

SUMMARIES

"WHAT WE NEED IS ANOTHER PUBLIC". KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN CZECH CULTURAL POLITICS; 1948-1953

Jiří Knapík

This contribution opens with a brief outline of research on cultural politics in the Bohemian lands in the aftermath of the communist takeover of February 1948, and points out methodological questions as well as problems which have hitherto been neglected. The main part proposes a periodization for the developments in cultural policies between 1948 and 1953, and calls for a broader definition of the term "culture". Taking into account solely developments with regard to differing spheres of the arts cannot give the whole picture. Rather, ventures by trade unions into the realm of cultural politics, the official propaganda ("educational work"), and the activities of the mass organisations all have to be looked at. On that basis, the contribution sketches the structures responsible for cultural politics within the national administration and the party, the mechanisms they used for directing cultural policies, and finally in what manner their decisions were put into practice with regard to movies, book editing, the press, and the theatres.