

## GERMAN POETRY IN THE GHETTO

Theresienstadt, 1941–1945

*Ludvík E. Václavěk*

The Theresienstadt concentration camp in northern Bohemia has gone down in history as both a site of the inhumanity of National Socialism and a unique cultural-historical monument. From 1941 to 1945, cultural life developed there on a grand scale. Much has been written about the Czech component, but little about the German. The German-language literary production here can be designated as the last output of Prague German-language literature. Although only a few of the German poets of the “ghetto” are known to the public, they numbered more than thirty. Among the poets of Theresienstadt who came from Czechoslovakia were Peter Kien (1919–1944), Ilse Weber (1903–1944), Gertrud Groag (1889–1979), and Vlastimil Artur Polák (born in 1914).