

## Notes on the contributors

**Vladimír Barborík** (b. 1965) after graduating from the Faculty of Education in Nitra in Slovak literature and philosophy he joined the Institute of Slovak Literature in the Slovak Academy of Sciences in 1992. His area of research is the history of Slovak prose and literary criticism between the wars and after World War II. He has published monographs on *Pavel Hruš* (2000) and *Gejza Vámoš* (2006) and, with Peter Darovec, the anthology *Mladá tvorba 1956 – 1970 – 1996. Časopis po čase* (Mladá tvorba 1956 – 1970 – 1996. The magazine after some time, 1996). He also published a series of interviews with Vladimír Petřík, *Hľadanie minulého času* (In Search of Past Time, 2009). He has worked as an editor at literary and cultural magazines (*Dotyky*, *Kultúrny život*, *RAK*, *Slovenská literatúra*). He is also a widely published reviewer.

**René Bílik** (b. 1960) is professor of Slovak literary history and theory at the Faculty of Education, Trnava University and Head of the Department of Slovak language and literature and a senior research fellow at the Institute of Slovak literature in the Slovak Academy of Sciences. He lectures on literary theory and interpretation, and researches 20th century Slovak literature, especially post-1945. His publications include *Industrializovaná literatúra* (Industrialized Literature, 1994), *Lubomír Feldek* (2000), *Historický žáner v slovenskej próze* (Historical Genre in Slovak Prose, 2008), *Duch na reťazi* (A Chained Spirit, 2009). He is the author of the university textbook *Interpretácia umeleckého textu* (Literary Interpretation, 2009). In 2009 he edited a selection of Ján Kalinčiak's prose entitled *Reštaurácia a iné* (Restoration and others).

**Erika Brtáňová** (b. 1962) works at the Institute of Slovak Literature in the Slovak Academy of Sciences and at the Department of History and Theory of the Arts in the Faculty of Arts, Trnava University. Her field of research is early Slovak literature. She is especially interested in homiletics (Medieval scholastic sermons. On the reception of Latin *sermones* in the codices of Slovak provenance. Bratislava : Veda, 2000). She has contributed to a multi-author volume on the earliest period of Hungarian-Slovak literary historiography (G. Gáfriková *et al.*: *Pannonia docta – Učená Panónia*. Bratislava : Veda, 2003). Her research focuses on writers who helped shape the literary culture of the second half of the 18th century (Jozef Ignác Bajza, Ladislav Bartholomeides, Augustín Doležal, Juraj Fándly, and others).

**Tomáš Horváth** (b. 1971), a literature scholar who also writes prose and translates Polish literature, is a senior research fellow at the Institute of Slovak Literature in the Slovak Academy of Sciences. Among other works he is the author of a monograph, *Dušan Mitana* (Kalligram, 2000), *Rétorika histórie* (The Rhetoric of History, Veda, 2002), *Ján Hrušovský a modernizmus* (Ján Hrušovský and Modernism, Slovak Academic Press, 2008) and *Tajomstvo a vražda. Model a dejiny detektívneho žánru* (Mystery and Murder. Form and History in Detective Fiction. Veda, 2011).

**Rudolf Chmel** (b. 1939) is a literature scholar. After studying Slovak and Russian at the Faculty of Arts of Comenius University in Bratislava (1956 – 1961), he worked at the Slovak Academy of Sciences. He has also worked at the Institute of Slovak Literature (1961 – 1963), the Institute of World Literature and Languages (1964 – 1972), the Institute of Literary Studies (1973 – 1982) and at the same time edited the journal *Slovenská literatúra*. In 1982 he was the Secretary of the Union of Czechoslovak Writers in Prague, in 1988 – 1989 he was editor-in-chief of *Slovenské pohľady*, then Director of the Institute of Literary Studies in the Slovak Academy of Sciences. From 1990 to 1992 he was Ambassador of the Czechoslovak Federation to Hungary and in 1993 he joined the Institute of Slovak Literature in the Slovak Academy of Sciences and at the same time became the Head of the Department of Hungarian Literature and Language at the Faculty of Arts, Comenius University in Bratislava (1993 – 1996). From 1994 to 2011 he was the Head of the Department of Slovak Studies at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University, in 2000 also becoming the editor-in-chief of the monthly OS. In 2002 he became the Minister of Culture of the Slovak Republic, and he is currently a member of its parliament. His literary publications include *Literatúry v kontaktoch* (Literatures in Contact, 1972), *Kritika a kontinuita* (Criticism and Continuity, 1975), *Két irodalom kapcsolatai* (The Links Between Two Literatures, 1980, in Hungarian), *Dejiny v dejinách* (History within History, 1981), *Sondy* (Soundings, 1983), *Paralely a konfrontácie* (Parallels and Confrontations, 1986), *Dejiny slovenskej literárnej kritiky* (History of Slovak Literary Criticism, 1991), as well as collections of essays: *Moja maďarská otázka* (My Hungarian Question, 1996), *Moje slovenské pochybnosti* (My Slovak Doubts, 2004), *Romantizmus v globalizme. Malé národy – veľké mýty* (Romanticism within Globalism. Small Nations – Big Myths, 2009). He has also edited a number of volumes.

