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Professor PhDr. Josef Hladký, CSc.  
\* 30 June 1931



## THE SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY OF PROFESSOR JOSEF HLADKÝ

In June 2001, Josef Hladký, Professor of the English language at the Faculty of Arts of Masaryk University, a prolific popularizer of English Studies and one of the leading Czech linguists, celebrated his seventieth birthday.

Josef Hladký was born in Brno on 30 June 1931. He was inspired to the study of languages by his father, a grammar-school teacher of Latin and Greek and by the book *Chrám i tvrz* [Church and Fortress] by Pavel Eisner. Josef Hladký enrolled at Masaryk University in 1951 as a student of English and Dutch. During his university studies, he was especially influenced by Professor Josef Vachek, who aroused his interest in both the synchronic and diachronic study of language and the tradition of the Prague School of Linguistics. After graduation and a ten-year career as a translator and interpreter, Josef Hladký returned to the English Department at Masaryk University as an assistant professor. He became a Docent in 1985 and was named a University Professor in 1996.

Josef Hladký is an outstanding teacher, scholar, and an excellent organizer and manager. He successfully acted as the Head of the English Department from 1971 to 1980 and the Dean of the Faculty of Arts of Masaryk University from 1990 to 1994. He helped to put together the new Department of English in Opava, headed by Professor Aleš Svoboda, where he taught for six years during the 1990s. In July 2000, he was offered the position of the Head of the Department of English at the Faculty of Education in Brno. Josef Hladký also chairs the board for doctoral studies in English at the Faculty of Arts where he supervises more than fifteen post-graduate students. He is the founder of the tradition of Czech and Slovak Conferences of English, American and Canadian Studies which have taken place six times since 1986. Most of the conferences were held in Brno and were organized by Josef Hladký personally. For over seven years, he successfully edited the journal *Brno Studies in English*.

In his scholarly work, Josef Hladký has focused on the fields of lexicology and lexicography, the history of the English language, and the linguistic characterology of English against the background of Czech. He is a versatile author with studies ranging from papers on highly specialized linguistic phenomena to practical accounts of the problems of English grammar and vocabulary and historiographical works. The best-known publications by Josef Hladký are *Zrádná slova v angličtině* [False Friends in English] (1990), a dictionary of

English words which are often applied erroneously by speakers of Czech, *Nebojme se angličtiny* [Don't Fear English] (1991), a handbook for "advanced beginners" drawing attention to some interesting features of English grammar, *An Old English, Middle English, and Early New English Reader* (4<sup>th</sup> edition 1998) and *A Functional Onomatology of the English Language* (4<sup>th</sup> edition 1998), textbooks used in courses of diachronic and synchronic study of English at many Czech and Slovak Universities, and *The Czech and the English Names of Mushrooms* (1996), an extensive, lexicologically oriented monograph. Hladký's historiographical works include *Josef Vachek v dopisech a vzpomínkách* [Josef Vachek in Letters and Memories] (1998), *The History and the Present State of English Studies in the Czech Republic* (European English Studies: Contributions Towards the History of a Discipline. London 2000), and *Paměti a jiné rukopisy* [Memoirs and other Writings] (an edition of Vilém Mathesius' manuscripts; in print).

On behalf of all Brno Anglicists, I wish Josef Hladký all the best on the occasion of his seventieth birthday and thank him for his invaluable support of the development of English and American Studies in Brno and the entire Czech Republic.

*Jana Chamonikolasová*