"

The publishers Academia published a book entitled *The Squeezed-out Europe? Contexts and Perspectives of Europe's "Eastern Question"*. The authors analyse the part of the continent which lies in Europe in geographical terms, yet after the breakdown of the Soviet Empire got stuck in geopolitical terms somewhere between the West and the East. Three decades after the fall of communism and the end of the Soviet-Russian hegemony, that region, which includes some of the post-Soviet countries and a part of former Yugoslavia, became some sort of 'squeezed-out Europe'.

What is the direction that Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova have taken? What is the future of Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan? What developments can we expect in the Western Balkans, i.e. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Kosovo, North Macedonia and Serbia? What is the role that Russian, China, Turkey or Iran are playing?

Guests: Petr Hlaváček (FFUK/FLÚAV ČR), Jaroslav Kurfürst (Ministry for Foreign Affairs) and Michael Romancov (FSV UK/MUP).

Chaired by Jáchym Topol.

### 23. 11. | Czech Left-wing Parties

Are Czech left-wing parties in decay? Where did the voters of the Social Democrats disappear? Is ANO a left-wing movement? Are the Pirates a modern left-wing party for the young? What are the key topics for Czech left-wing parties, and is the left/right distinction actually still relevant in the Czech political scene? These and many other questions were answered by guests in the next part of the Young Politics series, this time focused on the country's left-wing parties as well as the global trends in the left-wing movement.

Guests: documentarist and editor Apolena Rychlíková and leading political commentator Jindřich Šídlo.

The debate was chaired by Daniela Šaldová and Gor Vartazaryan of the Mladá politika (Young Politics) association.

### 24. 11. | Martin Řezníček: The Disunited States?

America before and after the election.

Martin Řezníček has regularly presented the latest news on Czech TV as a reporter and presenter. When he was Czech

TV's reporter in Washington in 2012–2017, he delivered original and also profoundly informational news for the Czech public. At that time, he wrote the book *The Disunited States: America As Seen Not Only by a TV Camera*. He describes his meetings with interesting personalities and looks into some aspects of American life which can seem strange to us Europeans, to say the least. And he discussed this book about America as an exceptional and also an ordinary country with its specific problems with the director of the Václav Havel Library, Michael Žantovský, who himself was a Czech ambassador to the USA.

The debate was chaired by Jana Sehnálková of the Department of North American Studies at the FSV UK. The event was held as part of the American Spring festival.

#### 14. 12. | Debate with Respekt: How is Covid Going to Change the Czech Education System

Teachers tried remote teaching, parents realised how difficult it is to educate their offspring, (some) pupils and students realised how much they missed school. The pandemic struck Czech schools like a storm. What did we learn about its shape? And are some of the changes going to be permanent?

The debate was attended by Petra Mazancová who teaches at the Josef Jungmann Grammar School in Litoměřice and is chairperson of the Teachers' Platform; Tomáš Feřtek of EDUin; and director of the Steady Conference of Associations in Education, Silvie Pýchová.

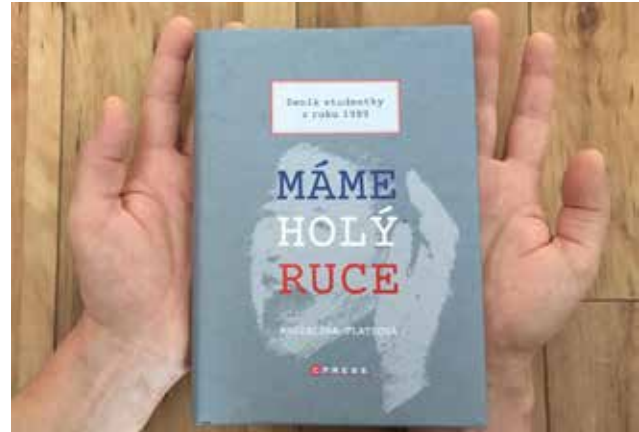
The debate was chaired by Silvie Lauder.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

#### 20. 2. | How Kiev's Maidan Changed Ukrainian Society

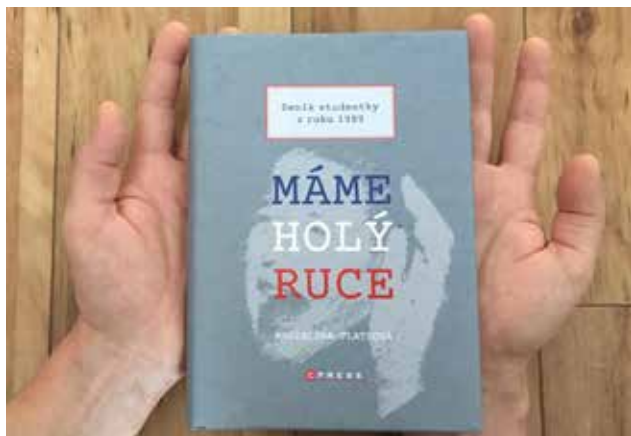
February 20 marked six years since the bloody events of the Revolution of Dignity on Kiev's Maidan square. Its primary outcome was not political change in the country but first and foremost the birth of a strong civic society that has been an active participant in, or even initiator of, positive change in recent years. How did Ukraine change during and after the Maidan? How did former revolutionaries turn into reformers of their country, and how successful have they been?

Taking part in the debate was historian and journalist Oleksandr Zinchenko, one of the most important Maidan activists (who also pushed through the renaming of a Kiev street as Václav Havel Street) and David Stulík, an analyst at the European Values think tank who served as press spokesperson of the European Commission in Kiev at the time of the Maidan.



*We Are Unarmed... And Also Today?*





*We Are Unarmed... And Also Today?*

### 3. 3. | We Are Unarmed... And Also Today?

Writer Magdaléna Platzová introduced her new book *Máme holý ruce* (*We Are Unarmed*), about the events of 1989, and helmed a debate on the theme "History doesn't repeat itself". What were we fighting for in 2020, and how effective were our strategies? What can we learn from history? And is it even possible to pass on a historical experience?

These issues and other topical questions were discussed by socially engaged guests: Apolena Rychlíková, a documentary maker and editor at the A2Iarm website, Anna Huliciusová, a secondary school teacher and head of the Global Risks seminar, Martin Fischer, Universities for Climate activist, and writer and journalist Petr Placák, editor-in-chief of the Babylon review.

### 20. 5. | VHL Online Discussion: Has Our Society Discovered Seniors?

At the beginning of the pandemic, our society was mainly interested in the situation of healthcare staff. Only after the first senior affected by the corona virus had died did the public become more interested in the oldest members of the population. Suddenly there were volunteers who wanted to help seniors. They sewed face masks or collected mobile phones and tablets to be given to seniors to allow them to communicate with their family. Every day these activities increased. How do experts explain this sudden boost in interest in the oldest generation? Is this inter-generational solidarity only temporary? Or was it there before the crisis, but we just didn't know about it?

Guests: Gerontologist Iva Holmerová has focused on topics of seniors for a long time. She is the professional guarantor of the doctoral programme of Longevity Studies at the Faculty of Human Studies, Charles University.

Lucie Nekvasilová is the coordinator of Sensational Seniors SenSen, an association of forty thousand pro-active seniors covering the whole country. She has organised workshops and discussions of seniors and also addressed the topic of fake news and seniors.

The presenter Judita Matyášová has researched inter-generational relationships and coordinated the Czech section of the Letter to a Grandchild international project, which analyses what messages there are from seniors to their grandchildren.

### 18. 6. | If Only for One Day

June 18, 2020

His Holiness the Dalai Lama Tenzin Gyatso celebrated his 85th birthday on 6 July. In that connection, this gathering focused on various aspects of his place in Czech political and

philosophical discourse, on the premiere of the restored student documentary *Óm*, which maps the Dalai Lama's first visit to Czechoslovakia, as well as a short Tibetan ceremony for his long life.

Among the invited speakers were scientist and philosopher Ivan M. Havel, poet and translator Saša Neuman, Tibetan Studies expert Jarmila Ptáčková, sinologist Martin Hála, writer Eda Kriseová, Forum 2000 director Jakub Klepal and other supporters and friends of His Holiness.

### 29. 1. | Unified in Diversity: The Premiere Screening

The inauguration of the documentary film about the European Parliament and European Union. It surveys the basic functions of the EU institutions, historical contexts and up-to-date topics which influence, or are soon to influence, the whole of Europe.

The film interviews six EP members from five member states: Luděk Niedermayer (Czech Republic), Angelika Niebler (Germany), Jonas Fernandes (Spain), Marek Belka (Poland), Michal Šimečka (Slovakia) and Reinhard Butikofer (Germany).

### 3. 9. | Housing for the City and a City for Housing

A lack of apartments has been holding back the capital for some time. Protracted and inadequate construction work, particularly in recent years, has led to a sharp rise in property prices and rents. The development of the shared economy is pushing private housing out of the city centre. Alongside apartments in commercial projects beyond the price range of the average young family and the limited range of social housing set aside for the most disadvantaged, there is a crying need for the development of apartment projects for the middle-income group on the cooperative principle and with municipal support. Could this help lead to more affordable flats becoming available? Is the city prepared to support such projects? Can some use be made of the sharp fall in demand for short-term rentals sparked by the Covid-19 crisis, bringing Praguers back to apartments in the downtown area, if nothing else?

These and more questions were discussed by Hana Marvanová, Prague City Hall councillor for legislation, public administration and housing support, Tomáš Lapáček, director of the Strategy Department at the Prague Institute of Planning and Development, and economist and journalist Miroslav Zámečník. Michael Žantovský moderated.



*Housing for the City and a City for Housing*







*Václav Havel's Living Room: The Freedom to Inform*

### 17. 9. | We Were Just Passing

What role does the individual play in society? And what is the value of personal courage in a time of repression? Why is it important today to remember extraordinary lives? Attempting to answer those questions is the book *Jen jsme šli kolem (We Were Just Passing)* (CPress, Albatros media, 2020) by journalist and head of the organisation Elpida Jiří Hrabě – and guests at this discussion evening also thrashed them out.

The book is a collection of interviews with extraordinary figures that have appeared over almost 15 years in *Vital*, an intergenerational magazine published by Elpida.

The book presentation was attended by the authors of the interviews – journalist Jan H. Vitvar, photographer Jan Bartoš and director and producer Hana Třeštíková, as well as the personalities that gave them: painter and book illustrator Věra Nováková, radio reporter Karel Tejkal, author of a book about priest Josef Toufar Miloš Doležal and architect and writer Michael Třeštík.

Radio Wave presenter Bára Šichanová moderated the evening.

### 24. 9. | Life After Returning from the Streets

They have no home yet wish to contribute to society. What links the organisations *Kuchařky bez domova (The Homeless Cooks)*, *Pragulic (Prague Street)* and *Přestupní stanice (Transfer Station)*? They are places that transform lives, providing people without a home with jobs and support. Attendees learnt about the origins of these innovative projects that bring those with nowhere to live back into society, highlight the issue of homelessness, combat prejudice and bring those without and with a home together.

Guests: Eva Dudová, founder of *Přestupní stanice*, Magdalena Hrdličková from the projects *Jako doma (Help Yourself)* and *Jídelnu Kuchařek bez domova (Homeless Cooks Canteen)*, and Roman, a guide with the *Pragulic* organisation.

The evening began with a presentation of the results of a nationwide census of the homeless by Petr Holpuch, a sociologist with the Research Institute for Labour and Social Affairs.

Martin Churavý moderated.

*Organised by the Committee of Good Will ' Olga Havlová Foundation in cooperation with the Václav Havel Library.*

### 17. 11. | Václav Havel's Living Room

The event was organised by the Václav Havel Library and the 'Díky, že můžem' NGO as part of the 'Korzo Narodni' event.

**12.00–13.00 The Freedom to Create**

During the communist period in our country, artistic work was for most of the time under the regime's strict control. Free artistic expression was limited and in many cases even punished by the authorities. What is it like with free creative work today? Is it really free, or does it have its own limits even today? What is its role in society, and does it succeed in fulfilling this role?

Guests: Katarzia and Vladimír Š18.

Chaired by Hana Slívová.

**13.45–14.45 The Freedom to Help**

Civil society saw a major decline during the communist regime. Humanitarian organisations, including the Czechoslovak Red Cross, were included in the system of the so-called National Front as the only possible framework from any social and political activities. State authorities controlled its functioning as well as staffing. What is the freedom to help like today? Are there any systemic hindrances which prevent people from caring for those in need? What are the challenges which NGOs in health-care and humanitarian aid face today?

Guests: Kateřina Vacková and Tomáš Šebek.

Chaired by Barbora Šichanová.

**15.30–16.30 The Freedom to Inform**

Controlling the media was a typical phenomenon of the former regime. The information to be presented was purposely filtered and twisted to reinforce the regime's position. How did the media sphere change after 1989 with the newly acquired freedom of expression? What shape is it in now? Are we as a society able to handle freedom of information?

Guests: Kateřina Vacková and Tomáš Šebek

Chaired by Barbora Šichanová.

**17.15–18.15 The Freedom of Choice**

17 November 1989 marked a major change to understanding the world for whole generations of people living in Czechoslovakia or elsewhere. While up to then, the official doctrine of historical determinism ruled, which predetermined the future so much that it often required that changes be made to the past, after a quick moment of history's end an uncertain, yet open future appeared before us. While until then, an individual's fate and career were considerably determined by his class origin and loyalty to the official doctrine, an individual was now facing the choice between various alternative fates and careers. While up to then, lifestyle was governed by the ideas of classical Marxist philosophers about the new socialist man, individuals were now



*Information Service – Three Decades of Independent Czech Media*

able to determine their own lifestyle. New opportunities to travel, buy, educate and entertain slowly made us realise that having a choice isn't a certain type of freedom, but freedom in itself.

This historical moment and its reflection today in society, culture and human conscience were discussed by close collaborators of Václav Havel, namely sociologist and diplomat Martin Bútora, dramatist and pedagogue Petr Oslzly, writer Eda Kriseová, and psychologist and diplomat Michael Žantovský, who also chaired this panel.

