On the occasion of Hrabal’s centenary CU has prepared a round-table discussion

Charles University is marking this year’s centenary of the birth of Czech writer and graduate of the CU Faculty Law, Bohumil Hrabal, with an exhibition, discussion evening and a Czech and English edition of the author’s short stories. Taking part in the round-table discussion, which is entitled ‘Bohumil Hrabal stoletý’ (‘A Hundred Years of Bohumil Hrabal’) and starts at 5 p.m. on Thursday 27 March, will be PhDr. Michael Špirit, Ph.D., (FF UK), doc. PhDr. Jiří Pelán, Ph.D., (FF UK), Mgr. Marek Vajchr (FAMU) and Mgr. Michal Kosák, Ph.D., (ÚČL AV ČR). The discussion, which will centre the on the significance of the person and works of Bohumil Hrabal, will be moderated by Professor Martin Kovář, CU Vice-Rector for Public Affairs.

At the same time, an exhibition on Bohumil Hrabal’s relationship to Charles University will run in the foyer of Celetná 20. On the occasion of Hrabal’s centenary the Karolinum Press has prepared a Czech and English edition of Hrabal’s short stories entitled Rukověť pábitelského učně (‘The Manual of a Palavering Apprentice’) which contains short stories written by Hrabal in the 1970s. Some of these stories were published in the spring of 1978 by the Československý spisovatel publishing house under the title Slavnosti sněženek (‘Snowdrop Festival’). The new Karolinum Press edition restores to the collection short stories that had been censored in the 1970s, as well as adding a prose piece entitled Družička (‘Maid of Honour’).

A number of centenary events are also being prepared by Hrabal’s own faculty, the CU Faculty of Law. For example, the Všehrd Association of Czech Lawyers is organising a meeting with film director Jiří Menzel, an educational route entitled Via Hrabal and a Hrabal April Party.

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