

Faculty of Arts

Annual Activity Report 1999

Dean:	Assoc. Prof. PhDr. Ivan Seidl, CSc.
Vice-deans:	Prof. PhDr. Jana Nechutová, CSc. Prof. PhDr. Miloš Štědroň, CSc. Assoc. Prof. PhDr. Jan Zouhar, CSc. PhDr. Jan Pavlík
Chairmen of the Academic Senate:	PhDr. Thomas Donaldson Sparling, B.A. (until 7. 12. 1999) Assoc. Prof. PhDr. Břetislav Horyna, CSc. (from 7. 12. 1999)
Secretary:	Ing. Otakar Vaňura

The Faculty of Arts provides courses in philological studies (language and history of more than twenty languages), historical studies (archaeology, archive studies, history, museology and auxiliary historical disciplines), the study of the liberal arts (history of visual arts, drama studies, aesthetics, film studies, musical studies, and classical archaeology) and human and social sciences (ethnology, philosophy, pedagogy, psychology, social pedagogy and counselling, religious studies, and scholarly information and library studies).

In 1999, the Faculty obtained 31 grants worth CZK 9.098 million, of which 16 were provided by the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic (to a value of CZK 1.320 million) and nine came from the Higher Education Development Fund of the Ministry of Education (worth CZK 1.591 million). Teachers of the Faculty of Arts obtained seven small-scale grants, from the Ministry of Education and AKTION.

The departments presented altogether 20 proposals for development projects to the Higher Education Development Fund; nine one-year projects were accepted. The Grant Agency of the Czech Republic was presented with 15 three-year projects in 1999, nine of which were accepted. The Department of Musicology and Aesthetics and the Department of Archaeology and Museology presented research proposals to the Ministry of Education and obtained three-year grants worth CZK 3.290 million.

Teachers and researchers were actively involved in field committees of grant agencies, where 23 of them worked in 1999; they were also active on committees of professional societies, where 71 of teachers and researchers worked in the Czech Republic and 23 abroad. A number of teachers and researchers (71) work in international commissions and learned societies or as editors in scholarly and professional journals (29). A number of teachers were invited for study trips abroad (altogether 40) or took part in international congresses (13 teachers).

A number of teachers are honorary or full members of important institutions, both in the Czech Republic and abroad:

- Prof. Jan Fírbaš is the chairman of honour of the Circle of Modern Philologists of the Czech Republic,
- Prof. Josef Hladký is the chairman of the Czech Association of English Scholars,
- Dr. Thomas Donaldson Sparling is the chairman of the Central European Network for Canadian Studies,
- Dr. Jitka Vlčková is a member of BASA (the British Association for the Study of Australia),

- Prof. Richard Jeřábek is an elected representative of the Czech Republic on the board of SIEF (Société Internationale d'Ethnologie et de Folklore), which is a part of UNESCO and is based in Vienna, a member of UISAE (Union Internationale des Sciences Anthropologiques et Ethnologiques), and a foreign member of DGV (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Volkskunde),
- Prof. Dušan Holý is a member of the Society for Ethnomusicology in the USA,
- Prof. Antonín Bartoněk is a committee member of CIPEM (Centre International Permanente des Etudes Mycénéennes) in Paris, the chairman of the Brno branch of the Union of Classical Philologists and an honorary member of the Greek Scholarly Society in the Czech Republic,
- Assoc. Prof. Lubomír Slavíček is the chairman of the Society for the History of Arts in the Czech Lands and a member of the national committee for the history of arts of CIHA,
- Prof. Jiří Kroupa is the chairman of the Czech Society for 18th Century Studies, itself forming a part of the ISECS international society,
- Dr. Milada Rabušicová is a member of the Czech Committee of the World Organization for Pre-school Education (OMEP).

Out of the many scholarly conferences, symposiums, workshops and seminars held by departments of the Faculty in 1999, let us mention the following:

- the Department of Czech Literature, backed by the Open Society Fund, continued to organize the lecture series entitled *Czech Literature in a Central European Context*, in which leading Czech literary scholars and theoreticians took part,
- the Department of Czech Language organized a conference entitled *The Czech Language – Universal Features and Specific Traits 2*,
- the Department of Germanic and Norwegian Studies, in co-operation with the Austrian Institute for Eastern and South-Eastern Europe organized a series of lectures and discussions called *The Brno Encounter*, with the participation of more than 40 students from Brno, Fulda, Mannheim and Vienna, on the subject of the common history and future co-operation of the Czechs, Germans and Austrians,
- the Department of Archaeology and Museology organized a conference to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the founding of MU and to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the beginnings of archaeological research in the Znojmo region (an MU initiative) and the 40th anniversary of the beginnings of systematic archaeological research of the Slavonic high-ground settlement of Břeclav-Pohansko,
- the Department of Musicology of the Faculty of Arts held an international musicological colloquium entitled *The Sense (or Non-sense) of the History of 20th Century Music* and a conference called *Museums of Music at the End of the 20th Century*,
- the Department of Theatre and Film Studies took part in organizing a symposium entitled *Václav Havel, Playwright*,
- the Department of Slavonic Studies organized an international scholarly conference called *Alexander Sergejevitch Pushkin in a European International Context* and the third international Czecho-Slovak symposium entitled *Czech and Slovak Mutuality and Non-Mutuality*,
- the Department of History of the Faculty of Arts, together with Matice Moravská (the Moravian Society for Popular Education), the Moravian Regional Museum in Brno and the Austrian Institute for Eastern and South-Eastern Europe organized an international conference entitled *The History of Moravia and Matice Moravská: Problems and Prospects*, etc.