## 20. 11. | Information Service – Three Decades of Independent Czech Media

One of the latest acquisitions of the Václav Havel Library for its public access digital archives were all the issues of the bulletin entitled *Informační servis* (Information Service), the first issue of which was released 31 years ago, on 20 November 1989. Even though its name has almost vanished from public knowledge now, it was really the first printed periodical which brought out independent news in Czechoslovakia. It was only published for a few months, but led to the establishment of the *Respekt* weekly, which continues still today.

The adventures of publishing a newspaper in revolutionary times and the situation of the independent media of the last three decades were discussed by Jáchym Topol, one of the founders of *Informační servis*, and other members of its editorial board, namely journalists Zbyněk Petráček (today *Lidové noviny*) and Jaroslav Spurný (today *Respekt*).

The evening was chaired by Erika Zlamalová.

## MEMORY AND TOTALITARIANISM

### 28. 1. | Přemysl Houda: The Normalisation Festival

*Normalizační festival (The Normalisation Festival)* is an original monograph about Czechoslovak late socialism, in particular the late socialist public sphere, which today is regarded as toxic. The book's author, Přemysl Houda, eschews the dichotomy of dead and living water and shows that it was indeed possible to do something meaningful with the grey words of socialism at that time.

The book's author spoke with the political scientist Pavel Barša, editor and literary critic Eva Klíčová and editor of the A2 fortnightly, Matěj Mětelec, while the political scientist and philosopher Milan Znoj moderated.

## 6. 2. | A Christian Struggle – Anastáz Opasek and Opus Bonum

Petr Placák introduced his new book *Křesťanský zápas o českou věc – Působení opata Opaska a organizace Opus bonum v čs. exilu* (*A Christian Struggle with a Czech Focus – Abbot Opasek's Activities and the Opus Bonum Organisation in the Czechoslovak Exile Community*). The book explores one of the most notable anti-communist initiatives when thanks to their openness a broad variety of streams in the exile community managed to come together via the Roman Catholic Church. These included conservatives, liberals and greens, as well as former Communists, members of the Czech nobility, representatives of the Czechoslovak underground, Catholics and Evangelicals and activists of Jewish origin.

Guests at the book's launch included the writer Ivan Binar, Dana Němcová, Vienna pub operator Jiří Chmel and Radio Free Europe editor Martin Schulz.

Dáša Vokatá concluded the evening by singing the exiles' anthem.



*A Christian Struggle – Anastáz Opasek and Opus Bonum*

## 11. 2. | Debate with Respekt: The Drama in Lidice

The forced withdrawal of Martina Lehmannová, director of the Lidice Memorial, drew attention again to a case which has been argued about by historians for several years: Did one of Lidice's women inform about its Jewish tenant just a week before the Nazi raised the village? And should Štěpánka Mikešová, who died two months later in Oswiecim after being dragged away by the Gestapo, be remembered together with other Lidice victims?

The complicated war and post-war reality was discussed by Vojtěch Kyncl, a researcher from the Institute of History of the Czech Academy of Sciences; Gabriela Havlůjová of the Spolek pro zachování českého odboje (Maintain the Czech Resistance association); and Viktor Janák, the curator of collections of the Lidice Memorial.

The debate was chaired by Silvie Lauder.



## 25. 2. | Faces of Normalisation

Normalization has earned a reputation in society as being a bearable, "goulash" communism, during which people escaped to their cottage or the records of Karel Gott. In reality, it spelled years of devastation.

The book *Tváře normalizace* (*Faces of Normalisation*) was brought out by Deník N as a contribution to the mosaic of understanding of the country's past. The authors opted to tell specific human stories that, despite their specificity, deliver a stronger

sense of the mechanisms and atmosphere of the time than academic studies. Together, the stories of the regime's well-known and rank and file protagonists form a convincing portrait of that time.

The publication was discussed by historian Libor Svoboda, writer Jiří Padevět and its editors Eliška Černá and Jan Wirnitzer.

Introduced by Ján Simkanič, director of publishers N Media.  
Deník N journalist Jana Ustohalová moderated.

## 28. 2. | An Orwellian Ministry of Truth? Debate on the Czechoslovak Judicial System of the 1950s

Two new publications exploring the Czechoslovak judicial system of the 1950s, *Lexikon nejvyšších představitelů československé justice a prokuratury v letech 1948–1989* (*Lexicon of Senior Representatives of the Czechoslovak Judicial and Prosecution Systems, 1948–1989*) and *Ministerstvo spravedlnosti v letech 1948–1953* (*The Ministry of Justice, 1948–1953*), were presented during this discussion with representatives of Charles University's Faculty of Law and the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes.

Guests: historians Jaroslav Pažout and Adam Zítek and legal historians Lukáš Blažek, Ivana Bláhová and Daniela Němečková.

Organised by the Václav Havel Library in cooperation with the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes as part of the 14th edition of the Mene Tekel festival against totalitarianism, evil and violence and for national memory.

## 28. 2. | Screening of The Last Cyclist

Virtually unknown in the Czech Republic, Karel Švenk's satirical and allegorical cabaret comedy *The Last Cyclist* was created at the Terezín concentration camp but never made it past dress rehearsals.

Jana Šedová, who played Mánička, was the only original cast member to survive the Holocaust. In 1961, with the help of Darek Vostřel, she reconstructed it "from memory". This version was the basis for a play by American writer Naomi Patz that since 2008 has been performed many times, particularly at universities in the US and Mexico. A 2017 production by Edward Einhorn at the La MaMa Theater was filmed and was presented to viewers 'almost symbolically' at the Václav Havel Library by the director himself.

Einhorn, a director and playwright, heads New York's Untitled Theater #61: A Theater of Ideas, which he set up 25 years ago. His authorial and directorial focus has been marked by two passions: Jewish culture and Theatre of the Absurd. Both

gradually led him also to Czech culture. In 2006 he organised the now legendary Havel Festival in New York, during which the complete plays of Václav Havel were performed, most with the author in attendance. Einhorn also organised a festival of Jewish theatre in New York in 2009.

Organised by the Václav Havel Library as part of the 14th edition of the Mene Tekel festival against totalitarianism, evil and violence and for national memory.

### 2. 3. | What Happened to You, Číhošť?

Seventy years later, the violent death of Jan Toufar (on 25 February 1950), who was a priest in the village of Číhošť, still raises many disturbing questions, inspires artists and spurs journeys into the past and to fateful places. Presentation of Miloš Doležal books *Když není motorka, lépe chodit pěšky* (*If There's No Motorbike, It's Better to Go On Foot*) and *Velký pátek P. Josefa Toufara* (*Fr. Josef Toufar's Good Friday*) with a debate and readings from literary treatments of the Číhošť case from the 1950s to the present.

Taking part in the discussion were historian Tomáš Petráček, postulator of Toufar's beatification process, and the literary historian and editor Jan Wiendl.

Actors Jana Franková and David Novotný appeared.

Miloš Doležal hosted the evening.

### 6. 3. | Ján Langoš, Guardian of Memory

The life story of dissident and politician Ján Langoš, co-founder of the Public Against Violence movement, federal interior minister from 1990 to 1992 and founder of Slovakia's National Memory Institute. Drawing on photographs and archival footage, the documentary *Strážce paměti Ján Langoš* (*Ján Langoš, Guardian of Memory*) (directed by Břetislav Rychlík, original idea and screenplay by Alexander Balogh and Břetislav Rychlík) follows his widow Gaby as she visits a number of important places in his life and also features recollections from his childhood friends, two daughters, brother, colleagues and friends, accompanied by photographs and archival footage. The film doesn't set out to map Ján Langoš's life. Rather it attempts, in poetic cinematic language, to sketch the journey of an engaged person who tackled evil (and not just communism) head-on, a person governed by the belief that we must find the courage to be responsible for our own fates.

Guests: Alexander Balogh, Břetislav Rychlík and Gaba Langošová.





*VHL Online Discussion: Who Really Liberated Prague?*

#### 4. 5. | VHL Online Discussion: Who Really Liberated Prague?

What were the roles of the Vlasov Army, the Red Army and the Czechs in the liberation? Did the Prague Uprising come too late? Why did the Americans not come? And should Konev, Vlasov or Kutlvašr deserve a statue?

Guests: Pavel Kmoch, historian, commentator and film advisor; Eduard Stehlík, army historian and writer; and Pavel Žáček, historian, journalist and politician.

Chaired by Jan Kalous, historian of the Museum of the 20th Century Memory.

The event was held by the Václav Havel Library in cooperation with the Museum of the 20th Century Memory. The event was part of the mini-series of debates on the Liberation of Prague and the phenomenon of Marshal Konev.

#### 11. 5. | VHL Online Discussion: Marshal Konev and the 20th Century

Marshal the Liberator, or Marshal the Occupant? How did he make it to the leadership of the Red Army? What role did he play in the defeat of the Nazis and the liberation of Czechoslovakia? And what was his role in the suppression of the Hungarian Uprising, the building of the Berlin Wall, the August invasion of Czechoslovakia and other post-war military actions?

Guests: Jan Adamec, historian and political scientist; Jiří Fidler, historian, writer and translator; David Svoboda, historian, Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes.

Chaired by historian Jan Kalous.

The event was held by the Václav Havel Library in cooperation with the Museum of the 20th Century Memory. The event was part of the mini-series of debates on the Liberation of Prague and the phenomenon of Marshal Konev.

#### 18. 5. | VHL Online Discussion: Marshal Konev in Art and Propaganda

Why was Marshal Konev's statue built no earlier than in 1980? Was it truly to remember the end of the war, or was it rather a symbol of reinforcing Soviet power in the "normalised" Czechoslovakia?

Guests: David Svoboda, historian, Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes; Petr Koura, historian and political scientist; and Zdeněk Lukeš, historian of architecture.

Chaired by Petr Blažek, historian and commentator.

The event was held by the Václav Havel Library in cooperation with the Museum of the 20th Century Memory. The event



was part of the mini-series of debates on the Liberation of Prague and the phenomenon of Marshal Konev.

### 25. 5. | VHL Online Discussion: Memorial Diplomacy and Hybrid War

How do we care for war graves and memorials? What care do they receive abroad? Why and how did the statue of Marshal Konev and other memorials become the subject of disinformation campaigns?

Guests: Gabriela Havlůjová, historian and chairperson of the Spolek pro zachování českého odboje (Maintain the Czech Resistance association); Jefim Fištejn, journalist and commentator; Eduard Stehlík, army historian and writer.

Chaired by Michael Žantovský, Director of the Václav Havel Library.

The event was held by the Václav Havel Library in cooperation with the Museum of the 20th Century Memory. The event was part of the mini-series of debates on the Liberation of Prague and the phenomenon of Marshal Konev.

### 24. 6. | Telling Stories in the Families of Holocaust Survivors

They survived the concentration camps and started new lives after the war. Some wanted to “erase” their memories, others spoke about them constantly. Many survivors didn’t tell their offspring about their pasts, fearing that they would pass their trauma on to them, and refused to discuss their Jewish identity. They believed that by keeping silent they would protect their children from further problems that hung over them in the communist period. It was only in the 1990s that this subject was gradually aired within families. Věra Roubalová discussed the experiences of the second and third generation of survivors, who to this day are dealing with how their predecessors’ tragic fates have shaped them.

Věra Roubalová is a psychotherapist who for 20 years helped, alongside Helena Klimova, the client therapy group Families After the Holocaust and today continues to do individual psychotherapy with the second and third generations.

Journalist Judita Matyášová moderated the evening.

### 1. 9. | We and Solidarity

The Solidarity independent trade union was established on 31 August 1980 on the basis of a deal to end a strike at a shipyard in the Polish city of Gdansk. The Eastern Bloc’s first independent union immediately became a nationwide movement



*We and Solidarity*

that rocked the Communist Party's monopoly on power. From its inception, Solidarity also emphasized the international aspect of its mission, which was eventually seen in its Appeal to Workers in Eastern Europe, directed towards people elsewhere in the bloc.

How were developments in Poland viewed by Czechoslovak society? How did they influence the Czech dissent? To what extent were Solidarity's experiences applicable to the reality of normalisation Czechoslovakia?

Taking part in the discussion were Alexandr Vondra, a former dissident who was involved in the establishment of Polish-Czechoslovak Solidarity, and the Polish historian Łukasz Kamiński.

Michael Žantovský moderated the evening.

Organised by the Václav Havel Library in cooperation with the Polish Institute Prague.

The debate took place in Polish and Czech, with interpretation provided.

## 22. 9. | T. G. Masaryk in Science and Art

Subjects related to T.G. Masaryk have undergone numerous changes since 1989. The anniversaries of 2017–2020 (80 years since TGM's death in October 2018, the establishment of the First Czechoslovak Republic in October 2018 and the 170th anniversary of his birth in March 2020) boosted interest once again and sparked the creation of many popularizing, commercial and academic works on Masaryk. His image and legacy have been brought up to date via texts, films and artworks. Efforts at authenticity and originality of approach have frequently been accompanied by a search for new forms and alternative presentations.

The debate focused on themes linked to the possibility of "eternal" inspiration by major historical figures across fields and genres and on questions about artists' motivation to update historical subjects.

Guests included Zdeněk Ležák, Pavel Kosatík, Paulina Skavová and Maxim Velčovský, and Vratislav Doubek chaired the discussion.

*Organised by the Václav Havel Library in cooperation with the Masaryk Institute and the Archive of the Czech Academy of Sciences.*



*The Unveiling of the Memorial Box of Ivan "Magor" Jirous*

## 23. 9. | The Unveiling of the Memorial Box of Ivan "Magor" Jirous

On 23 September 2020, Ivan Martin Jirous, poet, the 'spiritus agens' of the Czech underground and a prisoner of conscience,



would have turned 76. On this occasion, the Václav Havel Library, Karel Schwarzenberg, family and friends unveiled a memorial box designed by Jakub Grec on the house at Nádražní 28, where Jirous lived in the last years of his life. The meeting was introduced by Michael Žantovský, Director of the Václav Havel Library. Verses written by Ivan Jirous were read by Jáchym Topol, and the poet's family and friends also spoke at the event.

