

MEMORY OF THE WORLD REGISTER

LIBRI PROHIBITI 1948-1989

(Czech Republic)

Ref N° 2010-17

PART A – ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

1 SUMMARY

The LIBRI PROHIBITI collection consists of samizdat (clandestine) and exile literature and the archives of 1948-1989 documents and audiovisual records, referring to the Third Resistance movement¹ against totalitarian rule in what was then Czechoslovakia, with significant outreaches to other countries of the former Soviet bloc and –through exile activities – to other countries of the world.

It is the world's largest collection of Czechoslovak printed exile and samizdat material from the period of 1948-1989; there is also a large collection of Polish underground and exile prints (about 1400 entries and several thousands of items) and a smaller collection of East German and Soviet materials. The collection is being continuously extended.

The collection is comprehensive and many of the items are unique, documenting how the struggle against Communist rule was fought: the Libri Prohibiti collection therefore is of substantial importance for the study of the history of the 20th century, whose various aspects can be examined at one site. The Libri Prohibiti sources are irreplaceable in the context of learning the history of Central and Eastern Europe and for the historical memory of the 20th century. Within the world documentary and information heritage the Libri Prohibiti collection represents a unique source for documenting the above-mentioned period.

The Libri Prohibiti collection is held within an independent public library, bearing the same name – Libri Prohibiti – in Prague. The library was opened to the public on 22 October 1990.

We are proposing the Libri Prohibiti collection for inscription in the Memory of the World because, in particular, we are aware of the unique nature of this collection as a whole and because we believe that it needs to be maintained and preserved for the future generations. Inscription on the Memory of the World Register would certainly help inform the public about the importance of this unique collection, thus opening up more opportunities for stronger support to the Libri Prohibiti Library in its effort to ensure the protection and presentation of the nominated collection.

2 DETAILS OF THE NOMINATOR

2.1 Name (person or organisation)

SPOLEČNOST LIBRI PROHIBITI,
registered on 23 April 1991 with the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic under Ref. No. VSC/1-6 367/91-R as a non-profit civic association.

¹ *Third Resistance = resistance against the Communist totalitarian rule, established in Czechoslovakia in 1948. It is divided into domestic and foreign resistance.*

The seat of the library and the reading room are at Senovážné Square No. 2, Prague 1, Czech Republic. Most of the collection items are available for reading only in the library's reading room, but some items, available in more than one copy, can be lent out against a deposit.

2.2 Relationship to the documentary heritage nominated

Společnost Libri Prohibiti is the owner of the Libri Prohibiti Public library stock, and is the founder of the library. Its main objective is to ensure the library's operation, including library stock management, maintenance, expansion, protection, processing and making accessible to the public.

The Libri Prohibiti Public library is registered as a specialised library by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic under Act No. 257/2001 on Libraries and the Conditions of Providing Public Library and Information Services (the Library Act), as amended. It was so registered under Ref. No. 5179/2003 on 15 April 2003.

2.3 Contact person (s)

Contact person for the Nominator: Jiří Gruntorád.

Contact person for the Library: Kateřina Volková.

2.4 Contact details (include address, phone, fax, email)

Address: Senovážné nám. 2, 110 00 Praha 1, Czech Republic,

Telephone: 00 420 224 225 971

Fax: 00 420 224 225 971

E-mail: libpro@iol.cz

3 IDENTITY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE

3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated

The Libri Prohibiti collection consists of the works of samizdat and exile literature, and archives of documents and audiovisual records from the period of 1948-1989, documenting the Third Resistance and struggle against the totalitarian rule in Czechoslovakia and in other countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

The collection comprises **29,200 library items** and **more than 2,560 titles of periodicals, and the audiovisual Department contains recordings on 2,530 cassettes, 1,200 CD-ROMs and 200 gramophone plates, 670 video cassettes and 350 DVDs.**

The archive gathers documents on the violation of human rights in former Czechoslovakia and in other countries of what was the Soviet bloc (**more than 1,500 entries have been processed until now**) and it also contains unpublished works and manuscripts (**over 270 items**), documents and written evidence of the activities of exile organisations, publishers and editors, including correspondence, samizdat posters, leaflets, photos and press cutting archives.

The library stock includes publications in the areas of fiction, literary science and other scientific areas, such as history, political science, philosophy, theology, sociology and cultural and political journalism.

The registers of the different parts of the collection are maintained in accordance with the generally accepted library standards. Archival documents and papers are reflected in inventory records or in detailed catalogues (e.g., the section entitled Committee for the Protection of the Unjustly Persecuted and certain materials from personal sources).

