

CONTENTS

Publisher's Preface . . . vii

Czech Pronunciation Guide . . . x

Introduction . . . 11

1. A Trio of Geniuses . . . 15

2. Mama's Boy . . . 20

3. Visual Artist or Writer? . . . 31

4. Civilized Optimism Swept Away . . . 34

5. Not Two Sheaves, But Rather Thousands
of Stalks . . . 41

6. From Tutor to Editor . . . 48

7. The Shy Boy as Robber . . . 54

8. Olga: Love with a Secret . . . 63

9. The First Report on the End of Civilization:
R.U.R. . . . 72

10. The Second Report on the End of Civilization:
The Absolute at Large . . . 85

11. A Morality Play About Insects and People . . . 93

12. To Live Briefly, But Fully . . . 103

13. Personal Crisis and Flight to Italy . . . 108

14. Return of the Robber . . . 117

15. A Bad Dream . . . 125

16. A Protest Against Ideologies . . . 130

17. How to Warn of Destruction? . . . 136

18. Important for the Nation . . . 140

19. Mary and Martha . . . 147

20. The Stolen Document and Other Tales . . . 157

21. The End of the Robber . . . 164

22. The Story of a Man Hurrying Towards Death . . . 170

23. Looking for Love . . . 177

24. The Failure of the Intellectuals Will Make
Barbarians of Us All . . . 185
25. The Third Report on the End of Civilization:
War with the Newts . . . 191
26. Do You Wish Merry Me? . . . 200
27. Artist v. Newspaperman . . . 207
28. It Could Have Been a Book About Soldiers
or the Crew of a Ship . . . 215
29. Anyone Can Go to His Death, But to Lose
Someone . . . 221
30. We Are All Increasingly Alone . . . 228

Endnotes . . . 239

Karel Čapek's Works in English Translation . . . 260

Index . . . 263

Index

- Absolute at Large, The* 85-92, 138, 224
- Adam the Creator* 132-135, 138
- Apocryphal Tales* 45-46, 130, 136, 147, 149, 191-192, 209-210
- Austro-Hungarian Empire 15-16, 50
- Beneš, Edvard 41, 214, 230, 234
- Bergson, Henri 174
- Čapek, Karel
- Agitprop of 226-227
 - Allegories and fables, use of 137-139, 150
 - Anielka, and 55-57
 - Childhood 20-28
 - Classical drama, and 83-84
 - Communism, and 53, 78, 89, 95-98, 131-134, 136, 147, 155-156, 185-186, 189, 191, 208, 210, 223
 - Death 235-238
 - Death, fear of 106, 174,
 - Democracy, on 12, 18, 45, 53, 125-126, 143, 153-154, 185-186, 190, 208, 225, 237, 250
 - Emigration, consideration of 234
 - Dissertation on esthetics 35
 - Fables of 136-137, 191-192, 210-211, 216
 - Fascism and Czech nationalism, against 112, 185-189, 191, 208, 222-223, 228-229, 232
 - Fanaticism, on 212, 223-226
 - Father, relationship with 20, 23-27, 179
 - Feuilletons and columns of 21, 73, 91, 140-142, 146, 148-150, 157, 191, 208
 - First world war, and the 34, 37-38, 48, 58, 77-78, 88-89, 91, 100
 - Helena, relationship with his sister 26, 200, 203-204
 - Hobbies 148, 157-158
 - Hrůzová, Věra, relationship with 108-112, 116, 123
 - Illnesses 26-28, 35, 56-57, 66-67, 69, 71, 106, 110-115, 120, 180-181, 183, 235-238
 - Intelligentsia, on responsibilities of and betrayal by 187-189, 196, 198, 211
 - Irony, and 193
 - Josef, relationship with his brother 18, 23-24, 26, 28-32, 34, 39, 101, 132, 143, 203-204
 - Journalist, as 49-51, 140-146, 195, 218
 - Justice, on 161-162
 - Language, use of 60, 162-163, 176
 - Masaryk, relationship with President 143-144, 151-155, 190
 - Modern art, on 31-34, 95
 - Mother, relationship with 20, 23, 25-28, 30, 57, 59, 106, 179-181
 - Names of characters, and 82, 241, 247, 258
 - Narrative techniques 40, 87, 91, 104-106, 135, 165-166, 171-172, 183-184, 233
 - Paris, in 32
 - Poetry of 35-36, 209
 - Power, and 121, 194-197, 210
 - Pragmatism, and 41-46, 134
 - Responsibility, and 44, 46, 50, 53, 69-70, 96-97, 122, 134, 144-146, 154, 178, 185-186, 190, 198, 209, 212, 214, 229, 236, 238
 - Romantic relationships, and 54-57, 64-71, 81, 108-112, 118-124, 156, 168, 173-174, 180-181-183, 200, 217
 - Scheinpflugová, Olga, relationship with and marriage to 64-71, 108, 112-116, 143, 200-206
 - Siege, the motif of the 61-62
 - Technology, and 126-129, 192, 194-195 (also see *R.U.R.*, *The Absolute at Large*, and *Krakatit*)
 - Translations of French poetry 35-36
 - Truth, on the nature of and search for 39-40, 42-47, 59-60, 72, 78-79, 88-89, 95, 113, 130-131, 137, 147, 158-162, 166, 171-172, 177-179, 187-189, 224-226, 232
 - Tutor, as 48-49
 - United States, and the 45, 127-129