### 23. 9. | Monika Zgustová: Dressed for Dancing in the Snow

Monika Zgustová, a Czech writer and translator into Spanish and Catalan (she has translated over 50 works by leading Czech authors), living in Barcelona since the 1980s, introduced one of her most recent works at the point where the novel and non-fiction overlap, *Oblečené k tanci na sněhu (Dressed for Dancing in the Snow)*. It offers an authentic account of nine "strong, astute and brave" women who came into conflict with one of the most terrifying totalitarian regimes in human history but were unbroken and succeeded in returning to at least partially normal Soviet life.

Zgustová's heroines describe not just petrifying experiences in the world of Stalin's labour camps but also a challenging 'return to civilian life' that was frequently just as hard as their stays in places scarcely compatible with normal human life.

All of them agree that they survived mainly thanks to the fact that they held literature and poetry close and found beauty even in the most inhumane conditions, and that their time in the camps helped them to realise which values are actually important. Despite the poignant subject matter, the book is a celebration of life and has a positive ring in the sense that even such drastic experiences can be survived.

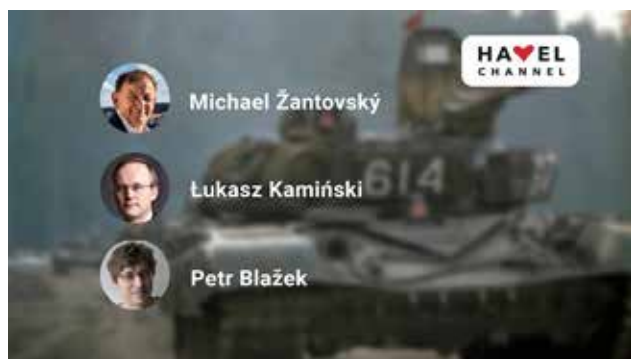
The evening was introduced by Libor Dvořák.

Organised by the Václav Havel Library in cooperation with the Argo publishing house.

### 25. 10. | An Eye-Witness is Coming to our School – But Can They Be Believed?

The case of Věra Sosnarová sparked a discussion among both historians and teachers last year. For many years she visited schools, saying she had been imprisoned in the Gulag. However, historian Adam Hradílek discovered that her claims were at complete odds with facts in the archives.

How did teachers respond to the fact that Sosnarová's dramatic stories didn't hold up? And what do they have to consider when inviting eye-witnesses to schools now? Will they be more cautious and start checking up in the archives on the pasts of



*The Infection from Poland Must Stop!*

those they invite to speak to students? Or is it more important for them to present somebody with a dramatic story?

Guests: Pavel Martinovský, chairman of the Czech Association of History Teachers; Jaroslav Pinkas, teacher and instructor from the education department at the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes; Magdalena Benešová, head of the Stories of Our Neighbours educational projects.

Moderator: Irena Kalhousová, political scientist, head of the Herzl Centre of Israeli Studies at Charles University.

### 3. 12. | The Infection from Poland Must Stop!

In December 1980, for a while it looked like the Warsaw Pact armies, including the Czechoslovak army, would try to repeat the events of August 1968, this time providing fraternal help to the Poles.

The 40th anniversary of the so-called Krkonoše Mission, regarding the approach of the Czechoslovak regime to the “Polish infection” from Solidarity, was discussed by historians Petr Blažek, Lukasz Kamiński and Eduard Stehlík.

The debate was chaired by Michael Žantovský.

The discussion was held by the Václav Havel Library in cooperation with the Polish Institute in Prague and the Museum of the 20th Century Memory.

## LITERATURE AND THEATRE

### 7. 1. | A Reading for Josef Škvorecký

A reading of the correspondence of the Škvoreckýs, the married exiles who founded '68 Publishers, and more.

The evening featured music, which was extremely important to both Škvoreckýs.

It also included the exhibition *The Swell Season of Josef Škvorecký*, loaned by the Prague 4 district authority.

Organised by the Václav Havel Library in cooperation with the Josef Škvorecký Society and the PEN Club.

### 20. 1. | Jan Lukavec: Imaginary Zoology

Havel's pig, Kafka's chimpanzee... and other animals in the works of major writers. How did the perception of animals evolve under our predecessors? What place did dogs, ants or magpies occupy in their minds and what remains of those meanings today? And can literature help us achieve a better relationship with our “furry friends” than the one that has prevailed in modern times?

The book *Imaginární zoologie (Imaginary Zoology)* offers a cultural history of selected animals, from ancient, mythical

times to the present day. Generally speaking it chimes with Havel's assertion that man is not the ruler of nature, merely a part of it. Among other things the publication shows that along with increasing environmental awareness there is also a growing realisation that every animal has its place in the ecosystem and in that sense is worthy of protection and the attention that an increasing range of living organisms are receiving, including from authors.

The book was discussed by its author Jan Lukavec, anthropologist Lukáš Senft and literary scientist Pavel Kořínek. Lenka Němečková sang during the evening.

### 21. 1. | Jiří Sádlo: The Landscape!

The botanist and plant sociologist Jiří Sádlo has been involved in research into the landscape for several decades now. It is therefore more than understandable that he has merged with it so much that distinguishing the two is not an easy task – one can hardly recognise where Jiří Sádlo ends and the landscape starts. It is the same with his brand new book, *The Landscape!* Passing through the Surroundings in Examples. With eight chapters and seven places (South Bohemia, Šumava, the Highlands, Polabí, Litoměřicko, Central Bohemia, Ralsko), it invites the reader to hikes which, however, must be carefully prepared in advance.

### 23. 1. | Evening with an Illiterate

Presentation of the Czech translation of the book *Analfabet (The Illiterate)*, published by Větrné mlýny, by the writer and intellectual guru of contemporary Slovakia, Michal Havran.

The following is from its description: "*The nineties in Bratislava. Sex, drugs and the occult in the capital city of nothingness. The Illiterate is a generational novel with a tantalising flavour of black romanticism, while at the same time operating as a venomous tribute to a home town, a city of mistakes, the ideal space to prepare suicide.*"

The author and the book's translator, Miroslav Zelinský, were in attendance and Petr Vizina moderated.

### 27. 1. | Jiří Peňás: Excursions for the Senior and Advanced

A fun evening bordering on a variety show for the senior and advanced.

The book with the Hrabalesque title *Výpravy pro starší a pokročilé (Excursions for the Senior and Advanced)* brings together a collection of weekly travel essays that Jiří Peňás wrote for the magazine Týdeník Echo. In its way it is a unique portrait of a world near at hand and further afield, growing out of a journey



Jiří Peňás: *Excursions for the Senior and Advanced*

that cannot be halted. The texts blend personal experience with history, history of art and politics, and romance with humour (for the most part bitter and melancholic).

Guests: Tomáš Kafka and Zbyněk Petráček.

The evening was introduced by Jáchym Topol.

Musical accompaniment: Gott Revival

### 29. 1. | Evening Marking the Anniversary of Jan Balabán's Birth

The first part of the evening was given over to the play *Bezruč?!* by Jan Balabán and Ivan Motýl. In a slight modification of the play, we focused on the relationship between Vašek/Bezruč and Marie/Maryčka. Taking part in the play, in the form of a staged reading, were actors and non-actors, though all delighted together in the beauty and urgency of the text.

In the second part, participants and other guests recalled the life and oeuvre of Jan Balabán, one of the most important writers from the turn of the century.

Friends, relatives and admirers of the author took part, including Ivan Motýl, Pavel Hruška, Zdeněk Janošec Benda, Přemysl Bureš and Jakub Chrobák.



*Ivo Vodseďálek – Little-Known Genius*

### 30. 1. | Ivo Vodseďálek – Little-Known Genius

The work of Ivo Vodseďálek (1931–2017) can without hype be described as one of the previously undiscovered treasures of modern Czech literature. The writer is virtually unknown to most readers but enjoys an almost cult status in the literary community. His friends and admirers included such greats of Czech literature as Bohumil Hrabal, Kamil Lhoták, Vladimír Boudník and Egon Bondy, while his legacy has been the focus of literary historians and critics for some time. *Dílo 1949–1998 (Works, 1949–1998)*, a voluminous, 1,100-page volume of Vodseďálek's selected poetry, was presented by its editor Martin Machovec, writer Jáchym Topol, filmmaker Olina Kaufmanová (Vodseďálek's daughter) and Argo publishing house editor Petr Onufer.

Actor Karel Dobrý read from the author's work.

Organised by the Václav Havel Library in cooperation with the Argo publishing house.

### 12. 2. | Czech Hoaxes – The Zelená Hora and Dvůr Králové Manuscripts Within Us

How did it come to pass that among the key symbols in the shaping of modern Czech identity were hoaxes that, what's more, also represented the Czechs in 19th century Europe? Were contemporary journalists who claimed that the entire Czech

National Revival was built on a lie correct? How did Czechs encounter and contend with these hoaxes? And how is that clash instructive today in the 21st century, when eternal national identity is again a political issue and new techniques of manipulating it are being employed?

Czech historical fictions and hoaxes, their role and how to come to terms with them in art and public life were among the issues discussed by Miroslav Pudlák, writer of the opera *Sasíci v Čechách aneb marnost boje proti RKZ* (The Saxons in Bohemia, or the Pointlessness of the Struggle Against the Green Mountain Manuscript) and Markéta Dlábková (NG ČR), Dalibor Dobiáš (ÚČL AV ČR), Milan Ducháček (ÚSD AV ČR) and Tomáš Masař (FF UK), authors of the monograph *Rukopisy královédvorský a zelenohorský v kultuře a umění* (*The Zelená Hora and Dvůr Králové Manuscripts in Culture and Art*) (Academia 2019).

The evening was hosted by Eliška Černá (Deník N).

### 13. 2. | A Fresh Wind in the Sails of Argo Publishing House

Five Czech novelists who publish on the Argo imprint presented their latest works. The writers also discussed revolutionary changes in the method/quantity/quality of reading today and the influence of readers' new habits on their art, the need for fantasy in real life, the necessity of knocking the realist novel off its pedestal and the motivation and the passion of the author.

Kateřina Kadlecová, a journalist with the weekly *Reflex*, chaired this debate involving Argo publishing house authors Kateřina Blažková, Pavel Bušta, Vratislav Kadlec, Igor Malijevský and Michal Vrba.

### 18. 2. | Valerian Pidmohylny: The City

An encounter with a Ukrainian cult novel translated into Czech by Miroslav Tomek. Valerian Pidmohylny's *The City* is both an adventure and philosophical novel that stands up creditably, and playfully, within the context of European modernism. The story of a young man who leaves his native village to become an engineer and spread learning initially comes across as schematic, even naive. But only because the young man is himself naive. Will the city grind down the hero and rob him of his ideals? Yes and no. The city doesn't respond to these questions but raises fresh ones. It forces the protagonist to encounter himself, to run up against his own desires and sexuality, to let himself down, to find a calling. It was exactly this ambivalence and non-schematic approach that saw the novel dubbed anti-Soviet. Pidmohylny (1901–1937) died during the purges.



Ukrainian Studies expert Tereza Chlaňová and poet Marie Iljašenko discussed the difficulties of translating literary classics with translator Tomek.



*Women on Women*

## 19. 2. | Women on Women

Twenty-eight interviews with 29 film and literary documentarians working in the Czech Republic have been published in the volume *Ženy o ženách* (*Women on Women*). In the book, author Barbora Baronová explores her interviewees' artistic motivations, how they select themes and their relationship to key aspects of documentary work, such as censorship, engagement and therapy. Last but not least, she discusses with her subjects the issues of gender, the role of institutions in documentary work and financing.

The book contains interviews with novelist Petra Dvořáková, Slovak filmmaker Zuzana Piussi, writer Alena Wagnerová, artist and personal development instructor Tereza Tara, history professor Dana Musilová, timelapse filmmaker Helena Třeštíková, art theorist Michaela Peško Banzetová, ethnographer Eleanore Rasmussen, activist and documentary filmmaker Apolena Rychlíková, documentary filmmaker Olga Sommerová, sociologist Marcela Linková, journalist and author Judita Matyášová, journalist and humanitarian worker Petra Procházková and more. Bára Šichanová hosted the evening and helmed a talk with Barbora Baronová.

## 28. 2. | The Václav Havel Library at the Ostrava Book Fair

At least since the times of poet Petr Bezruč, Ostrava and literature have been closely interlinked. This is also why we decided to take a journey to the capital of the Moravskoslezský Region and offer our readers books they know as well as books freshly printed: two volumes of the Pocket VH Plays series (*I'm Not Sad* and *Catch the Hare!*) and *Případ pro začínajícího kata* (*Case for a Rookie Hangman*) by Pavel Juráček.



## 2. 6. | Ondřej Štindl: When Your Head Turns

A novel at the intersection of satire, horror, psychodrama and road movie. It offers a raw and harrowing caricature of today's divided Czech society, as well as a portrait of existential crisis, fear of oblivion and desire to escape.

Novelist, scriptwriter, music and film critic and DJ Ondřej Štindl presented his new novel *Až se ti zatočí hlava* (*When Your Head Turns*) and read excerpts from it.

Publishers editor and translator Petr Onufer moderated this discussion with the author.

The literary evening was introduced by Jáchym Topol.

### 15. 6. | Musical Evening: Malé Zvíře

Shortly after the initiation of the large orchestra Zvíře jménem Podzim, the literary-musical Malé zvíře was established as a side project to the main band. The combination of readings, screenings and songs from the world of the animal book is more intimate than a rock concert – and this allows the formation to draw you even more deeply into their eerie universe.

Jakub König performed.

Hana Slívová moderated.

### 17. 6. | X10 Theatre: Filip Topol – Dog shards ...

... pigeon flames, a moth shelter. An experimental text collage that doesn't endeavour to present the author or serve as a representative selection of his prose works but rather to hint at a path. From a spittle-flecked pub to a girl, from blood and sweat to Mozart, from a teen with a caustic view of the world to a shaman gazing into the afterlife.