3.2 Description

The Libri Prohibiti collection is the world's largest collection of Czechoslovak printed exile and samizdat material from the period of 1948-1989, complemented by collections of similar materials from other nations of the former Soviet bloc. The collection is being complemented and expanded on a systematic basis through purchases, exchanges, donations and permanent loans from backers from many countries of the world. There still exist blank spots in the collection and it is our task for the years to come to fill these gaps.

The collection has been built around the archival items of the samizdat series entitled Popelnice (the Dustbin), published by Jiří Gruntorád in the then Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, i.e. in the Communist era, and other publications acquired by him through purchase or exchange in 1978-1989. These materials were carefully concealed in that period, when it was prohibited to distribute and keep such materials. In 1989, the collection included around 2000 books and a representative collection of periodicals and documents. The current size of the collection is indicated in Section 3.1 above.

The library makes copies of the unique items and other high-value materials, and materials that are only lent to the library. These copies (including electronic copies, whose proportion is increasing) are available for study in the reading room. This is not publishing, it is just on-premises studying, with no copyright implications.

The basic part of the library includes: 1.Czech samizdat monographs and periodicals

These include more than **14,300 items** from the 1950s to 1980s, including those issued in series (Expedice [Dispatch], Petlice [Hasp & Staple], Popelnice [Dustbin], Česká expedice [Czech Dispatch], Kwart [Quart], Kde domov můj [Where my Home Is], and others, about 100 series and publishers in total), as well as those outside series.

The collection of periodicals includes **more than 390 titles** (Informace o Chartě 77 [Information on Charter 77], Informace o církvi [Information on the Church], Revolver Revue [Revolver Revue], Vokno [the Window], Historické studie [Historical Studies], Kritický sborník [Critical Proceedings], Střední Evropa [Central Europe] etc.). The year volumes of all important periodicals are complete.

2. Czech exile monographs and periodicals

These include more than **7,400 items of Czech exile books**, representing 35 publishing houses with coherent publishing schemes and more than 400 individuals and institutions that issued publications in the Czech language.

The complete output of the following publishers is represented on the collection: 68' Publishers (Canada), Index (Germany), Poezie mimo domov [Poetry outside Home] (Germany), Rozmluvy [Talks] (UK), Opus Bonum (Germany), Arkýř [Bay Window] (Germany), Konfrontace [Confrontation] (Switzerland), Edice satiry [Satire Series] (UK), Framar (USA), Moravian Library (USA), Sklizeň [Harvest] (Germany) etc.

At present, the library has more than 870 titles of Czechoslovak exile periodicals, including the following complete year volumes: Archa [the Ark] (Germany), Svědectví [Testimony] (France), Listy [Papers] (Italy), Studie [Studies] (Italy), Proměny [Metamorphoses] (USA), 150 000 slov [150,000 words] (Germany), Obrys [Contour] (Germany), Západ [the West] (Canada), Reportér (Switzerland), Rozmluvy [Talks] (UK), Hlas domova [the Voice of Home] (Australia), Text (Germany), Kanadské listy [Canadian Papers] (Canada), Sklizeň [Harvest] (Germany), Okno [the Window] (the Netherlands), Modrá revue [Blue Revue] (the Netherlands), Hovory s pisateli [Talks with Writers] (Switzerland), Perspektivy [Perspectives] (USA), Bohemia [Czech Land] (Germany), Skutečnost [Reality] (Switzerland), České slovo [Czech Word] (Germany), Národní politika [National Politics] (Germany), Právo lidu [People's Right] (Germany), Paternoster (Austria), Zpravodaj Čechů a Slováků ve Švýcarsku [Bulletin of Czechs and Slovaks in Switzerland] (Switzerland), Nový život [New Life] (Italy) and others, covering the period from the end of the 1940s up to the present time.

3. Slovak samizdat monographs and periodicals

This collection includes more than **380 items of Slovak samizdat books** and **43 titles** of periodicals. They include, for example, prosaic works by Dominik Tatarka, Milan Šimečka, Hana Ponická and Martin M. Šimečka, historical studies by Jozef Jablonický, belles lettres by Miroslav Kusý, many works by Catholic authors, including, for example, Cardinal Ján Chryzostomos Korec, and many translations of religious literature – for example, works of Pope John Paul II, Josef Ratzinger, Louis Evely or Józef M. Bocheński.

The samizdat periodicals include, for example, the (more or less complete) year volumes of Bratislavské listy [Bratislava Papers], Fragment, Inflagranti, and numerous religious periodicals, for example, Katolícky mesačník [Catholic Monthly], Náboženstvo a súčasnosť [Religion and the Present], Rodinné spoločenstvo [Family Community], Výber [Digest], or Radosť a nádej [Joy & Hope].

