

Czech literature from a gender perspective

Fourth Congress
of World Czech Literary Studies:
Other Czech Literature (?)
Prague, 28 June – 03 July 2010

Arranged every five years at the initiative of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic Institute of Czech Literature, the congress brought together some 150 researchers from all over the world this year. Discussions over “otherness” in Czech literature were divided into four subject areas consisting of the following proceedings: *Czech literature at the interface and periphery*, *Czech literature from a gender perspective*, *Czech literature from an intermedia perspective* and in view of the anniversary of Karel Hynek Mácha’s birth in 2010, *Resonances of Mácha*.

Defining gender issues nowadays as something “other” is definitely problematic – in the foreign context feminist and gender studies rank entirely within the mainstream of literary studies. Although even in the Czech context there is now something to carry on from, the presented set of studies primarily attempts not merely to repeat other discussions on the subject of women (or men) in literature, but with the aid of gender analysis and critical interpretation to more systematically consider the literary text as a space for subject self-comprehension and the formation of gender(ed) identities, as well as to comment on the opportunities, dilemmas and debts of Czech literary research in the context of gender thought. This collection thus offers a broad range

of theoretical and thematic approaches, from a critical reading of the canon, gynocriticism and the archeology of women's literary tradition through cross-dressing in National Revival drama, queer reading of the socialist realist novel and the contribution of masculinity studies to the specific nature and cultural (im)precision of the category of feminist analysis, the gender evaluation of contemporary Czech literature and many other topics