Direction and dramaturgy: Petr Uhlík, Ondřej Novotný. Performers: Jana Hauskrechtová, Vojtěch Hrabák, Jiří Kniha and Václav Marhold.

This stage reading of short stories by Filip Topol was prepared by the X10 theatre in cooperation with the Václav Havel Library.



*X10 Theatre: Filip Topol – Dog shards*

### 18. 6. | Daňa Horáková: On Pavel Juráček

Memories of the Czech journalist, writer and cultural organiser Daňa Horáková of the years she spent with her husband, film director, scriptwriter and novelist Pavel Juráček. Her education and writing work as well as life experience allowed her to write a book which is not only a detailed, intimate, sometimes also humorous and breathtaking psychological portrait of an important personality of Czech culture, but also a testimony of the broader range of many friends and contacts Juráček and she had from Czech film, theatre, dissent and exile.

Daňa Horáková, a Charter 77 signatory, ran the Dispatch Series with Václav Havel from 1975. In 1979 she married film director Pavel Juráček and moved to West Germany. There she worked as a journalist and in 2002–2004 was the Hamburg minister of culture. She wrote in German, bringing out seven books of prose and journalism.

Pavel Hájek introduced the evening.

Pavel Rychetský spoke about the author and editor Jan Šulc introduced the book.

Organised by the Václav Havel Library in cooperation with the Torst publishing house.



*Daňa Horáková: O Pavlovi*

## 22. 6. | T. S. Eliot: Christian – Critic – Poet

Thomas Stearns Eliot is often regarded as one of the most significant artists in modern English literature, as an author who can be boldly placed on the same level as Shakespeare. In his poetry and essay writing he set standards that for a century literature has adhered to, perhaps defined itself in opposition to, but cannot ignore. Publishers Argo House recently brought out *Křesťan – kritik – básník* (Christian – Critic – Poet), an extensive collection of Eliot's essays. It was discussed by the translators and English Studies specialists Martin Hilský, Martin Pokorný and Petr Onufer, with English Studies expert and literary critic Ladislav Nagy serving as moderator.

Organised by the Václav Havel Library in cooperation with the Argo publishing house.

## 5. 9. | The Václav Havel Library at Knihex

At this traditional meeting under one roof of publishers and readers, we offered you an invigorating cocktail of titles, both new and tried and tested.

## 5. 9. | Vladimír Merta: The Dustbin Novel

In terms of content, style and overall impression, *Popelnicový roman* (*The Dustbin Novel*) is a unique achievement in contemporary Czech prose. Genuinely post-modern, it draws on countless references, allusion, persiflage and pastiche and represents a devastating grimace over the pre-1989, immediately post-1989 and contemporary Czech periods. Just like Jaroslav Hašek with his *Švejk*, with this novel Vladimír Merta abandons psychology and the realistic description of characters. For him they are mere figurines in a game serving to highlight that which is nonsensical, embarrassing, ridiculous – and at the same time nightmarish. Merta's chief narrative devices are humour, jokes, hyperbole, irony and sarcasm. This is not a book to be read once but a prose volcano that threatens to bury the reader in carefully targeted, chilling humour.

Introduced by Michael Žantovský.

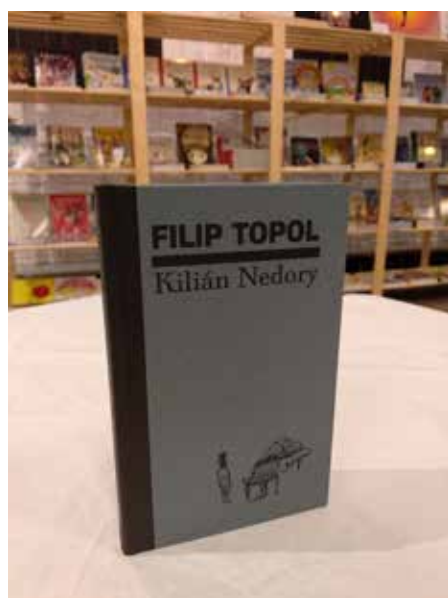
The book's editor Jan Šulc hosted a chat with author Vladimír Merta.

Jiří Dědeček was guest of honour.

Organised by the Václav Havel Library in cooperation with the Galén publishing house.

## 10. 9. | Filip Topol: Kilián Nedory

Inauguration of a collection of texts by Filip Topol on the topic of his legendary and mysterious "friend" Kilián Nedory, most of which have as yet not been published. The evening



finished with a video by Vít Pancíř, Kilián Nedory, dated 1996. The event was introduced by Pavel Hájek and Vít Pancíř.

Selected passages from the texts were read by Šimon Krupa.

### 11. 9. | The VH Library at BRaK

The Václav Havel Library had a stand at the Bratislava book festival for the first time, introducing its publishing programme, including hot new titles.

### 14. 9. | Evening with Guerilla and Vladimír Drápal

Guerilla Records is an independent music label based in Louny that for virtually 20 years has been working at the coalface of music and poetry rooted in the so-called underground. It traces the work, and frequently also the lives, of artists active in the here and now, showing that in every era and every system there are many artists whose work flows from their own convictions and internal tensions.

Guerilla is connected to dozens of bands and releases CDs by legends such as Aktuál, the Plastic People and DG 307, as well as the lesser known Bratři Karamazovi, Odvážní bobřiči and the Louny-based Furt rovně. It also brings out the work of names such as Dáša Vokatá, Jaroslav Erik Frič, Vratislav Brabenec and Libor Krejcar.

Despite an abundance of activities – including holding literary readings, concerts and festivals – Guerilla maintains a clear personal dimension and remains the label of one man, Vladimír Drápal, known by the nickname ‘Lábus’.

Jáchym Topol introduced the event and discussed Vladimír’s life, outlook, publishing activities and current political journey.

J. H. Krchovský read his own classic and latest poems, accompanied by cellist Tomáš Schilla.

Organised by the Václav Havel Library in cooperation with Guerilla Records.

### 15. 9. | Jan Novák: Kundera: His Czech Life and Times

The leading contemporary Czech writer Jan Novák detonated a bomb on the domestic literary scene in June with his monograph simply entitled *Kundera*, setting off an avalanche of responses, from negative to highly enthusiastic. It has been the most discussed book in this country in many years, if not ever. Passions calmed in the meantime and Jan Novák returned from a grant-aided stay in Berlin, so the time came for him to introduce the book to Czech readers.



Jan Novák: *Kundera: His Czech Life and Times*

The author's evening was introduced by Michael Žantovský. Petr Onufer moderated the evening. Author and the book's editor Michael Špirit also feature on it.

## 29. 9. | The Short Poem

From Karel Havlíček Borovský to Václav Havel.

Alongside rhyme-based poetry and free verse, experts and fans recognise the short poem as a third subterranean river.

The anthology *Krátká báseň (The Short Poem)* contains classics of the genre as well as texts by the likes of Egon Bondy, Ivan M. Jirous, Viola Fischerová and an experimental Václav Havel.

Jiří Macháček, editor-in-chief of the Protimluv publishing house, got the evening underway. Professor Jiří Trávníček discussed the book. Jana Franková and Hynek Chmelař read poems and Irena and Vojtěch Havel (cello, viola) provided musical accompaniment.

Editor and poet Zdeněk Volf was on hand to share and debate the short poem.

Jáchym Topol introduced the event.

## 1. 10. | Karel Pecka: Prison Notes to a Missing Man

After 30 years a key work by Karel Pecka came out as a book and audiobook.

*Motáky Nezvěstnému (Prison Notes to a Missing Man)*, a gripping novel about 20-year-old 1950s political prisoner Vilém Svoboda, describes the brutal but real situation in Czechoslovak concentration camps, specifically in uranium mines at Jáchymov. It is simultaneously a parable about an innocent man's search for moral strength and inner freedom amid a murderous system.

This groundbreaking book and its author were discussed by sociologist Jiřina Šiklová, psychologist Cyril Höschl, publisher Daniel Pagáč and other guests.

Researcher Jiří Padevět moderated the debate.

Igor Bareš read excerpts from the work of Karel Pecka.

Musical accompaniment: Jaroslav Hutka

Introduced by Jáchym Topol.

## 2. 10. | The Václav Havel Library at Tabook

We introduced both new and tried and tested titles produced by the VHL at this traditional gathering of small publishers and readers, which takes place annually in Tábor, South Bohemia.





## 6. 10. | On the Romance Novel with Jan Němec and Marta Dzido

How does one write a romance novel today? In their prose, Jan Němec and Marta Dzido search for a language for love, passion and erotic attraction while also skilfully avoiding the tropes of both romantic potboilers and pornography. Her *Frajda* and his *Možnosti milostného románu* (*The Possibilities of the Romance Novel*) play with the reader, words and the romance genre. You've got to love them!

Marta Dzido (1981) is a writer, journalist and director. Her novel *Frajda* (2018) earned the European Union Prize for Literature and was published in Czech in 2019 (translation Anna Plasová, Dokořán). Her documentaries *Solidarity According to Women* and *Women Power* have also been presented in the Czech Republic.

Jan Němec (1981) is a writer, editor and literary critic who publishes his books in the magazine *Host* and under the publishing imprint of the same name. His debut novel *Dějiny světla* (*The History of Light*) (2013) also received the EU Prize for Literature. *The Possibilities of the Romance Novel* was published in 2019 and was nominated for the Magnesia Litera prize.

Klára Fleyberková moderated the evening.

Co-organised as part of the Polish-Czech Literary Autumn by the Czech Literary Centre, Instytut Książki, the Václav Havel Library and Book World.

## 8. 10. | Karel Hvížďala: Věta jako povolání (Sentence as a Profession)

A collection of four books: *Osmý den týdne* (Eighth Day of the Week), *Dobře mrtvý dědeček* (A Well Dead Grandpa), *Exilový orloj* (Exile Clock) and *Šváb nereptá* (Cockroach doesn't Grumble) are memories of the author's childhood, exile and return to the Czech Republic, accompanied by essays, short stories, interviews and portraits of personally necessary people.

The book was discussed by the author, the editors Zdenko Pavelka and Miloš Voráč, and the book was inaugurated by Radkin Honzák.

Selected passages from the books were read by Jiří Lábus. Petr Fischer chaired the evening.

Musical accompaniment was provided by Jiří Stivín.

## 15. 10. | European Poets Live

A traditional reading of Czech and foreign poets as part of the *Stranou* festival – European poets live and concert by cellist Petr Hejný.

Guests: Nataša Burger (SLO–CZ) / Petr Hruška (CZ) / Zita



Jiří Sádlo: *The Landscape!*

Izsó (HU) / Dora Kaprálová (DE–CZ) / Nina Medved (SLO) / Andraž Polič (SLO–CZ) / Ivo Stropnik (SLO)

Lenka and Peter Kuhar provided accompaniment.

#### 4. 11. | Lenka Horňáková-Civade: *Symfonie o novém světě* (*Symphony of the New World*)

It is the year 1953 and Vladimír Vochoč, the former Czechoslovak consul in Marseille, is being interrogated by an officer of the communist police in a humiliating way. This is how the book *Symphony of the New World* by Lenka Horňáková-Civade begins. Its central topic is, again, the path to freedom. But this time, it is not only the main heroine who undertakes the path.

In the book, destinies intertwine of two people whose fates meet for the first time in 1938. Božena comes to Marseille with a child in her arms to get to America, the promised land. Vladimír is a new consul in Marseille, representing a still young Czechoslovak Republic. But Czechoslovakia ceases to exist soon afterwards, and Vladimír faces the uneasy task of choosing either loyalty or resistance. In her novel, Lenka Horňáková-Civade pays tribute not only to strong women but also one man who was able to take advantage of the chaos at the outbreak of World War Two and save hundreds of lives.

The novel went to the 2nd round of the Renaud Prize, a prestigious literary award.

The author was interviewed by Anna Kubišta.

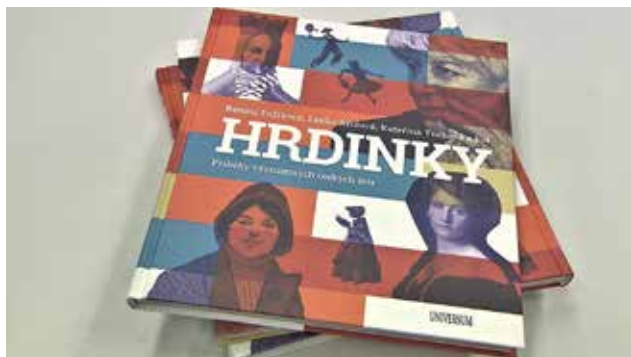
The event was organised by the French Institute in Prague, the Václav Havel Library and the publishers Argo.

#### 10. 11. | *The First Czechoslovak Republic: A View into the Mirror*

A literary evening with *Czechs in the History of the New Time 1848–1939* (Otáhal, Pithart, Příhoda) and *My Life Was Vain* (Jiří Hejda), held in the presence of Petr Pithart, Lukáš Matoušek, the publisher Kameel Machart and actor Tomáš Hanák. Both projects were introduced by their authors and in the context of the time the books were written. Texts by those who review the time of the so-called First Czechoslovak Republic (Otáhal, Pithart, Příhoda) were confronted with those by Jiří Hejda, himself a direct participant and initiator of the then political and social events.

#### 16. 11. | *Hrdinky* (*The Heroines*)

They were courageous. They were often ahead of their time. They followed their goals and sometimes paid the highest price for their courage. But their story has inspired thousands and millions of other women who can live freely today and according to their own will.





The publishers Universum issued a book in September 2020 which interlinks the original student portraits and the breath-taking storytelling of the writer Kateřina Tučková and her colleagues.

The project entitled *The Heroines* was inspired by the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the law which set forth equal voting rights for Czechoslovak women. It was originally intended to be a semestral task for the students of the Ladislav Sutnar Faculty of Design and Art of the West Bohemia University in Pilsen. The exhibition was made in collaboration with the Czech Centres, translated into 12 languages and in 2020 travelled, with the help of the Czech Centres network, through a major part of Europe, while its online version was also introduced in the USA.