4. Slovak exile monographs and periodicals

There are more than **700 items of Slovak exile monographs** and more than **50 titles** of periodicals. The books include those published by – to mention at least some of the publishers – Slovenský ústav sv. Cyrila a Metoda [Slovak Institute of St Cyril and Method] (Italy), Priatelia Dobrej knihy [Friends of the Good Book] (Canada), Spoločnosť priateľov slovenskej literatúry [Society of the Friends of Slovak Literature] (Canada) and Poľana [Mountain Meadow] (Switzerland); the periodicals include, for example, Naše snahy [Our Endeavours] (Canada), Horizont [the Horizon] (Germany), Slobodné Slovensko [Free Slovakia] (Germany) and Slovenský štít [Slovak Shield] (Australia).

5. Foreign language monographs and periodicals

The collection of foreign language books related to Czechoslovakia and other Communist countries or related to the human rights issues – including translations from Czech – includes more than **3,350 books** and more than **520 titles** of periodicals. These materials are in English, German, French, Italian, Dutch, Norwegian, Swedish and other languages.

6. Documentation and archives

A large part of these materials is represented by documents concerning violation of human and civic rights in former Czechoslovakia and other countries of the Soviet bloc. They include, in particular, written products of the activities of independent initiatives – Charter 77, Committee for the Protection of the Unjustly Persecuted, East European Information Agency as well as the Polish Komitet obrony robotników [Workers' Defence Committee], Solidarność [Solidarity], Solidarność walcząca [Fighting Solidarity], Wolność a pokój [Freedom & Peace] and others, and works by individual authors and groups distributed through the samizdat, columns, political commentaries, casual texts, petitions, letters etc.

The processing of the archive stock has been completed only partially: **1,500 records** have been completed. It also includes unpublished works and manuscripts (**270 works**), documents and written/printed materials concerning the activities of exile organisations, publishers and editors, including correspondence, samizdat posters, leaflets, photos and press cuttings archives.

7. Reference library – thematic and secondary literature

It contains books, periodicals and other documents concerning samizdat and exile literature, catalogues, bibliographic lists, dictionaries, biographic works, diploma theses – more than 2900 items in Czech, Slovak and Polish and also in English, Russian, German, French etc.

8. Audiovisual Department

This Department was established in 1993. At present it takes care of non-conforming music recordings on **2,530 cassettes**, **1,200 CD-ROMs** and **200 gramophone records (plates)**, audio records of underground lectures and seminars (about **570 recordings**), video documents and amateur film production (over **1,260 recordings**) on **670 video cassettes** and **350 DVDs**. We always try to obtain the records directly from their originators, i.e., in the best possible quality. Note:

Non-conforming music = music that was not tolerated by the totalitarian authorities. Its authors and those who played it, and even those who listened to it and liked it, were often persecuted and had no chance to appear in public. Most of the records are of amateur origin. Underground lectures = during the totalitarian era, lectures that took place for the most part in private flats. They were given by university professors involuntarily doing worker jobs, and also guest

lecturers from abroad. Most of the lectures were focused on philosophical issues and some of them also on the issues of literary science and theology. Of course, these recordings are also of amateur quality.

4. JUSTIFICATION FOR INCLUSION / ASSESSMENT AGAINST CRITERIA

4.1 Is authenticity established?

The authenticity of the collection is ensured by the fact that it includes prints and transcripts from the Communist rule period, many of them with known originators or initial owners. The word prints is used here to denote, in particular, cyclostyle copies, Ormig (spirit duplication) copies, photocopies or electrostatic copies, i.e. copies that could be made at home, using equipment that served in that period for the distribution of prohibited books, periodicals and documents. Transcripts are typescript copies that served the same purpose at that time. Present-day copies are only used to replace the titles (or individual issues of periodicals whose originals, including home-made reproductions or typescript copies) we have been unable, until now, to acquire (they represent only a negligible part of the stock). Facsimile copies (digital, electrographic prints) are made from the originals held by other institutions or by private persons.

Note:

Cyclostyle – using wax sheets

Spirit duplicating – using spirit sheets

Photo duplicating – e.g., books photocopied onto film

Electrostatic duplicating – generally known as xerox

4.2 Is world significance, uniqueness and irreplaceability established?

In the second half of the 20th century, samizdat and exile production was an important part of unofficial culture in Communist countries. The Libri Prohibiti collection is a world-unique collection of this remarkable production. It includes unique materials that are unavailable anywhere else (and this unavailability is probably permanent, due to how the works were produced and due to the poor quality of the paper used). The collection is irreplaceable for the study of the totalitarian past of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe in the second half of the 20th century. Its loss would mean a loss of a concentrated source of information on the history of the Communist totality period of the 20th century.

