

*On January 12th, 2015 Professor Petr Kořátko is turning 60. We found it very appropriate to celebrate this occasion by putting forward a volume of papers that not only deals with some of his favorite topics, but also consists of submissions from his close friends and colleagues. The decision was made to choose authors from countries other than his homeland of the Czech Republic, in order to emphasize a strong standing Petr has in the international philosophical community.*

*We do not feel it is necessary to trace Petr's philosophical journey in any great detail. Yet few comments are in order to elucidate why this collection contains exactly papers it does. Petr's encounters with analytic philosophy can be traced to the very late 1980s, when turbulent political changes and a gradual policy of détente between the two political blocks on each side of the iron curtain created for a first time a limited space for exchanges among scholars. Prior to the Velvet Revolution, Petr spent several months in the UK, visiting top educational institutions. During this stay he got closely acquainted with analytical ways of philosophizing and befriended many essential figures of this tradition.*

*When the old regime finally collapsed, Petr started to promote analytic philosophy in Czechoslovakia in a systematic way. He began to teach philosophy of lan-*

*guage and related subjects at various institutions, became the head of the Analytic philosophy unit at the newly re-established Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences, published extensively and also started to invite foreign scholars to Czechoslovakia. It was especially his organizational activity that made Prague an important center for analytic philosophy in Europe. In the early years of the transition, he has hosted many distinguished philosophers, including J. Katz, P. Strawson and W.V.O. Quine. These early visits had immense impact on the local community, as they were frequented not only by emerging analytic audience, but by then dominant continental philosophers as well. Success of the early days has moved Petr to his most celebrated project—legendary meetings in Karlovy Vary. From 1992 to 1998, Petr headed a team that put together one of the most influential series of analytic conferences on the continent. We need to be reminded that it was still during the time period when now blooming analytic philosophy was still largely restricted to the Anglo-Saxon world. Karlovy Vary Symposia became a household name for everyone working in the areas of philosophy of language and mind. Today, reading the Symposia programs, one cannot but be utterly amazed. The long list of participants not only includes most of the towering figures of the post-war analytic tradition—*

Quine, Davidson, Putnam, Føllesdal, Searle—but also contains a sizeable proportion of young scholars, who were just beginning their careers and are now influencing the growth of the analytic tradition in Europe and elsewhere. We know that most of participants still greatly value their chance to witness these unique Symposia. Their recollections emphasize not only fascinating philosophical discussions, but also scenic surroundings and frequent inclusions of artistic performances. A close connection of philosophy and arts comes naturally to Petr. After all, he is also a renowned author of fiction, an avid piano player and a keen observer of visual arts. We should also mention that several volumes of proceedings from Karlovy Vary meetings have been published by important publishing houses and made the meetings and Petr himself known far beyond the circle of conference participants.

It is in the post-Karlovy Vary period that Petr's artistic interests and his philosophy have got closer together. He has moved both his philosophical focus and organizational capabilities into the wide problem of interpretation. In a series of publications and during his Prague Interpretation colloquia, which continue from the year 2000 onwards, he has demonstrated not only his mastery of the subject matter, but also a unique willingness to communicate with leading representatives of the literary theory. These gatherings, smaller in size, have attracted leading figures from aesthetics, philosophy of language

and literary theory. Many meetings have again resulted in a publication of proceedings that are widely used as reference books within the field.

Contributions in this volume mirror the above-mentioned two stages of Petr's professional development. The first six papers discuss various issues in the field of the philosophy of language, from the notion of sense through truth conditions to the concepts understanding and intention. The final four papers attempt to solve issues on the borderline between philosophy and literature, with three discussing the nature of fictional characters, a topic Petr has been working on very recently. All contributions were written specifically for this occasion and many provide direct responses to selected issues Petr has addressed in his own work.

We would like to thank all the contributors for making the volume possible, to the editors of *Organon F* for making it all happen and to Petr for inspiring us to be better philosophers and better people.

In the closing, and on behalf of all the contributors to this volume, his co-workers, friends and collaborators, we want to wholeheartedly congratulate Petr on this special occasion and wish him all the best in both his professional and personal lives. You have been an inspiration, a great colleague and a valuable friend to all of us and we hope to continue these relations for many more years.

Juraj Hvorecký