- Visual artist, as 31
 Vinohrady Theater, at 53, 71
 Čapková, Helena, reminiscences of 24-26
 Čapková, Jarmila, reminiscences of 28, 106, 200, 203
 Černý, František 61-62, 214
 Černý, Václav 180, 190
 Crémieux, Benjamin 230
 Czech Academy of Arts and Sciences 156
 Czech communists 94-96, 101, 131, 134-135, 155, 208, 219-220
 Czech language 15-16, 18
 Durych, Jaroslav 216, 232-233
 Eckermann, Johann 252
First Rescue Party, The 55, 168, 216
 Firt, Julius, reminiscences of 201, 230
 First world war and its aftermath 33-35, 51-52, 93-94
 Franz Josef I 15, 50
 Friday Circle 151-152, 230
From the Life of the Insects 93, 98-102, 138,
 Fučík, Julius 219-220
 Gasset, Ortega y 188
 Götz, František 90, 176
 Hašek, Jaroslav 17-19, 93-94, 157, 162-163
 Havlíček Borovský, Karel 16, 140-141
 Hitler, Adolf, and Nazi Germany 187-188, 198-199, 205, 210-215, 223, 225, 228, 230
 Holubová, Miloslava, reminiscences of 246-247
 Hora, Josef 247
Hordubal 21, 54-55, 164-169, 170-171, 182-183, 219, 233
 Horký, Karel 154
How Newspapers Are Produced 208
How They Make Films 208
 Hrubín, František 36
In Praise of Newspapers and Other Essays 149
 Journalism 16, 49-50, 140-142
 Kafka, Franz 17-18, 55, 113, 115, 123-124, 156
 Konrád, Edmond 144
 Kopta, Josef 258
 Koželuhová, Helena, reminiscences of 144, 202, 234, 242, 257
Krakatit 21, 25-26, 40, 49, 54, 72, 109, 117-124, 166, 168, 195, 219
 Langer, František 29, 150, 232, 251, 256
Letters from England 125-126
Letters from Italy 111-112
Letters from the North 204-206
Lidové noviny (The People's Newspaper) 29, 53, 85, 140, 142
Life and Work of Composer Foltýn, The 233-234, 236
 Mácha, Karel Hynek 16
Makropulos Secret, The 40, 54, 103-107, 138
 Mann, Thomas 199
 Masaryk, Jan 200
 Masaryk, President Tomáš Garrigue 18, 142, 153-154
 Matuška, Alexandr 135, 243-244, 255-256
Meteor 159, 170-176, 182-183
Mother, The 170, 221-227
 Mukařovský, Jan 40, 247
 Munich meeting and agreement 231-234
Národní listy (National Pages) 29, 49-51, 53, 140
 Němcová, Božena 16, 20
 Neruda, Jan 49, 140-141, 157
 Neumann, S. K. 33, 93, 248-249
 Nezval, Vitěslav 35-36, 238
Nine Fairy Tales 22, 49, 150
 Nineteenth-century Czech literature 15-16
 Nobel Prize committee 206
 Olbracht, Ivan 93-94, 253
On Public Matters, or Zóon Politikon 185
 Opelík, Jiří 123, 252
Ordinary Life, An 21, 26-28, 49, 55, 73, 158, 177-184
Painful Tales 49, 54
 Palivec, Josef 204
 PEN Club 156, 230-231
 Peroutka, Ferdinand 52, 143, 207-208, 226, 230, 235-237
 Piša, A. M. 244-245
 Povejšil, Jaromir 252
Přítomnost 143, 185, 216-220
Robber, The 54, 57-63, 65, 119, 135, 166, 168
 Rolland, Romain 244
 R.U.R. 61, 72-84, 135, 136, 138, 192, 195-197, 213
 Šalda, F. X. 38, 83, 134, 151, 155
 Scheinpflugová, Olga, reminiscences of 22-23, 63-64, 66-68, 70-71, 122-123, 202, 205-206, 221-222, 236, 242-243
 Spanish Civil War 207, 209, 215, 223

- Šramek, Fráňa 248
- Steinbach, Dr. Karel 236
- Strž 204, 236-237
- Šulcová, Marie 241
- Tales from Two Pockets* 21, 61, 73,
157-163
- Talks with T. G. Masaryk* 153-155
- Three Novels* 73, 164-184
- Václavek, Bedřich 90, 95-96, 155
- War with the Newts* 192-199
- Wayside Crosses* 36-40, 61, 73
- White Plague, The* 211-214
- "Why Am I Not a Communist?" 47,
98, 185
- Wolker, Jiří 94-95, 98