The portraits, the follow-up exhibition and, most importantly, the stories of exceptional Czech women were debated with the project authors, Renáta Fučíková and Kateřina Tučková.

Chaired by Hanka Koutná.

### 17. 11. | Concert against Totalitarianism

The Concert against Totalitarianism is traditionally held on the day of the Velvet Revolution and also commemorates International Students Day, declared after the tragic events of 17 November 1939. It was organised by the Faculty of Music and Dance of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague, with the Academy of Creative Arts and the Václav Havel Library as the co-organisers.

The 7th year of the Concert against Totalitarianism was held online with audiences at the Martinů Hall. The concert helped the meeting of students with their professors and successful alumni at the stage at the organising faculty. Compositions by musicians whose lives and creative work were affected by totalitarian regimes, or who directly experienced various forms of injustice, were performed.

“Music not only makes nations closer but this year, on the anniversary of the 17th November, it will be an important step to making us feel closer in our coronavirus dens”, commented Michael Žantovský, director of the Václav Havel Library, who opened the concert along with the Dean of the Academy of Performing Arts, Jan Hančil.

### 25. 11. | Halfmoon above Prague: Amir Ibrahim – Rojava

The 12th year of the Halfmoon above Prague festival introduced a video reading by the Feste theatre directed by Jiří Honzírek. Entertaining while also depressing is a play by Ibrahim Amir on the ideals and desires of two men who are undergoing a difficult





*Václav Havel, Jan Prušinovský, Zdeněk Godla: Mistake*

test of life's reality. Viennese student Michael, following the revolutionary thoughts of the Kurds, goes to Rojava, a Kurdish autonomous region in Syria near the Turkish border. There he meets Alan, a young Kurdish maths teacher who wants to flee to Europe. Ibrahim Amir builds his story in a very inventive manner and discusses topics such as utopia, revolution, war, love and loss.

### 1. 12. | Markéta Pilátová: *Senzibil (The Psychic)*

The new novel *The Psychic* is a probe into "somethingism", i.e. the common belief that there is "something" higher, not bound to traditional religions and churches. The book tells the story of two successful psychics which takes place in the Jeseníky Mts. The older one was once an employee of an institute founded by the secret police in the late 1970s. This research institute was supposed to develop so-called mental energy and experiment with it. The experiments should have led to improving espionage methods and also the development of socialist industry and agriculture. The institute was led by a former minister of education and employed the top psychics of the time as well as charlatans. Somewhere between the lines, Markéta Pilátová tells the story of the attempts to uproot spirituality from Czech society. But she uncovers the truth: spirituality has never given up its vague belief in something higher.

The author was interviewed by Erika Zlamalová.

Organised by the Václav Havel Library in cooperation with the publishers Torst.

### 1. 12. | Šlapetová, Rittstein: *Zprávy z doby kamenné (Messages from the Stone Age)*

Barbora Šlapetová and Lukáš Rittstein consistently visit the same area in Papua New Guinea. At places where meeting civilisation forever changes the lives of the locals, especially the last natural Papuan tribe, Yali Mek, they created extensive artistic material, now to be presented in the book form and at an exhibition in DOX.

The almost 25-year-long project of both artists is based on real meetings with the most important chiefs and members of the aboriginal tribes, who up until recently had lived in the Stone Age and who, just like their ancestors, travelled on the smoke to the upper echelon of the world, knew the taste of human meat and lived surrounded by good as well as bad spirits.

It is known that Papuan cannibal chiefs at some point in the past expressed their wish to see the highest Czech head, and therefore met Václav Havel.



*An Evening of Music: Monika Načeva*

This meeting and many other breath-taking experiences from the inland jungle of Western Papua were discussed by both artists with Jáchym Topol as the interviewer.

## 7. 12. | Inauguration of the Robot 100 Anthology

The publishers Argo issued an anthology of short stories on the 100th anniversary of the word 'robot'. It was invented by the Čapek brothers, enriching the world's word stock. And 2020 marked 100 years since the word was printed for the first time, a truly unique reason to celebrate. The word 'robot' comes from the future which has already become the present.

The anthology was introduced by the editors Richard Klíčník and Jaroslav Olša, jr. in the presence of the authors Pavel Kosatík, Petr Stančík and František Novotný.

## 11. 12. | Jiří Peňás: Výpravy pro blízké i vzdálenější (Journeys to Closer and More Distant Places)

The author has not changed much since the first volume. He is a townsman, with spiritual and literary interests, rather than adrenaline or perhaps cooking, for whom the greatest adventure is to get off a train somewhere, see a church, town hall and fountain, and then find a place to stay overnight for a low price. The book by Jiří Peňás, *Journeys to Closer and More Distant Places*, presents places you know and discovers those which you have not visited as yet, and reminds us of long-forgotten historical contexts.

The author was interviewed by Jáchym Topol.

## 15. 12. | Čáslavská

The writer Jan Novák and the painter and front man of the band Priessnitz, Jaromír Švejdík, have created an excellent biographical cartoon of the most well-known Czech Olympian, Věra Čáslavská. It was supposed to be published for the opening of the summer Olympics in Japan. That's where Čáslavská triumphed years ago, and also obtained a real samurai sword that perfectly symbolises her personality.

Jáchym Topol discussed with both authors what Věra Čáslavská symbolises for the Czech nation and for the world.

## 16. 12. | An Evening of Music: Monika Načeva

Monika Načeva is a remarkable personality of the Czech alternative scene, where she's been active for almost thirty years. She is known for her openness to experiments in which she is not afraid of taking a step into an unknown space. Her last, already

tenth, record, entitled *Zdivočelí koně* (Feral Horses), reveals half-forgotten poems by Czech authors from the 1960s–1980s, which she specifically composes into a compact work.

Monika Načeva was accompanied by David Kabzan on keyboard.

The evening was chaired by Hana Slívová, an editor of the *Vizitka* feature, which is broadcast by the Czech Radio Vltava station.

# EDUCATION

The Václav Havel Library's educational projects are focused on elementary school pupils and secondary school and tertiary level students and, through the legacy of Václav Havel, motivate the young generation to reflect on issues surrounding civic society, democracy and human rights. In the field of education the Václav Havel Library also operates as a virtual community offering online educational resources accessible to schools in the Czech Republic and beyond. We make use of modern technology and work with noteworthy young personalities active in Czech public life.

In 2020, marked by the pandemic and the closure of schools, online education turned out to be the key area, for which the Václav Havel Library was well prepared. We enhanced existing projects and successfully completed new online educational formats.

## WEBINARS

When the pandemic broke out in spring 2020, the Library began to offer webinars to schools, conducted by an extended team of lecturers, by which it replaced the traditional workshops. There was a positive response to the webinars from schools, and their choice was therefore further enhanced in the autumn of 2020. Interactive webinars were designed for primary and secondary school students and the attendants used various digital tools to discuss the history of the 2nd half of the 20th century and human rights.

### The Václav Havel Library put on the following webinars in 2020:

Freedom of choice

The Power of the Powerless

Audience

Human Rights, Or Imprisonment for a Song

A total of 65 webinars were held in 2020, with more than 970 pupils and students attending. Webinars will now remain

a steady part of our offer in the field of education after the pandemic is over, as they allow us to offer education to schools in remote regions.

## CHYBA (MISTAKE), A SHORT FILM

As part of the Reading Havel project, the Library established cooperation with a leading Czech film director, Jan Prušinovský, who made a film version of Václav Havel's short play, Chyba (Mistake), featuring Zdeněk Godla in the main role. Methodical material for pedagogues was prepared, and schools used it as the basis for discussions about racism and xenophobia.

'Mistake' became our most watched video of 2020, with over 10,000 views.

## READING HAVEL

Two independent series of a long-term educational programme for readers, Reading Havel, [www.cisthavla.cz](http://www.cisthavla.cz), were made in 2020 in which well-known personalities read selected parts of Havel's works. Both series are specific in that they were shot in amateur settings, using mobile phones during the home quarantine of the well-known personalities, thus reflecting the times of the pandemic during which they were created.

### Reading Havel in Quarantine

In spring 2020, the Václav Havel Library appealed to well-known actors and other personalities to join in a ten-episode series, Reading Havel in Quarantine. Passages from Havel's texts on the topic of responsibility were read, for instance, by Ivan Trojan, Petra Špalková, Ivan M. Havel and others. The series had 75,000 views, with the most watched video being that made by Anna Geislerová.

### Reading Havel: Patched Diary

Václav Havel planned to keep a diary. Unfortunately, that never happened. In his texts of various genres, we looked for "messages" about his own life and the atmosphere of those complicated times. We created a patchwork of moments from the life of a shy leader, playwright, rebel and prisoner, a Bohemian and human rights fighter, and critic of the regime. A series of 16 biographical episodes was filmed with the participation of many leading Czech actors, such as Jiří Bartoška, Marek Eben, Daniela Kolářová, Robert Mikluš, Saša Rašilov and others. The series had 35,000 views, with the most watched video being that made by Martha Isošová.

The project continues in 2021. It will be accompanied by an electronic book and distributed in schools.

## BEST STUDENT ESSAY COMPETITION 2020

The aim of the student competition is to cultivate the essay genre in the Czech language – not in the sense of imitating Václav Havel's writing, but in the spirit of his courage to name unpleasant problems and search for unconventional solutions to them. The topic of the year always reflects the surrounding world and provokes the young generation to think about it. In 2020, unlike in other years, the Václav Havel Library organised two editions of this competition. The spring edition was exceptional and responded to the epidemiological situation and the sudden closure of schools.

### The extraordinary 12th edition, spring 2020: Responsibility at the time of the pandemic

In this extraordinary edition, the Library received a record 150 student essays from 90 secondary schools in the Czech Republic.

The best works were selected by a five-member jury from the VHL staff:

- Veronika Brázdilová
- Barbora Grečnerová
- Pavel Hájek
- Jáchym Topol
- Michael Žantovský

#### Overview of winners

- 1st place Viktor Říha, Open Gate Grammar School, Babice (15 000 CZK)
- 2nd place Dorothea Hofmeisterová, Jan Kepler Grammar School, Praha (10 000 CZK)
- 3rd place František Hájek, Eliška Krásnohorská Grammar School, Praha (5 000 CZK)

The jury also bestowed two honourable mentions:

Helena Konvalinková, Postupická Grammar School, Praha 4  
Ondřej Mařík, Bishopric Grammar School, Hradec Králové

We filmed a short interview with the winner of this edition.

### The 13th edition, autumn 2020: Why should We Care for Belarus?

The aim of this edition was to make young people think about the topic of human rights, solidarity and how an individual or state can support human rights in another country and to what extent it can interfere with the policy of a foreign country. In their essays, students asked themselves questions about personal responsibility and shared human values. The 13th edition was attended by 53 students from 33 secondary schools in the Czech Republic.

#### The best works were selected by a five-member jury from the VHL staff:

- Kateřina Čopjaková, editor of ČRo Wave station
- Ivan Motýl, poet and commentator
- Petra Procházková, journalist
- Petruška Šustrová, translator and commentator
- Klára Vlasáková, writer

#### Overview of winners

- 1st place Eliška FOUKALOVÁ, Jan Kepler Grammar School, Praha (15 000 CZK)
- 2nd place Vojtěch BRODSKÝ, Hostivice Grammar School (10 000 CZK)

→ 3rd place Dominik ZAJÍČEK, Jiří Wolker Grammar School, Prostějov (5 000 CZK)

The jury also bestowed the following honourable mentions:  
 Viktorie MATOLÍNOVÁ, Jan Kepler Grammar School, Praha  
 Barbora NOVOTNÁ, Czech-English Grammar School in České Budějovice  
 Zuzana ROSENBAUMOVÁ, Archbishopric Grammar School, Praha  
 Samuel ŠMÍD, Jan Kepler Grammar School, Praha

The winning essay was read by actor Anita Krausová and is available as a podcast and video. The essay was also published in the Deník N daily. This edition of the competition was supported by a grant from the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic.

### ON-LINE PROJECTS

The Václav Havel Library promoted in 2020 all of the online projects which it had created. The viewing rates of all three series rose by more than 50% during the closure of schools. The numbers of views have been constantly growing since the series were published, proof that teachers repeatedly use the video recordings and regularly use them in their classes.

**The Václav Havel Library runs the following online projects:**

- Rok revoluce (The Year of Revolution), [www.rokorevoluce.cz](http://www.rokorevoluce.cz): Eight short (3–4 mins) videos in which a fictitious YouTuber accompanies young viewers through the revolutionary year of 1989 and its events not only in Czechoslovakia but also in the surrounding countries. The series is used by more than 600 teachers in their classes.
- Číst Havla (Reading Havel), [www.cisthavla.cz](http://www.cisthavla.cz): a readers' project which introduces Václav Havel as a literary man to pupils and students in the form of short video recordings. The project is used by more than 500 teachers.
- Každý může změnit svět (Anybody Can Change the World) / Man of Inspiration, [www.vaclavhavel.cz/elearning](http://www.vaclavhavel.cz/elearning): A six-episode series with the presenters Emma Smetana and Yemi, which accentuates the topic of the fight for human rights and the subsequent building up of the civil society after the Velvet Revolution while also following the life story of Václav Havel. The project is used by more than 250 teachers.

### Small Václav Havel Libraries

The Václav Havel Library is building up a network of primary and secondary schools which, under our support, pro-actively disseminate the intellectual legacy of Václav Havel. In these schools a small Václav Havel Library has been set up. It contains the whole edition line of the publications issued by the Václav Havel Library with some 60 items. The project has its own logo and unified visual identity in all schools.

Due to the closure of schools in 2020, it was not possible to expand the network to a greater number of educational institutions. Still, three such libraries were installed in three grammar schools at the beginning of the year – Karviná Grammar School, Jan Palach Grammar School in Mělník and Frýdlant nad Ostravicí Grammar School.