4.3 Is one or more of the criteria of (a) time (b) place (c) people (d) subject and theme (e) form and style (f) social, spiritual and community significance satisfied?

a) Time

The LIBRI PROHIBITI collection generally covers the period of 1948–1989 (although it also reaches outside these time limits), i.e., from the beginnings to the end of the totalitarian regime in Czechoslovakia, with focus on resistance to the regime and also mass emigration, often to save bare life. Throughout that period, many literary and scientific works written by authors who were not allowed to publish their works officially were published through unofficial channels, either separately or within specific series. Most of them appeared in typescript copies, later also in copies produced by simple copying methods (See Section 4.1 above). Many samizdat periodicals were also published, and there was also a fairly abundant production of leaflets: the collection of leaflets within the Libri Prohibiti collection is more or less comprehensive, documenting in a world-unique and precise manner the above-mentioned period of modern history, which is determined relatively precisely by the rise of the Communist rule in the then Czechoslovakia (February 1948) and the fall of the Communist rule (the Velvet Revolution in November 1989).

In addition to samizdat production developing in the gloomy atmosphere that prevailed in the Communist countries, plenty of books and periodicals were produced in exile. At least some of these works, written by authors banned in their countries, reached their readers behind the “iron curtain”. This array of books and periodicals within the Libri Prohibiti collection is also unique

because it contains in one place the production of exile publishers from the specific period under review.

The broadcasts of the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe (“VoA” and “RFE”, respectively) were an important and irreplaceable source of uncensored information for the people living in the Soviet bloc. Our audio archives contain an extensive collection of the recordings of Czech language broadcasts (especially those of RFE). These recordings are currently being digitised and their collection is being continuously expanded. As suggested by witnesses’ memories, the archive of the recordings of VoA’s Czech broadcasts is the only archive of its kind in the world. The RFE archive (what had remained from it) was moved to the Hoover Institute in California. Before this was done, the recordings of the Czech broadcasts of RFE in Munich had been disposed of, much of the material had been destroyed or passed to private hands. What had remained was brought to Prague and from Prague to the USA a few years later. The tapes were affected by material fatigue already during storage in Prague – many of them were breaking down due to age. It may be that their digitisation has not yet been started in the USA. At any rate, our collection of the records of RFE broadcasts for totalitarian Czechoslovakia is unique. It is primarily focused on programmes documenting the violation of human rights in the countries of the Soviet bloc, especially in Czechoslovakia, or programmes regarding banned authors in all areas of culture.

The Libri Prohibiti archives also contain documents concerning the persecution – by courts as well as out of courts – of those whose activities against the totalitarian system were uncovered.

The collection’s ambition is to cover and document all these activities in their entirety, including audio records of radio broadcasts.

b) Place

The collection proposed for inscription on the Memory of the World Register is unique as a whole. It has been developed in the very heart of Europe, where it is located at present and where most of the collection items were created in the given period. With its territorial and thematic focus and its relatively complete coverage, this collection is unique and unparalleled in Europe and worldwide.

c) People

The publishers of Czechoslovak samizdat and exile periodicals and books, and their contributors and authors, whose works were distributed through these channels, as well as the speakers in the Czechoslovak broadcasts from the free world, included, for the most part, outstanding figures of the world of literature, art, music, science and politics. The LIBRI PROHIBITI Library provides a relatively complete coverage of their activities and art production for the period of 1948–1989 and therefore it offers good opportunities for comprehensive study and an ample source of documentation concerning the resistance

movement against the Communist totalitarian regimes in the countries of the Soviet bloc, as well as in many other countries of the world where the best minds of the affected countries had to escape from persecution. These include, for example, Václav Havel, Jaroslav Seifert (Nobel Prize winner), Milan Kundera, Josef Škvorecký, Pavel Tigrid, and also Rafael Kubelík or Jiří Kolář and hundreds of others.

This movement of intellectuals, currently represented on the Libri Prohibiti collection, strongly encouraged the transformation of the totalitarian states into democratic countries. It probably represented the only stream of systematic continuation of pre-totalitarian democratic traditions, spreading the free culture heritage and maintaining the cultural values.

d) Subject and theme

Thematically speaking, the Libri Prohibiti collection is compact and unique, as it focuses on both the internal and external resistance (i.e., dissidents at home and exiles abroad) against the Communist totalitarian regime in Czechoslovakia (which was then a typical state of the Soviet bloc) as well as in other Communist countries. For scientists, politicians and others interested people, the collection is a unique concentrated source of evidence and documents to study the common features as well as differences in the manifestation of resistance against the totalitarian regimes in different countries, as well as the similarities and differences in how those who were at the helm in different countries responded to this resistance, including the varying practices of the repression systems of each of these countries.