Special attention is paid to the research work students and younger faculty members:

- the Department of Classical Studies held a conference of Ph.D. students in Latin medieval studies and related fields,
- the Department of History organized at faculty level a student scholarly research conference entitled *History 99*, and the Department of Theatre and Film Studies, in collaboration with the

Austrian Institute for Eastern and South-Eastern Europe organized the third symposium of theatre students of theatre entitled *The Contemporary Drama in Crisis?*.

The Faculty played host to a number of important Czech and foreign guests, who took part in discussions with students and get-togethers with teachers: the ambassadors of South Africa, the USA, Canada, Norway, Algiers, Switzerland, Mexico and other members of diplomatic corps; the writer and playwright Pavel Kohout; the directors Vojtěch Jasný and Saša Gedeon; the writers Jan Trefulka and Ludvík Kundera; the Minister of Culture Pavel Dostál; Prof. Zdeněk Mathauser (who received the Gold Medal of MU); Dr. Daničle Monmarte from France (director of the National Centre for Scholarly Research of the Theatre and vice-president of the Eastern Europe Solidarity Committee); Prof. François Marès (the director of CEFRES); Prof. Dr. Ewald Kislinger (University of Vienna); Prof. Roderick Beaton (King's College); Prof. Bruno d'Agostino (Istituto Universitario Orientale, Naples); Frank Boldt, Ishmael Reed, Hanif Kureishi, and many others.

In 1999, 4,941 people applied to study at the Faculty of Arts in more than 150 combinations of taught subjects. Overall interest in the Faculty's courses therefore remains high. The Faculty widened the range of fields of study it offers: new full time bachelor's courses in Baltic studies, Portuguese studies and social pedagogy and counselling (previously only possible in combined studies) were opened, as well as full-time master's courses in general linguistics and scholarly information and library studies (previously only possible in combined studies). In recent years, the Faculty has accepted more than 500 students every year and the total number of students enrolled at the Faculty of Arts in the academic year 1999/2000 is 3,153 in all types of study.

New study regulations, a new examination code and a new credit system came into effect on September 1st 1999. A computerized system of the study administration continues to be introduced as part of the new information system that is being set up at MU.

Students from abroad appear to be interested in studying at the Faculty of Arts as well. Last year, the Faculty accepted more than 90 foreign students; these were recipients of scholarships from the Ministry of Education, visiting and exchange students in various programmes such as ERASMUS/SOCRATES, CEEPUS and others, or students coming as a result of bilateral agreements (from Chattanooga, Leeds, Kiev, etc.). The Faculty of Arts and the Department for Czech for Foreign Students offer one-semester scholarships to eight to ten students of Czech studies, translators and students in their final years. The 32nd year of the Summer School of Slavonic Languages took place from July 24th to August 21st, with 130 participants from 27 countries from all over the world.

More than 230 teachers went abroad on study trips and to give lecture series. On the other hand, there are more than 20 teachers from various language communities (the USA, France, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Germany, Austria, Poland, Slovenia, Latvia, Japan, etc.) working at the Faculty of Arts.

Our teachers published a large number of original scholarly works and essays in Czech and foreign almanacs and journals. The Faculty published 21 monographs. To name a few:

- *Czech Compound Words from the Point of View of Diachrony* by D. Šlosar
- *Ancient Socio-Religious Architecture in Moravia* by V. Podborský
- *The Stage Works of Ludwig van Beethoven* by R. Pečman
- *The Economic Rise of Moravia, 1740–1918* by J. Janák
- *The Moravia of the Luxembourgs 1310–1423* by J. Mezník
- *The Holocaust of the Czech Roma* by C. Nečas
- *Nothing Permanent and Present* by M. Kopecký
- *British Women Writers at the End of the Millennium* by M. Franková
- *Numerals Comparative – Etymological Analysis and Its Implications* by V. Blažek
- *Chapters in the History of Russian Democracy: Alexander Kerensky* by V. Goněc
- *Vergleichende stilistische Untersuchungen zum Ackermann aus Böhmen und Tkadlec* by S. Stanovská

- *An Examination of the Domestic Management of Subjects in Western Moravia in the 16th and 17th Centuries* by B. Chocholáč

A number of teachers received important awards both in the Czech Republic and abroad:

- Prof. Radoslav Večerka was conferred the degree of honorary doctor from the University of Freiburg.
- the Dean of the Faculty Assoc. Prof. Ivan Seidl was awarded the Knight's Order of the Republic of Italy for promoting the cultural relationship between Italy and the Czech Republic and for his scholarly work in and translations of Italian literature.
- Prof. Jiří Fukač was nominated a member-correspondent of the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna.
- Prof. Bořivoj Srba received the Prize of the Minister of Education for Lifetime Achievement.
- Prof. Josef Šmajš and Prof. Jiří Vysloužil were awarded the Memorial Silver Medal of the Ministry of Education.
- Prof. Jiří Šrámek received the Gold Medal of the Rector of Masaryk University.
- Prof. Miloš Štědroň obtained the Prize of the Rector of Masaryk University for his book *Leoš Janáček and 20th Century Music*, as did Prof. Jaroslav Hroch for his book *Philosophical Hermeneutics in History and the Present*.
- Assoc. Prof. Ludmila Urbanová received the Prešov University Medal for her promotion of English studies at the Faculty of Arts at the University of Prešov.