

Miroslav Jindra

Miroslav Jindra has been closely involved with Canada-related activities in Czechoslovakia and subsequently the Czech Republic since the beginning of the 1990s, when, at the invitation of the then Canadian Ambassador to Czechoslovakia, H.E. Barry Mawhinney, he introduced Canadian Studies at Charles University in Prague.

An emeritus member of the Institute of Anglophone Literatures and Cultures at that university, Miroslav Jindra's focus in Canadian Studies was English-Canadian literature, an area in which he offered a number of pioneering courses. In addition, he also devoted much attention to Canadian music, theatre and film. His broader interest in Canadian culture was reflected in his co-authorship with Lenka Rovna of *The History of Canada* (2000), for which he wrote the extensive section on Canadian culture. The work was very favourably received, and has since appeared in a second edition.

Regarded as one of the leading translators in the Czech Republic, Miroslav Jindra was awarded the State Prize for Translation in 2009 in recognition of his achievements in the course of fifty-five years of active literary service; the award also marked the occasion of his translation of Leonard Cohen's *The Book of Longing*. His other translations of Canadian works have included a second book of Cohen's – *Flowers for Hitler* – as well as three short prose collections by Margaret Atwood (*The Tent, Good Bones and Murder in the Dark*) and Farley Mowat's *The Polar Passion*. In addition, he has initiated a number of translations of works by other Canadian authors, among them Timothy Findley, Susanna Moodie, Catherine Parr Trail and Thomas Chandler Haliburton. An accomplished singer, Miroslav Jindra's most recent engagement with Leonard Cohen's work was his CD recording of a selection of his own Czech translations of Cohen's songs; this has become somewhat of a cult classic among Cohen fans in the Czech Republic.

As a mark of recognition for his multiple contributions to the development of Canadian Studies and the popularization of Canadian culture in the Czech Republic, the Central European Association for Canadian Studies is pleased to award this Certificate of Merit to Miroslav Jindra.