In the science disciplines such as economics, natural sciences and others, the thematic focus of the Libri Prohibiti collection offers valuable opportunities to compare the views of the official scientific circles of the totalitarian regime in respect of various scientific issues with the views and opinions held by the scientists whose works and scientific texts could not be published but are held, as already mentioned, in the Libri Prohibiti collection. Thanks to this thematic focus, the Libri Prohibiti collection is also important for the study of the history of science in the second half of the 20th century.

e) Form and style

The collection consists of monographs, periodicals, written documents and photos, audiovisual records, catalogues, leaflets and posters.

The collection of samizdat books and periodicals is a unique example of copying techniques and people's inventiveness in the secret production of copies. The collection also shows the range of materials available in the situation that existed at that time, including the methods of bookbinding, whose quality is often surprisingly high in terms of both design and make. Many of the books contain photos, art prints and other types of illustrations. The books are often signed by their authors, which in fact makes them bibliophile items, as most of them exist (worldwide) in 12 to 36 copies (depending, for the most part, on the number of typescript copies), though there are also many that exist in only 4 or even just one copy.

This collection may serve to study, for example, the methods of production of the materials, which varied from one country of the Soviet bloc to another. Works of science and literature in manuscript form represent another part of the collection: the manuscripts are in different stages of completion (before the definitive text), including corrections by the author, the author's notes, comments etc.: this makes it possible to examine the origin and development of the texts that were later frequently published in the samizdat system and also in "liberated" editions after 1990. Similar source materials are contained in individual private collections, including draft texts, authors' notes and corrections of (most frequently) documents concerning human rights violations and the issues of the society in Communist countries, the definitive versions being published in samizdat and (in translations) abroad. These sources also allow for studying the origin and development of specific texts and documents.

4.4 Are there issues of rarity, integrity, threat and management that relate to this

nomination?

The collection can be considered as relatively complete and as such it is unique in the world, documenting the Czechoslovak Third Resistance Movement (represented by both domestic dissidents and exile activists) with significant links to the opposition activities in other countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

To ensure the collection's integrity, the documents are held in air-conditioned storage facilities with continuously controlled temperature and humidity, in archival boxes in nonacid paper packages; some of the items are endangered because of the acidity of the paper or because they are frequently made accessible, and some of the media are endangered due to their age: such materials therefore enjoy the highest priority in electronic copying. In addition to CD and DVD media, electronic copies are also stored on external archival discs. Security risks are minimised by applying security features to all access routes (security locks, bars, security films on glass, chip locks).

It is intended for the future to digitise as much of the stock as possible, making the materials accessible without having to lend originals.

5 LEGAL INFORMATION

5.1. Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

Společnost LIBRI PROHIBITI, Civic Association
Jiří Gruntorád – Managing Director
Senovážné náměstí 2

110 00 Praha 1
Czech Republic
e-mail: libpro@iol.cz

5.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details, if different to owner):

Libri Prohibiti Library
For contacts, see Point 5.1 above

5.3 Legal status:

(a) Category of ownership

The collection is the property of Společnost LIBRI PROHIBITI, Civic Association. In legal terms, it is in private ownership.

(b) Accessibility

The collection is accessible for the public in the study room of the LIBRI PROHIBITI Library and some of its parts are accessible on the Internet.

(c) Copyright status

Taking into account the copyright protection terms under Czech legal regulations, some of the collection items are authored works or works by performing artists and as such they are subject to copyright protection under Czech legislation and under the country's international obligations. This status is respected in cases of distribution of such works. Nevertheless, our use of the materials is limited to making them available for study and research purposes, to which the copyright legislation does not apply. Official orders, notices and other administrative or legal documents are also outside the application of copyright legislation in the Czech Republic.

(d) Responsible administration

Jiří Gruntorád, Managing Director of LIBRI PROHIBITI, is the responsible custodian.

6 MANAGEMENT PLAN

6.1 Is there a management plan in existence for this documentary heritage? YES/NO

The main objective of the Libri Prohibiti Library is to put together a collection (which is as complete as possible) of books, periodicals and other materials created by Czech and Slovak exiles as well as all available materials of our local opposition, i.e. the samizdat. The materials that enjoy priority in the acquisition policy include typescript copies and prints that are lacking in the collection, or are only represented by present-day copies. The library's custodian will therefore continue negotiating with the authors and/or owners of the items that would fit into the library's thematic focus. The library's Internet pages will also be involved in the search for such materials.

b) Computer cataloguing of the Libri Prohibiti Library stock will be completed. The results will be made available in a number of ways, including the library's internal computer network, books and periodicals, CD ROMs and, in particular, the Internet site (most of the catalogues enabling retrieval by various criteria are already available to the public on the library's internal network and on the library's web site). The Libri Prohibiti book stock and audiovisual recordings are computer-processed within the ISIS/MAKS library system; we have completed the project of catalogue data conversion from the ISIS/MAKS system to the EasyInt systems, making it possible to present the catalogues on the Internet and to update them on a continuous basis.

