

THE „CZECH LIBRARY“

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Czech literature is something the average German reader is not aware of. To rectify this shortcoming, the “Czech library” has been initiated three years ago. Until 2008, this book series will offer a representative cross section of Czech literary life. Up to the moment, ten volumes have been published which reflect developments from the literature of the national reawakening up to contemporary drama. The inter-war republic is represented by selected works by Karel Čapek, Tomáš G. Masaryk, and two authors who are almost unknown in Germany: Milada Součková and Vladislav Vančura. Their fate links them to the years of German occupation. The horrors of this time are related in Jiří Weil’s „Leben mit dem Stern“ (Living with the Yellow Star). Jaroslav Duchych – an exponent of modern catholic literature – takes the reader to the deserted border region of the 1950s, where his heroes do not find the paradise they expected but the problems of a past not dealt with. The latest Czech library volume is an anthology of plays by Václav Havel, Ivan Klíma, Pavel Kohout, Jachým Topol, and Milan Uhde.