### VÁCLAV HAVEL HERE AND NOW

Are the ideas of the first post-1989 president still alive? Do they really have something to say today? How should we actually approach Václav Havel's legacy? And what role does the Václav Havel Library play in promoting the life and work of one of the most important figures in 20th century Czech history? These and similar questions are answered in a cycle of regional debates by Michael Žantovský, director of the Václav Havel Library, with secondary school students.

Given the restrictions related to the pandemic, the cycle could only be held in the first months of 2020. Coincidentally, the last event, a meeting with the students of Pilsen's secondary schools in the hall of the West Bohemia Museum, was held on 10 March, the day the first lockdown was declared.

#### January

- 16/01 Mělník
- 22/01 Čáslav
- 28/01 Náměšť nad Oslavou
- 29/01 Karviná, Frýdlant nad Ostravicí

#### March

- 10/03 West Bohemia Museum in Pilsen, debate with students of secondary schools in the town

# VISITS, SOCIAL NETWORKS, MEDIA

**The year 2020 was different, it was a breaking point. This was due to the pandemic. With brief relaxations, live culture was closed down for almost the whole year. The Václav Havel Library moved some of its production into the online environment, and thanks to [www.havelchannel.cz](http://www.havelchannel.cz) remained “open” to viewers all the time despite the tough lockdown in society.**

In 2020 we organised a total of 117 club events for the general public. Total attendance reached 11.182, meaning average attendance was 96 persons per event. A total of 56 events could be visited by the live public, all the other events were held virtually. The statistics also include the viewings of online features at the time they were premiered.

Given the pandemic situation, we were unable to hold two annual conferences in 2020: The Václav Havel European Dialogues, which is usually held in spring, and a conference in honour of the laureate of the 2020 Václav Havel Human Rights Prize. They were both rescheduled for the next year and are to be held online.

The website [www.vaclavhavel.cz](http://www.vaclavhavel.cz) has around 11,000 unique views per month (10,000 in 2019). The website offers monthly programs, news, information about the Library’s projects, video and photo documents from the events, and also access to the electronic archives of the Documentation Centre.

September 2020 was another milestone as regards audio-visual and the further direction of the Václav Havel Library – an ambitious project of the Library’s own internet television was launched on [www.havelchannel.cz](http://www.havelchannel.cz). The programs which are available there are also promoted via the already established YouTube channel of the Library. For details, see the chapter Havel Channel.

The website [www.vaclavhavel.cz](http://www.vaclavhavel.cz) also serves as a signpost to the individual websites of the Library’s major projects:

[www.havelchannel.cz](http://www.havelchannel.cz)  
[www.rokrevoluce.cz](http://www.rokrevoluce.cz)  
[www.denikrevoluce.cz](http://www.denikrevoluce.cz)  
[www.zmenitsvet.cz](http://www.zmenitsvet.cz)  
[www.manofinspiration.org](http://www.manofinspiration.org)  
[www.cisthavla.cz](http://www.cisthavla.cz)  
[www.rozhovoryvh.cz](http://www.rozhovoryvh.cz)  
[www.other europe.com](http://www.other europe.com)  
[www.other europe2021.com](http://www.other europe2021.com)  
[www.havelnavzdy.cz](http://www.havelnavzdy.cz)  
[www.havlovy-deti.cz](http://www.havlovy-deti.cz)

The Library was as ever active on social media. The impact was bigger in 2020 also owing to the Havel Channel. At the end of the year its Facebook profile had 41,000 followers (for comparison, at the end of 2019 the figure was 36,000). On Twitter the Library had 6,500 followers at the end of the year (compared to 5,580 at the end of 2019). Interest is also increasing on Instagram, where the VHL has 6,000 followers.

The Library sends out a weekly e-newsletter with the program and occasional teasers for forthcoming events; people can register to receive it on the website. At the end of 2020 the total number of registered e-newsletter subscribers stood at over 16,000.



# FINANCIAL REPORTS

## Expenditures 2020

(in thousands of CZK)

Havel Channel	1 855
Documentation Centre	3 831
Publications	2 613
World of Václav Havel	735
Václav Havel European Dialogues	6
Václav Havel Prize	19
Club	3 595
Education	1 804
Havel Forever	11
Administration and overheads	3 428

**TOTAL** **17 897**

## Overview of trend in overall expenditures

2012	14 423
2013	17 877
2014	17 881
2015	17 369
2016	19 684
2017	18 518
2018	18 181
2019	19 231
2020	17 897

## INCOMES FROM DONATIONS, GRANTS AND OWN ACTIVITIES 2020

### Revenues from own activities

Revenues from sale of own products and goods	789
Sale of services	558
Interest and differences in exchange rates	180
Other revenues	39

**TOTAL** **1 566**

## Financial donations received 2020

Fondation Zdenek et Michaela Bakala	10 700
Karel Komárek Family Foundation	2 000
Moneta Money Bank, a.s.	750
Litvinová Šárka (Asiana Group)	500
The Sekyra Foundation	500
Václav Havel Library Foundation	456
Albright Madeleine	192
Muzeum romského národního obrození, z.s.	100
Klub přátel Knihovny VH – Havel Forever	399
Other donors (< 100)	141

**TOTAL** **15 738**

## Grants used in 2020

City of Prague – club program	700
Czech Ministry of Culture – literary evenings	306
Czech Ministry of Culture – essay competition	38
State Culture Fund	70
European Commission – EACEA	439
Visegrad Fund	528

**TOTAL** **2 081**

# FUNDRAISING AND OWN REVENUES

**In 2020 the Václav Havel Library further intensified its efforts to diversify its financial resources within all of its areas of revenue.**

The main source of finance in 2020 was long-term support for programmes and operations provided by the Fondation Zdeněk et Michaela Bakala. The foundation reduced its contribution in 2020 by CZK 0.5 million to CZK 10.7 million year-on-year. By contrast, there was a record increase in the amount acquired in the form of donations from minor donors, which in 2019 reached CZK 5,038 thousand (compared to CZK 3,986 thousand in 2019).

The Havel Channel project could be launched in 2020 only owing to kind financial support from the Karel Komárek Family Foundation, which contributed with an amount of 2 mil. CZK to launch the project. The VHL used these resources in part for the technical equipment and in part for the operation of the project in the first year.

The Václav Havel Library enjoyed success with a number of grant applications. The City of Prague provided a total of CZK 700 thousand for its club program in the form of an arts grant. A grant of CZK 306 thousand, which the Library traditionally receives from the Czech Ministry of Culture, went toward literature in club evenings. As every year the Ministry of Culture also contributed CZK 38 thousand to another edition of the best student essay competition that the VH Library runs for secondary school pupils throughout the CR. The State Culture Fund of the Czech Republic supported in the amount of CZK 70 thousand the publication of the memoirs of Dr. Emil Ščuka in the Romany language. Muzeum romského národního obrození, z.s. contributed with CZK 100 thousand for the same work.

In 2020 the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs contributed CZK 190 thousand to the organising of the international conference in honour of the laureate of the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize 2020. The whole amount was eventually returned, as the conference could not be held due to the restrictions related to the pandemic.

The international project The Other Europe was supported by multi-year grants from the European Commission (EACEA – Europe for Citizens program) and the Visegrad Fund. In the years 2019 – 2022 the VH Library and partners from the V4 states and Germany will gradually process and make public unique The Other Europe audio-visual footage acquired free of charge from the Imperial War Museum thanks to Jacques Rupnik. The material has been digitised thanks to generous help from the National Film Archive. In 2020, the amounts of CZK 439 thousand (EU grant) and CZK 528 thousand (Visegrad) were spent.

The most significant private donors in 2020 were the companies Moneta Money Bank a.s., Asiana, s.r.o., Václav Havel Library Foundation and the Sekyra Foundation.

Revenues from our own activities reached CZK 1,566 thousand in 2020 (it was CZK 2,140 thousand in 2019). Revenues from the sales of our own products, mainly books, amounted to CZK 789 thousand (compared to CZK 1,390 thousand in 2019). One new title published by the Václav Havel Library in 2020 contributed most significantly to sales, Filip Topol – Kilián Nedový. But so did successful titles from previous years, such as Kančí na daňčím. Kuchařka Václava Havla (Wild Boar on Venison: The Václav Havel Cookbook) and Má to smysl! (It's Worth Doing!), an anthology of pre-1989 interviews with VH. Compared to previous years, the sales saw a major drop because of the closure of the bookshops for most of 2020.

The public collection for the Library's public projects subtitled Havel Forever continued in 2020. By making contributions, minor donors become members of the Club of Friends of the Václav Havel Library: [www.havelnavzdly.cz](http://www.havelnavzdly.cz).

The funds obtained from the public collection are available in a transparent account set up at Moneta Money Bank: <https://bit.ly/3z31SxT>.

**AUDITOR'S REPORT AND  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF  
31 DECEMBER 2020**

## BALANCE SHEET

BALANCE SHEET by 504/2002 Sb. amended in 2016

Business name

**Knihovna Václava Havla, o.p.s.**  
**Ostrovní 129/13**

Registered office

**Praha 1**  
**11000**

as at **3 1 . 1 2 . 2 0 2 0**

in thousands CZK

ID no.	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
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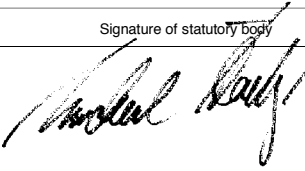
Seal

Ident.	ASSETS	line	Accounting period		
			at the first day	balance at the last day	
A.	Fixed assets	A.I.+...+A.IV.	001	<b>+1,962</b>	<b>+1,809</b>
A. I.	Intangible assets	A.I.1+...+A.I.x	002	<b>+2,668</b>	<b>+2,668</b>
A. I. 1.	Research and development	účet 012	003		
	2. Software	účet 013	004	<b>+825</b>	<b>+825</b>
	3. Valuable rights (patents, copyrights, trademarks and brands)	účet 014	005		
	4. Low-value intangible fixed assets	účet 018	006		
	5. Other intangibles	účet 019	007	<b>+1,843</b>	<b>+1,843</b>
	6. Intangible assets under construction	účet 041	008		
	7. Advances for intangible assets	Intangible assets účet 051	009		
A. II.	Tangible fixed assets	A.II.1+...+A.II.x	010	<b>+2,267</b>	<b>+2,455</b>
A. II. 1.	Land	účet 031	011		
	2. Artworks and collections	účet 032	012	<b>+1,277</b>	<b>+1,277</b>
	3. Buildings and structures	účet 021	013		
	4. Machinery, equipment, vehicles, fixtures and fittings	účet 022	014	<b>+990</b>	<b>+1,178</b>
	5. Orchards and vineyards	účet 025	015		
	6. Livestock (herd and draught animals)	účet 026	016		
	7. Low-value fixed assets	účet 028	017		
	8. Other tangible fixed assets	účet 029	018		
	9. Tangible fixed assets under construction	účet 042	019		
	10. Advances for tangible fixed assets	účet 052	020		
A. III.	Financial assets	A.III.1+...+A.III.x	021		
A. III. 1.	Investments in subsidiaries	účet 061	022		
	2. Investments in associates	účet 062	023		
	3. Bonds, debentures and similar securities held until maturity	účet 063	024		
	4. Loans to organisations	účet 066	025		
	5. Other long-term loans	účet 067	026		
	6. Other financial assets	účet 069	027		
A. IV.	Accumulated depreciations of long term property total	A.IV.1+...+A.IV.x	028	<b>-2,973</b>	<b>-3,314</b>
A. IV. 1.	Depreciations to immaterial results of sciene survey	účet 072	029		
	2. Accumulated depreciations of software	účet 073	030	<b>-825</b>	<b>-825</b>
	3. Accumulated depreciations of valuable rights	účet 074	031		
	4. Accumulated depreciations of long - term immaterial property	účet 078	032		
	5. Accumulated depreciations of other long - term property	účet 079	033	<b>-1,215</b>	<b>-1,489</b>
	6. Accumulated depreciations of buildings	účet 081	034		
	7. Accumulated depreciations of movable assets and sets of movable assets	účet 082	035	<b>-933</b>	<b>-1,000</b>
	8. Accumulated depreciations of cultivated areas	účet 085	036		
	9. Accumulated depreciations of livestock	účet 086	037		
	10. Accumulated depreciations of small long - term property	účet 088	038		
	11. Accumulated depreciations of other long term property	účet 089	039		
B.	Short-term property total	B.I.+...+B.IV.	040	<b>+6,285</b>	<b>+7,117</b>
B. I.	Inventory	B.I.1+...+B.I.x	041	<b>+2,771</b>	<b>+2,262</b>
B. I. 1.	Materials in store	účet 112	042		
	2. Materials in transit	účet 119	043		

Ident.	ASSETS	line	Accounting period		
			at the first day	balance at the last day	
3.	Work-in-progress	účet 121	044	<b>+112</b>	<b>+52</b>
4.	Semi-finished products	účet 122	045		
5.	Finished products	účet 123	046	<b>+2,520</b>	<b>+2,083</b>
6.	Livestock (herd and draught animals)	účet 124	047		
7.	Merchandise in store	účet 132	048	<b>+139</b>	<b>+127</b>
8.	Merchandise in transit	účet 139	049		
9.	Advance payments for inventory	účet 314	050		
B. II.	Receivables total	B.II.1+...+B.II.x	051	<b>+949</b>	<b>+886</b>
B. II. 1.	Customers	účet 311	052	<b>+332</b>	<b>+327</b>
2.	Bills of exchange to be collected	účet 312	053		
3.	Receivables for discounted securities	účet 313	054		
4.	Advance payments made	účet 314 - f. 51	055	<b>+578</b>	<b>+559</b>
5.	Other receivables	účet 315	056	<b>+26</b>	
6.	Receivables from employees	účet 335	057		
7.	Receivables from social security and health insurance institutions	účet 336	058		
8.	Income taxes	účet 341	059	<b>+13</b>	
9.	Other direct taxes	účet 342	060		
10.	Value added tax	účet 343	061		
11.	Other taxes and fees	účet 345	062		
12.	Subsidies receivable from state budget	účet 346	063		
13.	Subsidies receivable from self-governing local area's budgets	účet 348	064		
14.	Receivables from participants in an association	účet 358	065		
15.	Receivables from fixed-term financial transactions	účet 373	066		
16.	Receivables from issued bonds	účet 375	067		
17.	Sundry receivables	účet 378	068		
18.	Estimated receivables	účet 388	069		
19.	Depreciations to receivables	účet 391	070		
B. III.	Short-term financial assets total	B.III.1+...+B.III.x	071	<b>+2,267</b>	<b>+3,691</b>
B. III. 1.	Cash on hand	účet 211	072	<b>+14</b>	<b>+28</b>
2.	Stamps and vouchers	účet 213	073	<b>+12</b>	<b>+5</b>
3.	Bank accounts	účet 221	074	<b>+2,241</b>	<b>+3,658</b>
4.	Shares and similar securities for trading	účet 251	075		
5.	Bonds, debentures and similar securities for trading	účet 253	076		
6.	Other bonds, debentures and securities	účet 256	077		
7.	Cash in transit	účet 261	078		
B. IV.	Other assets total	B.IV.1+...+B.IV.x	079	<b>+298</b>	<b>+278</b>
B. IV. 1.	Deferred expenses	účet 381	080	<b>+298</b>	<b>+278</b>
2.	Accrued revenue	účet 385	081		
	TOTAL ASSETS	A.+B.	082	<b>+8,247</b>	<b>+8,926</b>

