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One hundred faces, one hundred stories : selected personalities in the history of the Faculty of Arts of Masaryk University : summary

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Summary

ONE HUNDRED FACES, ONE HUNDRED STORIES

Selected personalities in the history of the Faculty of Arts of Masaryk University

This publication, issued on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the Faculty of Arts of Masaryk University recapitulates the history of the school in a novel way. The traditional aim of a commemorative publication, namely, commemorating the institution's history, highlighting its ethical legacy and strengthening the distinct identity of the faculty community, is achieved here by combining biographical and generational methods in analyzing and synthesizing the stories of personalities connected to the university. The biographical data is organized in accordance with a unified matrix, with an emphasis on including personalities representing all aspects of the university's activities. These encompass its pedagogical and research work, as well as its impact on society in the city and the region. The faculty non-academic staff were also included in here. This extensive biographical collection, which comprises over a hundred people, is categorized into generations in order to depict the transformation of the school with regard to study, research or political life, while emphasizing the profound changes that each generation experienced during its time at the faculty. This approach has allowed the book's authors, employees and students of the Faculty of Arts, to probe for inspiration into the past of the school and take an unsentimental and unclichéed look at the experience gained by their predecessors during their studies and further work at the faculty. These methods have also made it possible to bring together a macro- and micro-historical view of the school, which for a large part of its history served as an institute of propaganda for an undemocratic regime. This is why it is possible to be lured into certain temptations and misinterpretations when evaluating the faculty's activity on a continuum of good and bad. In addition to the book's main interest, which is the issue of transformation, it also raises questions about the degree and form of continuity that has accompanied the faculty throughout its century of existence, across political regimes and across socio-economic conditions. The emphasis on the micro-historical view also stands out due to the inclusion of the personal memories of the oldest members of the academic community.