Note:

In 2001, we made accessible the catalogues of Czechoslovak post-war exile publications and of the separate stock of the post-war publications of Slovak exiles. In 2003 we also opened to the public the catalogue of Czechoslovak war exiles.

The catalogue of Czechoslovak exile books, published from 1948 until now, contains 4,300 entries and includes several indexes: an authors index, indicating both the main authors and co-authors, artists (if the publication is illustrated), translators, editors etc.; a titles index;

publishers index; and persons index (indicating the persons written about in the books). The same criteria can also be used when working with the catalogue of Slovak exile publications, which currently contains 570 entries, and with the catalogue of the publications of Czechoslovak war exiles, containing 550 entries. The catalogue of the books related to the First Resistance Movement (66 entries) and catalogue of exile compatriots' publications (400 entries) have been completed. The First Resistance Movement refers to the formation of Czechoslovak Legions in France, Italy and tsarist Russia, aiming to defeat Austria-Hungary and Germany and create an independent Czechoslovak state.

c) As is the case at present time, the Libri Prohibiti stock will be made available to the public 'on the spot' in the library's reading room. Because of the rarity of the materials, the library's current practice is only to lend the materials on the spot, though in exceptional cases facsimiles of an item may be lent out against a deposit. The Libri Prohibiti management does not intend to change this strategy in the future.

Note:

Ninety-nine percent of the much demanded materials to be displayed at exhibitions are also facsimiles of originals. Originals are lent out very rarely – for example, in 2007 we lent a unique samizdat issue of Astrid Lindgren's "Brothers Lionheart" for an exhibition in the Royal Library in Stockholm.

d) The library stock will also continue to be made accessible through digitisation, primarily focusing on endangered carriers and those most frequently demanded. About ten per cent of the Libri Prohibiti stock has so far been digitised. The purpose for the future is to digitise as much material as possible to make it accessible without having to lend originals.

Note:

Digitisation is the basic method of how to make the library stock accessible to a broad range of users. We have already completed the following projects:

Three complete exile periodicals were transferred to the digitised format in 1999. The independent revue Skutečnost [Reality], which had been published during the period of 1949-1953, was the first of them, with a total of 1096 digitised pages of text. This was followed by the digitisation of another independent revue, Sklizeň [Harvest] (1953-1979), with 2040 pages, and Zápisník [Note Book] – a monthly for politics and culture (1958-1962) with 491 pages. Together with several samizdat publications, we thus processed more than 4000 pages.

In 2007 we transferred to the digitised format the complete exile periodical Nový život [New Life] (about 17000 pages) and a part of the samizdat periodical Informace o Chartě 77 [Information on Charter 77] (about 2500 pages). Of course, this is only a tiny fragment of the materials that need to be digitised in the foreseeable future in order to preserve them as documentary heritage and to ensure that they can be used more intensively by researchers and the public.

In 2007, we launched a project of making accessible the periodicals that were produced in the environment of the students' movement of the 1960s. Those that have already been digitised (87 periodicals, about 1700 pages in total) include, for example, Buchar [Power Hammer]; Impuls; or Elixír. During 2010, their digitised copies will be presented on the web pages of Libri Prohibiti. This collection is also expected to be extended by additional items.

e) We will continue using the current system of storage of the collection: the collection is held in air-conditioned storage facilities with continuously controlled temperature and humidity; documents and personal stocks are kept in archival boxes in non-acid paper packages. Some of the items are endangered because of the acidity of the paper or because of the frequency of being made accessible, and some of the media are endangered due to their age: such materials therefore enjoy the highest priority in electronic copying. In addition to CDs and DVDs, electronic copies are also stored on external archival discs. We plan (together with other institutions) to use a special deacidification line to neutralise the acids within the paper of the most endangered prints.

Preventive inspection of the condition of the original media is carried out on an ongoing basis. Security risks are minimised by applying security features (security locks, bars, security films on glass, chip locks) and by safeguarding all access routes to the collection storage area. The

collection will be checked for completeness once in five years; for items that are interesting for collectors the inspection is performed every year. The system of public access to the collection (as described above) also contributes to maintaining the completeness of the collection. f) Systematic processing of the collection's most important parts will be continued. In 2007 we started arranging the Charter 77 collection. New materials are added to the Charter 77 collection on a continuous basis. It consists of the documents (and/or draft versions thereof) issued by the Charter 77 movement, including responses to these materials. The Charter 77 collection also contains the texts reflecting Charter 77's existence and activities, with a specific focus on the year of its origin. There is also a body of documents showing the responses of the world public to the Charter 77 movement and manifestations of solidarity with Charter 77 signatories, as well as documents on signatories' meetings after 1989, on discussions over Charter 77's activities after the collapse of the totalitarian regime and on its historical research, and also articles concerning Charter 77.