Ident.	<b>LIABILITIES</b>	line	Accounting period		
			at the first day	balance at the last day	
A.	Own resources	A.I.+...+A.II	001	<b>+104</b>	<b>+1,591</b>
A. I.	Equity	A.I.1+...+A.I.x	002	<b>+104</b>	<b>+1,591</b>
A. I. 1.	Own equity	účet 901	003	<b>+66</b>	<b>+66</b>
2.	Funds	účet 911	004	<b>+38</b>	<b>+1,525</b>
3.	Gains or losses from revaluation of assets and liabilities	účet 921	005		
A. II.	Profit or loss	A.II.1+...+A.II.x	006		<b>+0</b>
A. II. 1.	Profit and loss account	účet +/-963	007	<b>XXXXXXXXXXXX</b>	<b>+0</b>
2.	Profit or loss to be approved	účet +/-931	008		<b>XXXXXXXXXXXX</b>
3.	Retained earnings, accumulated losses from previous years	účet +/-932	009		
B.	Not-own capital total	B.I.+...+B.IV.	010	<b>+8,143</b>	<b>+7,335</b>
B. I.	Reserves Total	B.I.1+...+B.I.x	011		
B. I. 1.	Reserves	účet 941	012		
B. II.	Long - term payables total	B.II.1+...+B.II.x	013	<b>+3,744</b>	<b>+3,744</b>
B. II. 1.	Long-term bank loans	účet 951	014		
2.	Own bonds issued	účet 953	015		
3.	Payables of lease	účet 954	016		
4.	Long-term advances received	účet 955	017		
5.	Long-term bills of exchange to be paid	účet 958	018		
6.	Estimated payables	účet 389	019		
7.	Other long-term payables	účet 959	020	<b>+3,744</b>	<b>+3,744</b>
B. III.	Short-term payables	B.III.1+...+B.III.x	021	<b>+2,348</b>	<b>+2,326</b>
B. III. 1.	Suppliers	účet 321	022	<b>+345</b>	<b>+378</b>
2.	Bills of exchange to be paid	účet 322	023		
3.	Advance payments received	účet 324	024		

Ident.	<b>LIABILITIES</b>	line	Accounting period		
			at the first day	balance at the last day	
4.	Other payables	účet 325	025	<b>+1</b>	<b>+1</b>
5.	Employees	účet 331	026	<b>+394</b>	<b>+744</b>
6.	Other payables to employees	účet 333	027		
7.	Payables to social security and health insurance	účet 336	028	<b>+218</b>	<b>+415</b>
8.	Income taxes	účet 341	029		
9.	Other direct taxes	účet 342	030	<b>+67</b>	<b>+183</b>
10.	Value added tax	účet 343	031	<b>+22</b>	<b>+71</b>
11.	Other taxes and fees	účet 345	032		
12.	Payables to state budget	účet 346	033		
13.	Payables to self-government local area's budgets	účet 348	034		
14.	Payables for unpaid subscribed shares and participations	účet 367	035		
15.	Payables to participants in association	účet 368	036		
16.	Payables to fixed-term financial transactions	účet 373	037		
17.	Sundry payables	účet 379	038	<b>+36</b>	<b>+13</b>
18.	Short-term bank loans	účet 231	039		
19.	Credits for discounted securities	účet 232	040		
20.	Short-term bonds issued	účet 241	041		
21.	Own bonds issued	účet 255	042		
22.	Estimated payables	účet 389	043	<b>+1,265</b>	<b>+521</b>
23.	Other short-term financial assistance	účet 249	044		
B. IV.	Other liabilities	B.IV.1+...+B.IV.x	045	<b>+2,051</b>	<b>+1,265</b>
B. IV. 1.	Accrued expenses	účet 383	046		
2.	Deferred revenue	účet 384	047	<b>+2,051</b>	<b>+1,265</b>
	LIABILITIES	A.+B.	048	<b>+8,247</b>	<b>+8,926</b>

Date of compilation: <b>15.6.2021</b>	Signature of statutory body
Legal form	
Entrepreneurial activity	



# PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT by 504/2002 Sb. amended in

Business name

**Knihovna Václava Havla, o.p.s.**  
**Ostrovní 129/13**

Registered office

**Praha 1**  
**11000**

as at **3 1 . 1 2 . 2 0 2 0**

From **1.1.2020** To: **31.12.2020**

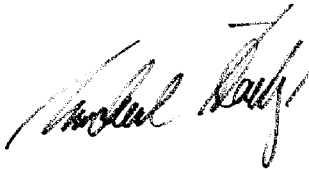
in thousands CZK

ID no. **2 7 1 6 9 4 1 3**

Seal

Ident.	PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT	line	Accounting period			
			Main	Business	Total	
A.	Expenses	A.I.+...+A.VIII.	001	<b>+17,897</b>		<b>+17,897</b>
A. I.	Consumed spendings total	A.I.1+...+A.I.x	002	<b>+8,095</b>		<b>+8,095</b>
A. I. 1.	Consumed materials, energy consumption, consumption of other non-inventory items	účty 501, 502, 503	003	<b>+772</b>		<b>+772</b>
2.	Merchandise sold	účet 504	004	<b>+13</b>		<b>+13</b>
3.	Repairs and maintenance	účet 511	005	<b>+68</b>		<b>+68</b>
4.	Travelling expenses	účet 512	006	<b>+86</b>		<b>+86</b>
5.	Representation expenses	účet 513	007	<b>+73</b>		<b>+73</b>
6.	Other services	účet 518	008	<b>+7,083</b>		<b>+7,083</b>
A. II.	Change in work-in-progress and activation	A.II.1+...+A.II.x	009	<b>+55</b>		<b>+55</b>
A. II. 7.	Change in work-in-progress	účty 561, 562, 563, 564	010	<b>+55</b>		<b>+55</b>
8.	Aktivation of material, goods and internal services	účty 571, 572	011			
9.	Aktivation of intangibles	účty 573, 574	012			
A. III.	Personal expenses total	A.III.1+...+A.III.x	013	<b>+8,869</b>		<b>+8,869</b>
A. III. 10.	Wages and salaries	účet 521	014	<b>+6,857</b>		<b>+6,857</b>
11.	Legal social insurance	účet 524	015	<b>+2,012</b>		<b>+2,012</b>
12.	Other social insurance	účet 525	016			
13.	Legal social security expenses	účet 527	017			
14.	Other social security expenses	účet 528	018			
A. IV.	Taxes total	A.IV.1+...+A.IV.x	019			
A. IV. 15.	Taxes total	účty 531, 532, 538	020			
A. V.	Other expenses total	A.V.1+...+A.V.x	021	<b>+205</b>		<b>+205</b>
A. V. 16.	Contractual fines, interest on late payments, other fines and penalties	účty 541, 542	022			
17.	Write-off of receivables	účet 543	023	<b>+6</b>		<b>+6</b>
18.	Interest expense	účet 544	024			
19.	Foreign exchange losses	účet 545	025	<b>+129</b>		<b>+129</b>
20.	Gifts	účet 546	026			
21.	Shortages and damage	účet 548	027	<b>+4</b>		<b>+4</b>
22.	Other expenses	účet 549	028	<b>+66</b>		<b>+66</b>
A. VI.	Depreciations, sold property, additions to reserves total	A.VI.1+...+A.VI.x	029	<b>+673</b>		<b>+673</b>
A. VI. 23.	Depreciation expenses of intangible and tangible fixed assets	účet 551	030	<b>+342</b>		<b>+342</b>
24.	Net book value of intangible and tangible fixed assets sold	účet 552	031			
25.	Shares and ownership interests sold	účet 553	032			
26.	Materials sold	účet 554	033			
27.	Additions to reserves and provisions	účty 556, 559	034	<b>+331</b>		<b>+331</b>
A. VII.	Membership fees total	A.VII.1+...+A.VII.x	035			
A. VII. 28.	Membership fees and operating contributions paid to branch	účty 581, 582	036			
A. VIII.	Income tax	A.VIII.1+...+A.VIII.x	037			
A. VIII. 29.	Income tax	účet 591	038			
	Expenses Total		039	<b>+17,897</b>		<b>+17,897</b>
B.	Revenues		040	<b>+17,897</b>		<b>+17,897</b>
B. I.	Operating subsidies	B.I.1+...+B.I.x	041	<b>+2,081</b>		<b>+2,081</b>
B. I. 1.	Operating subsidies	účet 691	042	<b>+2,081</b>		<b>+2,081</b>
B. II.	Accepted contributions total	B.II.1+...+B.II.x	043			
B. II. 2.	Received operating contributions	účet 681	044			
3.	Received donations	účet 682	045			
4.	Received membership fees	účet 684	046			
B. III.	Revenues from own efficient	účty 601, 602, 603	047	<b>+1,347</b>		<b>+1,347</b>

Ident.	<b>PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT</b>	line	Accounting period		
			Main	Business	Total
B. IV.	Other revenues total	B.IV.1+...+B.IV.x	048	<b>+14,469</b>	<b>+14,469</b>
B. IV. 5.	Contractual fines, interest on late payments and other fines and penalties	účet 641. 642	049		
6.	Revenue from written-off receivables	účet 643	050		
7.	Interest	účet 644	051	<b>+1</b>	<b>+1</b>
8.	Foreign exchange gains	účet 645	052	<b>+179</b>	<b>+179</b>
9.	Accounting for funds	účet 648	053	<b>+14,250</b>	<b>+14,250</b>
10.	Other revenues	účet 649	054	<b>+39</b>	<b>+39</b>
B. V.	Revenues from sales of property	B.V.1+...+B.V.x	055		
B. V. 11.	Revenues from sales of intangible and tangible fixed assets	účet 652	056		
12.	Revenues from sale of shares and ownership interests	účet 653	057		
13.	Revenues from sales of materials	účet 654	058		
14.	Revenues from short-term financial assets	účet 655	059		
15.	Revenues from long-term financial assets	účet 657	060		
	Total revenues		061	<b>+17,897</b>	<b>+17,897</b>
C.	Profit (loss) before taxation (r. 63 - 33)	B. - A.I.1.-...-A.VII.x + C. x.	062	<b>+0</b>	<b>+0</b>
D.	Profit (loss) after taxation	B. - A. + D. x.	063	<b>+0</b>	<b>+0</b>

Date of compilation: <b>15.6.2021</b>	Signature of statutory body
Legal form	
Entrepreneurial activity	

# The Vaclav Havel Library

## Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended on 31 December 2020  
(in thousands of CZK)

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### 1. Characteristics and main activities

#### *The establishment and characteristics of the Company*

Knihovna Václava Havla, o.p.s. (“the Company” or “The Václav Havel Library”) was established on 26 July 2004 by registration in the Commercial Register lodged with the Municipal Court in Prague, section O, insert 338.

The main purpose of the Company is archive, research, documentary and library activities focused on the works of Vaclav Havel and documents or items associated with his activities, expert analysis thereof, and related educational and popularising activities.

#### *Registered office of the Company*

Knihovna Václava Havla, o.p.s.

Ostrovní 129/13

110 00 Praha 1 - Nové Město

Czech Republic

#### *Company registration number*

271 69 413

#### *Members of the Board of Trustees as of 31 December 2020*

Gabriel Eichler (chairman)

Michaela Bakala (vice-chairwoman)

Dagmar Havlová

Božena Jirků

Martin Palouš

Jacques Rupnik

Nina Smitová

Iva Brožová

Milan Šimečka

The statutory representative of the Company is the Executive Director, Mr Michael Žantovský.

# The Vaclav Havel Library

## Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended on 31 December 2020  
(in thousands of CZK)

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### *Members of the Supervisory Board as of 31 December 2020*

Emil Holub

Ondřej Jonáš

Luděk Niedermayer

### *Company founders*

Dagmar Havlová

Miloslav Petrušek

Karel Schwarzenberg

Upon establishment, the Company founders pledged investment contributions amounting to a total of TCZK 3. These investment contributions have been paid in full and are not entered in the Register of Public Benefit Companies.

### *Changes in the Register of Public Benefit Companies*

In 2020, there were no changes in the Register of Public Benefit Companies.

### *Other facts*

The company responded to the Covid pandemic with a crisis plan. Due to the nature of the work, most employees worked at home-office and came to the company's seat only to carry out the activities that could not be performed outside the company, so that the personal contact was kept to the minimum. At the same time, the company took other anti-epidemic measures such as face masks, hand and space disinfection, ventilation. The major projects were implemented mostly on-line.

# The Vaclav Havel Library

## Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended on 31 December 2020  
(in thousands of CZK)

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### 2. Fundamental accounting policies applied by the Company

The Company's accounting is maintained and the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Act 563/1991 Coll. on Accounting, as amended, Decree No. 504/2002 Coll., which implements certain provisions of Act No. 563/1991 Coll. on Accounting, for accounting entities whose main subject of activity is not business, if they use the double-entry bookkeeping system, as amended, and with the Czech Accounting Standards for these accounting entities, as amended.

