

Chamonikolasová, Jana

Aleš Tichý

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ALEŠ TICHÝ



PhDr. Aleš Tichý, CSc., a lecturer in the Department of English and American Studies, died on 8 July 1988. He would have been sixty this year.

Aleš Tichý was born in Velká Polom near Opava on 20 May 1931, the only son of a health insurance clerk. He spent his early childhood in Opava. The family moved to Brno in 1939 when the Sudetenland, including Opava, was ceded to Germany. He started

attending a classical grammar school in Brno. Since English was taught at very few secondary schools at that time, he also attended the Institute of Modern Languages in order to learn English. He began to study English and Czech at the Faculty of Arts in Brno in 1950. At first he was more interested in Czech, but later he started concentrating on English and decided to write his final thesis in the field of English literature. After graduation in 1955, he became a teacher at the university Department of Foreign Languages and started teaching English at the Faculty of Science. He became a member of the English Department of the Faculty of Arts in 1962. He was present at the birth of the Department's annual intensive course of English, combined with a drama production, which has now taken place at Cikháj for more than a quarter of a century. He devoted himself above all to Renaissance and 18th century literature and the theory of translation. He received his CSc. in 1987.

Aleš Tichý was an excellent teacher who attracted his students by his deep knowledge of Britain's literature, history and way of life. Even his English colleagues admitted that he knew more about Britain than most Englishmen do. He was not only interested in English culture but also acquired a

deep knowledge of a number of other fields in both the arts and the sciences; his students and colleagues referred to him affectionately as a "walking encyclopedia".

Aleš Tichý's scholarly work is not extensive but it is deep, precise and inspiring. Being a perfectionist, he never regarded his work as complete, but went on giving precision to details. His major work is his CSc. dissertation *The Unity of Fielding's Joseph Andrews*. He was a contributor to *Brno Studies in English*, interested in particular in the question of narrative method. In addition to his original research in the field of literature, he is the author of a university textbook of Early English literature and translated, together with Professor Štěpaník, Ankist's *History of English literature* from Russian into

Czech. He also wrote a university textbook of English for students of the Science Faculty.

Aleš Tichý loved books and spent considerable sums on the extension of his library. He felt a deep respect for the human knowledge recorded in books. He also took a great interest in translation; the texts that he himself translated reveal a talent for precise and stylistically immaculate expression and a love of the Czech language.

Aleš Tichý's premature death was a great shock not only to his family but to the whole Brno English Department and to English studies in Czechoslovakia. We have lost an outstanding teacher, noble colleague and a remarkable individual. The loss to the spirit of the department has not ceased to be apparent. *Jana Chamonikolasová*