

## HOMAGE FOR VILÉM FLUSSER

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Vilém Flusser, born in Prague in 1920, is known above all for his contributions to the theory of mass media. The article briefly sketches his biography and his most important works. Bereft of his Prague world and of his relatives, the Jewish student of philosophy experiences his flight to Brazil, in 1940, as a fall into an abyss. He commits himself to Brazilian culture, becomes professor of philosophy at Sao Paulo and publishes books and philosophic sketches, first in Brazil and then in Germany. In philosophic "scenes" he develops his theory of a sea change just taking place, from history as a product of literacy to post-history characterised by algorithms and technical charts. He attempts to counteract the threat posed by powerful device-operator complexes with dialogue which is to bring about a sense of purpose. In 1972, he goes to France. In 1983, his book "For a philosophy of photography" establishes his reputation as a leading proponent of the philosophy of communications. In 1991, he travels to Prague, his home town, where he delivers a lecture at the *Goethe-Institut*. On the way back, he is killed in an accident.