Owing to the increased interest in this collection (associated with the thirtieth anniversary of the origin of Charter 77), the Charter 77 collection has been processed in the form of preliminary inventory list; a definitive inventory list is to be compiled in 2011. *For the nearest future we plan to process the Charter 77 collection and to publish a critical edition of the Charter documents. This work is to start in 2011 and continue for three years.*

In 2002 we started processing the archive of the Committee for the Protection of the Unjustly Persecuted. The stock-taking was completed in 2005 (59 cartons) and the archive is being extended on a continuous basis. In 2008 we placed it on our web site.

The main aim of the grant project of "Committee for the Protection of the Unjustly Persecuted: political persecution and the independent activities in Czechoslovakia in 1978- 1989" (the grant was provided by the Grant Agency of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic) is to publish a critical edition of the Committee's documents.

The publication entitled Committee for the Protection of the Unjustly Persecuted: political persecution and the independent activities in Czechoslovakia in 1978-1989 is the first output of this project.

It contains two studies about Communist secret police agents among the members of the Committee for the Protection of the Unjustly Persecuted (VONS), studies about the prosecution of Jaroslav Šabata in 1978, about the activities of Amnesty International supporting political prisoners in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and about the chain hunger strike to support the Czechoslovak consciousness prisoners in 1988, and an interview with VONS member Ivan Medek. The publication has 142 pages and contains a person's index. It is the first of the three proceedings-type publications planned under the three-year project. The second volume has also already been issued and the last (third) one will appear in 2010.

Within Libri Prohibiti, attention is also focused on the materials held by the most famous dissidents and exiles, representatives of the Third Resistance Movement at home and abroad. Several personal collections have so far been organised and their inventory lists, or catalogues, have been prepared. Other materials of this kind are still a waiting processing to be made available to students and researchers.

In 2001 and 2002, under European Communities' EIDHR Grant, we processed the archive collection of the Czechoslovak student movement in the 1960s (Ivan Dejmal's collection). Its catalogue is accessible on our web site.

g) Article bibliographies will continue being prepared and the databases developed in this process will continue being extended and updated. Desideratum entries will be continuously complemented to develop specialised bibliographical files. The bibliographies will be published as printed matter and/or in electronic format.

Note:

Article bibliographies of important samizdat periodicals are being processed at present, for example, *Kritický sborník* [Critical [Proceedings], *Host* [Guest], *Historické studie* [Historical Studies],

Obsah [Content] and others (7800 entries completed).

Some bibliographies of samizdat series and periodicals appeared in printed format in Kritický sborník. The samizdat series bibliographies that were published one after another in Kritický

sborník include Jungiana; Nové cesty myšlení [New Ways of Thinking]; Spisy Jana Patočky [Jan Patočka's Writings]; Česká expedice [Czech Dispatch]; Krameriova expedice [Kramerius Dispatch]; Popelnice [Dustbin]; Expedice [Dispatch] (black and light series); Alef; and Knihovna Střední Evropy [Central Europe's Library].

The following materials appeared as bibliographical and electronic publications:

Catalogue of Czech Exile Books 1948-1994

- it is a combination of the bibliography of books issued by Czech exile publishers with catalogues of three libraries in Prague (Libri Prohibiti, National Library of the Czech Republic, and the Czech Literature Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic). The catalogue contains 3,111 bibliographic records and has 394 pages and a subject index and persons index.

Communications of the Committee for the Protection of the Unjustly Persecuted, and Reports of the East European Information Agency -

- is the product of bibliographical processing of the *Communications of the Committee for the Protection of the Unjustly Persecuted and Reports of the East European Information Agency*. These bibliographies are accessible to users in electronic format and as a printed catalogue (internal not-for-sale product of the Libri Prohibiti Library).

Information on Charter 77: Article bibliography 1978-1990

- was published under the project of the Book Edition of the Information on Charter 77. It contains 4,129 bibliographic entries on 628 pages, an author's index, a names index, and institutions index.

Exile periodicals: Catalogue of Czech and Slovak Exile Periodicals and Exile Compatriots' Prints Issued after 1945 -

- is a list of 1093 periodicals that have so far been identified. It is generally linked to the Catalogue of Czech Exile Books 1948-1994 and is a combination of bibliography and catalogue. Its entries cover all the currently known titles of Czech-language periodicals from the period under review and attention is also paid to periodicals published in Slovak and in other languages. The publication also contains bibliographic records of all titles available in the Libri Prohibiti Library at the time when they were processed, including also the list of issues. There are also references to the lists of periodicals available in the library of the Náprstek Museum (a department of the National Museum in Prague) and in the archive of the Czechoslovak Exile Studies Centre at the Faculty of Philosophy of the Palacký University in Olomouc. The catalogue contains a detailed description of more than 600 titles represented on the Libri Prohibiti Library and it has 503 pages and a person's index, publisher index and titles index. h) Czech, English and German web pages of Libri Prohibiti have been available since September 1999 and a French version since 2006 at <http://libpro.cts.cuni.cz>

This work with the public and the popularisation of the Libri Prohibiti collection will continue, and so will the media presentation and other forms of delivery of the collection that have proved to be effective (see the Note below). Co-operation with publishers (with full respect to copyright and rights related to copyright) and assistance in establishing contacts between publishers and authors will also be of substantial importance.

