

## Reminiscences



"I remember seeing Jiří Levý for the last time in my life at a translators' meeting shortly before Christmas 1966 ... He was leaving early to catch the plane or train to Brno, as usual, and we hastily exchanged a couple of words. I restated my old adage - that I was tired of it all and that all effort was in vain in this cage of censorship run by such idiots. I can remember his typical 'sunny' smile as he said: 'Well, I know, but I still believe that one should keep on trying.' Less than a month later, on 17 January 1967, he was gone."

—**Jan Zábřana** (Czech translator and writer), In *Celý život 1*, Prague 1992/2001.



"Levý had the two attributes any leading literary scholar should have: a passion for theoretical exactitude and sensitivity to the aesthetic qualities of a literary work. For anyone who met him he was a thoroughly reliable and most erudite man. He was one of those 'marvellous' men I had the good fortune to befriend."

—**Lubomír Doležel** (Czech structuralist, University of Toronto), In *Život s literaturou*, Akademia, Prague 2013, p. 123.