**Marcela Mikulová** (b. 1951) is a senior research fellow at the Institute of Slovak Literature in the Slovak Academy of Sciences. She graduated from the Faculty of Arts of Comenius University, Bratislava, in aesthetics and Slovak language, in 1974, and there also received her PhD in 1980. In 1988 she was awarded her *Kandidat* from the Institute of Slovak Literature in the Slovak Academy of Sciences for her dissertation titled *Literárne kontexty Timravinej tvorby* (Literary Contexts in Timrava's Work). She has worked at the Department of Slovak Language and Literature in the Faculty of Education, University of Trnava, and since 1989 at the Institute of Slovak Literature in the Slovak Academy of Sciences, where she specialises in Slovak literature in the period of Realism and the transition period between Realism and the modern period. She has published *Próza Timravy medzi realizmom a modernou* (Timrava's Fiction between Realism and Modernity, 1993) and *Tajovského obrodenecká moderna* (Tajovský's Revivalist Modernity, 2005). She has also published studies of T. Vansová, E. M. Šoltéssová, J. Jesenský, T. Milkin, M. Kukučín, O. Čepan and others. She has contributed to the Dictionary of Slovak Writers (1999), written a chapter on the second generation of Realists in the History of Slovak Literature of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (2003) and in *Panorama of Slovak Literature, II* (2005). She has edited selections from the prose of J. G. Tajovský (2005) and B. S. Timrava (2008).

**Radoslav Passia** (b. 1977) studied Slovak language and literature and aesthetics at the Faculty of Arts in Prešov University. He worked for the Arts Programmes Department of the Slovak Radio in Košice (1999 – 2005), then completed a PhD on Slavonic literatures at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University, Prague. Since 2008 he has been working at the Institute of Slovak Literature in the Slovak Academy of Sciences, the focus of his research being contemporary Slovak literature. Since 2010 he has been the editor-in-chief of the leading Slovak literary journal, *Romboid*.

**Eubica Somolayová** (b. 1979) studied history and literature at the Faculty of Arts in Comenius University, Bratislava. In 2002 she joined the Institute of Slovak Literature in the Slovak Academy of Sciences. Since 2004 she has been an associated fellow at the Minority Cultures project (Universität Regensburg, Germany) and since 2005 at Network Central Europe (Technische Universität Dresden, Germany). She has written extensively on contemporary Slovak and European literature (especially on poetry). Her Ph.D. was on Romantic poetry. She teaches literature at the University of Trnava. She is currently an editor at the International Poetry Festival and the Publishing House *Ars Poetica*.