Note:

*Besides the basic information on the library and the civic association, readers will also find at <http://libpro.cts.cuni.cz> an overview of the titles of exile periodicals that have been completely transferred to electronic media and also a part of the book catalogues and lists of books that are being searched for. The Libri Prohibiti Library has been enjoying the attention of the media for several years already. Articles concerning the library appear in the daily press and in specialised periodicals, and there are TV programmes on it. The library took part in preparing documentary films and for several years it provided materials for the radio programme entitled *Undesired Texts*. On the library's premises, the custodian of the library organises thematic exhibitions and prepares literary evenings. Lectures concerning the library and its stock are given to students*

of secondary schools and universities (often from abroad). The custodian of the library contributed to preparing two literary evenings in Theatre Orfeus etc.

7 CONSULTATION

7.1. The nomination is being submitted by the owner of the collection being nominated.

The specialists consulted in respect of this nomination included the Ministry of Culture's representative on the Czech Commission for UNESCO; the Director for Science, Research and International Relations of the National Library of the Czech Republic; and Managing Director Emeritus of the National Library of the Czech Republic.

PART B – SUBSIDIARY INFORMATION

The following information will **not** be taken into account in deciding whether or not to inscribe documentary heritage on the *Register* but will be included in the database as additional information. Some of this information may be drawn from the management plan (item 6 above).

8 ASSESSMENT OF RISK

8.1 Detail the nature and scope of threats to this documentary heritage (see 5.5)

There are a number of threats to which the collection being nominated is exposed. They are as follows:

- a) Many of the periodicals are printed on poor-quality acid paper, which tends to disintegrate easily and destroy the pages.
- b) Some of the copying methods used in the totalitarian era show poor light resistance and the print practically disappears with time.
- c) Some of the audio and film recordings are on poor-quality material and will be definitively lost if their digital copies are not made soon.
- d) Some photo documents are on poor-quality photo paper or the photos were poorly processed and therefore they must be digitised soon in order to prevent definitive loss of the photographic documentation.

9 ASSESSMENT OF PRESERVATION

9.1 Detail the preservation context of the documentary heritage (see 3.3)

The collection is held in air-conditioned storage facilities with continuously controlled temperature and humidity; documents and personal stocks are kept in archival boxes in nonacid paper packages. Some of the items are endangered because of the acidity of the paper or because they are frequently made accessible, and some of the media are endangered due to their age: such materials therefore enjoy the highest priority in electronic copying. In addition to CDs and DVDs, electronic copies are also stored on external archival discs. We plan (together with other institutions) to use a special deacidification line to neutralise the acids within the paper of the most endangered prints. In the library's storage facilities, the airconditioning system needs to be improved in order to ensure that the originals are preserved for as long as possible. Preventive inspection of the condition of the original media is carried out on an ongoing basis. Security risks are minimised by applying security features (security locks, bars, security films on glass, chip locks) and by safeguarding all access routes to the collection storage area. To maintain the collection in its entirety, the books and other Libri Prohibiti material are lent only for use in the reading room. In very exceptional and well-justified cases they are lent out against a deposit.

The collection will be checked for completeness once in five years; for items that are interesting for collectors the inspection is performed every year. To be preserved for the future generations, the collection needs to be gradually digitised.

Digitisation is the only way to ensure its original content.

The materials that are most frequently demanded by researchers and the carriers that are at the end of their useful life enjoy priority in the digitisation process. These include: Many periodicals, printed on poor-quality acid paper, which tends to disintegrate easily and destroy the pages

Documents produced by certain copying techniques of the totalitarian era currently showing poor light resistance – the print practically disappears with time Some audio and film recordings on poor-quality material, which threat to be definitively lost if their digital copies are not made soon.

Some photo documents on poor-quality photo paper, or photos that were poorly processed and therefore need to be digitised soon in order to prevent definitive loss of the photographic documentation Funds for the care of the library stock and for the digitisation thereof are obtained from subsidies, grants and sponsorship gifts from both organisations and individuals. Jiří Gruntorád, Managing Director of Libri Prohibiti, is responsible for the care of the collection.