

# Preface

The present textbook has been compiled at the Faculty of Arts of Masaryk University as a study material for courses of the historical development of English. It provides a brief survey of the history of the English language from the period of Proto-Indo-European, through Proto-Germanic, Old English and Middle English to Early Modern English. The textbook draws on a variety of sources, which are listed at the end of each chapter. A lot of material has been taken over from an earlier textbook used at Masaryk University, *A Guide to Pre-Modern English* by Josef Hladký. Hladký's textbook is the main source of the surveys of the Old and Middle English grammatical systems, and of foreign influences on the development of English. Important sources of the chapters describing the development of Proto-Indo-European and Proto-Germanic, and the social and political backgrounds of different historical periods are Josef Vachek's textbook *Historický vývoj angličtiny* and the internet encyclopedia *Wikipedia*. The focus of this textbook is on grammatical and phonological change. Selected texts from different periods of development have been included as examples illustrating the gradual language change.