**Milan Šútovec** (b. 1940), is literary scholar, writer and journalist, who studied Slovak and history at the Faculty of Arts of Comenius University in Bratislava. He has worked as an editor at the literary magazines *Kultúrny život*, *Slovenské pohľady* and *Slovenská literatúra*, as well as being an editor at Tatran publishers. In 1972 he became a full-time doctoral candidate and later a senior research fellow at the Institute of Literary Studies and the Institute of Slovak Literature in the Slovak Academy of Sciences. He has been awarded the Academy's Gold Medal and the Eudovít Štúr Golden Honorary Diploma. Since 1962 he has published many articles in the fields of literary criticism, theory and history, and after 1990 he became active as a columnist and political essayist; he has also written on historiography. His fiction includes *Tieňohry* (Shadowplays, 1968), *Muži a zbrane* (Men and Guns, 1974, Smena Award) and books of commentaries, professional and scientific works *Romány a mýty* (Novels and Myths, 1982, Literary Fund Award), *Rekapitulácia nekapitulácie* (Recapitulation of Non-capitulation, 1990), *Semióza ako politikum alebo „pomlčková vojna“* (Semiosis as a Political Phenomenon, or „the Hyphen War“, 1999, E. E. Kisch Award, AOSS Annual Award), *O epickom diele* (On the Epic Work of Art, 1999, AOSS Award), *Zo šedej zóny* (Out of the Grey Zone, 1999, AOSS Award, VÚB Special Award), *Demokratické ovzdušie a politický smog* (The Democratic Atmosphere and the Political Smog, 2002), *Mýtus a dejiny v próze naturizmu* (The Myth and History in Naturalist Fiction, 2005); a collection of his newspaper columns, *Maslo na našich hlavách* (Butter on our Heads – We are to Blame), appeared in 2011, as did a collection of literary pieces, *Membra disiecta litteraria*. He edited volume VI of the complete works of Štefan Krčméry (1973), volume III the complete works of Oskár Čepan (2002), and the collection „Texts and Contexts“ from the work of Michal Harpáš (2004), of the work of Margita Figuli (2011), as well as of work by L. Ballek, P. Jaroš and P. Vilikovský. His scripts were made into TV films *Literárny Martin* (Literary Martin, 1968) and *Modranské komíny* (The Chimneys of Modra, 1969) and a feature film

*Súkromná vojna* (A Private War, 1977). From 1990 to 1992 he was the Chairman of the Chamber of the Nations of the Czechoslovak Republic's Federal Assembly.

**Peter Zajac** (b. 1946) studied Slovak and German in Bratislava and Tübingen and until 1989 worked as an editor in publishing, as an assistant professor, and a research fellow. Between 1990 and 1998 he was the Director of the Institute of Slovak Literature in the Slovak Academy of Sciences. In 1996 he became professor of Czech and Slovak studies at the Humboldt University of Berlin and in 1998 a research fellow at the Institute of Slovak Literature in the Slovak Academy of Sciences. His areas of interest are literary theory, literary and cultural history, fine art and cultural-social issues. He has published *Tvorivosť literatúry* (Creativity in Literature, 1990), *Pulzovanie literatúry* (Pulsating Literature, 1993) and *Auf den Taubenfüßchen der Literatur* (1996). As an advisor, with A. Winter, on Czech and Slovak literatures he contributed to the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Kindlers Literatur Lexikon (2009) with brief biographies of the Czech and Slovak writers J. Botto, P. Dobšinský, M. M. Hodža, P. O. Hviezdoslav, S. K. Neumann and J. Silan. With Ján Štrasser he translates German poetry into Slovak (J. Ch. Günther, Gallows Songs. German, Austrian and Swiss ballads from the 9<sup>th</sup> century to the present, The Scream and the Silence of the Century – An Expressionist Anthology, G. Benn, B. Brecht, I. Bachmann, G. Eich, P. Huchel) and plays (J. W. Goethe: Stella, H. von Kleist: The Broken Jug, H. von Hofmannsthal: The Fool and Death, K. Kraus: The Last Days of Mankind, B. Brecht: The Threepenny Opera, Heiner Müller: The Wind and the Cry of the World (Hamlet Machine) and Quartet, Thomas Bernhard: Eve of Retirement). With Ľubomír Feldek and Marta Rozkošná he translated J. W. Goethe's The Theory of Colour. He has written a fine art monograph on *Marian Meško* (2005) and also, with Barbara Bodorová, *Obrazy Oskára Čepana* (The Imagery of Oskár Čepan, 2006). His collections of essays include *Sen o krajine* (The Dream of a Country, 1996), *Krajina bez sna* (A Country without a Dream, 2004) and *1+1* (2004, with Fedor Gál). With Fedor Gál, Grigorij Mesežnikov, Marián Timuracký and Miroslav Kollár he co-edited and co-authored the book *Slovensko na ceste do neznáma* (Slovakia On the Path to the Unknown, 2002).

*Translated by Vladimír Kmec*