

Summary

The book *Reading as Joy and Adventure: In Celebration of Jiří Trávniček's 60th Birthday* marks a significant life anniversary of Czech literary scholar, critic, and teacher, Jiří Trávniček. His scholarly interests encompass a broad range of topics: literary history and theory, the interpretation of poetry and literary critique, socio-metrical analyses of readers and reading, and the investigation of the phenomenon of Central Europe. Thus, unsurprisingly, the contributions present in the book also display a similar variety.

While the first part of the book, “Greetings and Confessions”, consists of personal texts and memoirs (Milan Suchomel, Jiří Koten, Petr Hruška, Iva Málková, Grzegorz Nieć, Vít Slíva, Jiří Poláček, Aleš Mereňus, Hana Svanovská, Martin Stöhr), the second part, “Studies and Interpretations”, includes an interpretation of *Darmstadt Haggadah* (Daniel Soukup), a comparison of the works of Friedrich Briedel and avant-garde poetry (Eva Klíčová), the activities of Czech publishers Ignác Leopold Kober and František Augustin Urbánek (Zuzana Urválková), the metamorphosis of the motif of the Brno Dragon in poetry (Michal Fránek), the picture of Carpathian Ruthenia in interwar prose (Pavel Janáček), the teaching of literature in Baťa's school system (Barbora Svobodová), the role and significance of narratives in schools (Ondřej Sládek), the early works of the Slovak writer Dušan Mitana (Lubomír Machala), possibilities of narration in the case of a loss of identity due to Alzheimer's (Jan Tlustý), the motif of grass in the work of the Polish poet Henryk Jasiczek (Libor Martinek), and inter-medial connections between literature and music (Radomil Novák).

The third part of the book, “Reading and Critique”, offers an essay devoted to the relationship between contemporary readers, critics, and their critiques (Miroslav Balaščík), an analysis of the reception of

lyric poetry and possible interpretations of Jan Skácel's poem "A Song about the Closest Guilt" (Dalibor Tureček), an interpretation of Otokar Březina's poem "Hands" (František Schildberger), a reflection on the literary critical works of Jiří Trávniček (Marek Lollok), and an essay on the parallels between Jiří Trávniček's book *The Story, Is It Dead?* and Brian's McHale's *Postmodernist Fiction* (Bohumil Fořt). The book concludes with a fictive dictionary item, "Reading", accompanied by a collage by Pavel Janoušek.