The accounting respects the general accounting principles, in particular the principle of valuing assets at historical cost (unless otherwise stated below), the accrual principle, the principle of prudence and the assumption of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

The Company's financial statements have been prepared as of the balance sheet date of 31. 12. 2020 for the accounting period from 1. 1. 2020 to 31. 12. 2020; the comparable period is the accounting period from 1. 1. 2019 to 31. 12. 2019.

The financial data in these financial statements are expressed in thousands of Czech crowns (CZK), unless otherwise stated below.

- (a) Method used to process accounting records and the method and place used to store such records.

Account keeping is outsourced to VGD, s.r.o. using the Byznys VR software system. The accounting documents are stored with the aforementioned accountants.

- (b) Fixed tangible and intangible assets

Fixed tangible and intangible assets are recorded at their acquisition price. Fixed tangible assets with an acquisition price of up to TCZK 40 and fixed intangible assets worth up to TCZK 60 are not recorded in the balance sheet and are expensed in the years of acquisition.

The following table sets out depreciation/amortisation method and periods by asset groups:

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<b>Assets</b>	<b>Method</b>	<b>Period</b>
Office equipment, furniture	Linear	3 years
Software	Linear	5 years
Other intangible assets	Linear	6 years

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# The Vaclav Havel Library

## Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended on 31 December 2020  
(in thousands of CZK)

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### (c) Conversion of foreign currencies

When converting foreign currencies, the Company uses the Czech National Bank's daily exchange rate. Only realised currency gains and losses are recognised in the course of the year.

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are converted as of the balance sheet date according to the foreign exchange market rate published by the Czech National Bank. Unrealised foreign exchange gains and losses are recognised in profit or loss.

### (d) Inventory

Work in progress and finished products (books) include material, payroll and other direct costs. The decrease is valued using the weighted arithmetic average method.

Goods are valued at their acquisition prices. The acquisition price includes the price of acquisition and any secondary acquisition costs (e.g., transport). The decrease in inventory is valued using the weighted arithmetic average method.

The adjustment to slow-moving and obsolete stocks is established on the basis of an analysis of inventory movements and on the basis of an individual assessment.

### (e) Received and provided gifts

The Company recognises the funds received on the basis of deeds of gifts on the Funds account, from which the finances received are charged in the following manner depending on the nature of their utilisation:

- to the Profit and Loss account, for the benefit of the Fund Accounting account up to the amount of costs expended on the individual projects (centres) or on operating activities in the relevant accounting period;
- to a bank account in the event of funds provided for third-party projects selected as part of the Company's various projects.

## 3. Fixed assets

### (a) Intangible assets

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	Software	Other intangibles	Total 2020	Total 2019
<b>Acquisition price</b>				
Balance as of 1.1.	825	1 843	2 668	2 426
Additions	--	--	--	242
Disposals	--	--	--	--
Transfers	--	--	--	--
Balance as of 31.12.	825	1 843	2 668	2 668
<b>Accumulated amortisation</b>				
Balance as of 1.1.	825	1 215	2 040	1 800

# The Vaclav Havel Library

## Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended on 31 December 2020  
(in thousands of CZK)

Balance as of 31.12.	825	1 489	2 314	2 040
<b>Net book value as of 1.1.</b>	--	<b>628</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>626</b>
<b>Net book value as of 31.12.</b>	--	<b>354</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>628</b>

### (b) Tangible fixed assets

	Office equipment, furniture	Artworks and collections	Total 2020	Total 2019
<b>Acquisition price</b>				
Balance as of 1.1.	990	1 277	2 267	2 267
Additions	188	--	188	--
Disposals	--	--	--	--
Transfers	--	--	--	--
Balance as of 31.12.	1 178	1 277	2 455	2 267
<b>Accumulated depreciation</b>				
Balance as of 1.1.	933	--	933	8791
Depreciation expenses	67	--	67	54
Disposals	--	--	--	--
Transfers	--	--	--	--
Balance as of 31.12.	1 000	--	1 000	933
<b>Net book value as of 1.1.</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>1 277</b>	<b>1 334</b>	<b>1 388</b>
<b>Net book value as of 31.12.</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>1 277</b>	<b>1 455</b>	<b>1 384</b>

#### 4. Bank accounts

Funds are held in current accounts denominated in CZK, USD and EUR. The balance in bank accounts as of 31 December 2020 is TCZK 3,658 (2019 – TCZK 2,241).

#### 5. Receivables and liabilities

##### (a) Receivables

Receivables amount to a total of TCZK 886 (2019 – TCZK 949), of which TCZK 64 (2019 – TCZK 109) is overdue. Operating advances represent advances for lease-related services amounting to a total of TCZK 287 (2019 – TCZK 307) and a principal to the rent amounting to a total of TCZK 271 (2019 – TCZK 271).

##### (b) Liabilities

Short-term liabilities amount to a total of TCZK 2,326 (2019 – TCZK 2,348), of which TCZK 8 (2019 – TCZK 175) is overdue.

The Company records a long-term liability as of 31 December 2020 based on an interest-free loan of TCZK 3,744 (2019 – TCZK 3,744) provided to the Company in January 2011 for operational purposes, which is due by 10 January 2022 at the latest.

#### 6. Deferred Expenses

Deferred expenses total TCZK 278 (2019 – TCZK 298) and primarily represent the deferred cost of the insurance costs, rent and film production.



# The Vaclav Havel Library

## Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended on 31 December 2020  
(in thousands of CZK)

### 7. Inventory

The inventory of finished products as of 31 December 2020 totals TCZK 2,083 (2019 – TCZK 2,520) and consists of the stock of the library's own book production. This amount consists of the inventory of finished products amounting to a total of TCZK 2,547 and adjustment amounting to a total of TCZK 464 (2019 – TCZK 2,672 resp. TCZK 152).

The inventory of finished goods as of 31 December 2020 totals TCZK 127 (2019 – TCZK 139) and represents the stock of books and DVDs intended for sale as part of the "Vaclav Havel in a Nutshell" exhibition. This amount consists of the inventory of goods amounting to a total of TCZK 148 and adjustment amounting to a total of TCZK 21 (2019 – TCZK 141 resp. TCZK 2).

Work-in-progress as of 31 December 2020 totals TCZK 52 (2019 – TCZK 112) and represents unfinished books from own production.

As of 31 December 2020, the total amount of inventory not posted in the balance sheet was TCZK 652 (2019 – TCZK 636), of which TCZK 70 (2019 – TCZK 74) was attributable to other parties' books in consignment sale and books registered in the archive amounted to TCZK 582 (2019 – TCZK 562).

### 8. Own resources

	Equity	Funds	Total
Balance as of 1.1.2020	66	38	104
Transfer of profits	--	--	--
Donations received	--	15 738	15 738
Donations provided	--	--	--
Change in fund balance	--	- 14 250	- 13 891
Profit of 2020	--	--	--
<b>Balance as of 31.12.2020</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>1 885</b>	<b>1 951</b>

### 9. Employees and executives

Average number of employees and personnel costs in 2020 and 2019:

	Average number of employees	Wages and salaries	Social security and health insurance expenses	Social expenses
2020				
Employees	10	6 857	2 012	--
2019				
Employees	10	6 566	2 146	--

# The Vaclav Havel Library

## Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended on 31 December 2020  
(in thousands of CZK)

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### 10. Bonuses and loans to statutory, board and other members

During 2020 and 2019, the Company paid bonuses to the statutory body arising from the post; these costs are reflected in the personnel costs. No bonuses or loans were paid or provided to members of the Board of Trustees and Supervisory Board in 2020 or 2019. No contracts binding the Company to pay out any benefits in the case of the termination of the activities of individual members of the statutory and supervisory bodies were concluded either in 2020 or 2019.

### 11. Payables arising from social security and health insurance

Payables arising from social security and health insurance amount to TCZK 415 (2019 – TCZK 218), of which TCZK 280 (2019 – TCZK 151) is attributable to social security liabilities, and TCZK 135 (2019 – TCZK 68) is attributable to health insurance liabilities. None of the above liabilities are overdue.

### 12. Other direct taxes and subsidies

Other direct taxes representing advances for natural person income tax amount to TCZK 183 (2019 – TCZK 67). None of the above liabilities are overdue.

In 2020 the Company consumed subsidies amounting to a total of TCZK 2,081 (2019 – TCZK 2,100), of which TCZK 1,114 (2019 – TCZK 1,512) are represented by state subsidies and the remaining TCZK 967 (2019 – TCZK 588) from other donors.

### 13. Deferred revenues

In 2020, the Company received subsidies and grants amounting to a total of TCZK 3,165 (2019 – TCZK 4,151), of which TCZK 1,265 (2019 – TCZK 2,051) will be consumed in 2021; the amount is recorded as Deferred revenue.

### 14. Information on the Company's projects

As in the previous period, the Company organised a number of public and club meetings in 2020. The “Vaclav Havel in a Nutshell” exhibition in Ostrovní Street in Prague's New Town is open to the public.

All the Company's activities are described in detail in the Annual Report. All of the received and provided gifts are also listed in the Annual Report.

### 15. Information on the remuneration for the statutory auditors

The total remuneration received by the auditor amounts to TCZK 23 (2019 – TCZK 1) and represents the statutory fees for the audit of the financial statements.

### 16. Income tax

The Company reported a tax liability from its activities subject to corporate income tax of TCZK 0 (2019 – TCZK 0).

# The Vaclav Havel Library

## Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended on 31 December 2020  
(in thousands of CZK)

The provisions of the Income Tax Act were employed in the calculation of corporate income tax and the tax base was reduced by TCZK 125 (2019 – TCZK 142) under Section 20, article 7.

### 17. Public collection

In 2019, the Company was allowed a public collection under No. MHMP 1536691/2019. The public collection can be held throughout the Czech Republic from 5 August 2019 for an indefinite period.

The public collection will be carried out in accordance with Act No. 117/2001 Coll., in the manner stipulated by Section 9 par. 1 a) of the Act on Public Collections, i.e. by collecting contributions on a previously announced special bank account No. 70777077/0600 established with MONETA Money Bank, Ltd., and further according to Section 9 par. 1 g) of the Public Collections Act, i.e. by depositing cash in a cash register set up by a legal entity.

The Company submitted the first interim statement as of 30 June 2020 to the City of Prague for inspection no later than by 30 September 2020. Further interim statements will be processed every year.

### 18. Administrative costs

The Company's administrative costs for 2020 total TCZK 3,399 (2019 – TCZK 3,228). Their structure is as follows:

2020	Total costs	Of which administrative costs
Consumed purchases and services	8 095	1 449
Change in internally-developed inventory and own work capitalised	55	--
Personnel expenses	8 869	1 736
Taxes and fees	--	--
Other expenses	205	178
Depreciation, assets sold, creation of provisions and adjustment	673	36
Corporate income tax	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>17 897</b>	<b>3 399</b>

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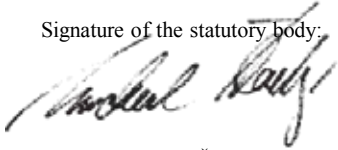
## Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended on 31 December 2020  
(in thousands of CZK)

2019	Total costs	Of which administrative costs
Consumed purchases and services	10 268	1 452
Change in internally-developed inventory and own work capitalised	-355	--
Personnel expenses	8 712	1 593
Taxes and fees	1	--
Other expenses	157	147
Depreciation, assets sold, creation of provisions and adjustment	448	36
Corporate income tax	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>19 231</b>	<b>3 228</b>

### 19. Material subsequent events

The Company is not aware of any events that have occurred since the balance sheet date that would have any material impact on the financial statements as of 31 December 2020.

Date: 15. 6. 2021	Signature of the statutory body:  Michael Žantovský
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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### To the Founder of Knihovna Václava Havla, o.p.s.

Having its registered office at: Ostrovní 129/13, Nové Město, 110 00 Prague 1

#### Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Knihovna Václava Havla, o.p.s. (hereinafter also the "Company") prepared on the basis of accounting regulations applicable in the Czech Republic, which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 December 2020, and the profit and loss account for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Knihovna Václava Havla, o.p.s. as at 31 December 2020, and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with accounting regulations applicable in the Czech Republic.

#### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Act on Auditors and Auditing Standards of the Chamber of Auditors of the Czech Republic, which are International Standards on Auditing (ISAs), as amended by the related application guidelines. Our responsibilities under this law and regulation are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the Act on Auditors and the Code of Ethics adopted by the Chamber of Auditors of the Czech Republic and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Other Information in the Annual Report

In compliance with Section 2(b) of the Act on Auditors, the other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and auditor's report thereon. The Statutory Body is responsible for the other information.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. In addition, we assess whether the other information has been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with applicable law or regulation, in particular, whether the other information complies with law or regulation in terms of formal requirements and procedure for preparing the other information in the context of materiality, i.e. whether any non-compliance with these requirements could influence judgments made on the basis of the other information.

Based on the procedures performed, to the extent we are able to assess it, we report that:

- The other information describing the facts that are also presented in the financial statements is, in all material respects, consistent with the financial statements; and
- The other information is prepared in compliance with applicable law or regulation.

In addition, our responsibility is to report, based on the knowledge and understanding of the Company obtained in the audit, on whether the other information contains any material misstatement of fact. Based on the procedures we have performed on the other information obtained, we have not identified any material misstatement of fact.

### Responsibilities of the Company's Statutory Body and Supervisory Board for the Financial Statements

The Statutory Body is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting regulations applicable in the Czech Republic and for such internal control as the Statutory Body determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Statutory Body is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Statutory Body either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Supervisory Board is responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the above law or regulation, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Statutory Body.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Statutory Body's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Statutory Body and Supervisory Board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

In Prague on 15 June 2021

Audit firm:

Deloitte Audit s.r.o.  
registration no. 079



Statutory auditor:

Lenka Neuvirtová  
registration no. 2179



