Edited by Patricia Fumerton, Pavel Kosek and Marie Hanzelková

Czech Broadside Ballads as Text, Art, Song in Popular Culture, c.1600–1900

This landmark collection makes a major contribution to the burgeoning field of broadside ballad study by investigating the hitherto unexplored treasure-trove of over 100,000 Central/Eastern European broadside ballads of the Czech Republic, from the 16th to the 19th century. Viewing Czech broadside ballads from an interdisciplinary perspective, we see them as unique and regional cultural phenomena: from their production and collecting processes to their musicology, linguistics, preservation, and more. At the same time, as contributors note, when viewed within a larger perspective—extending one’s gaze to take in ballad production in bordering lands (such as Germany, Poland, and Slovakia) and as far Northwest as Britain to as far Southwest as Brazil—we discover an international phenomenon at work. Czech printed ballads, we see, participated in a thriving popular culture of broadside ballads that spoke through text, art, and song to varied interests of the masses, especially the poor, worldwide.

BIOGRAPHY

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## Introduction
1. Patricia Fumerton, Pavel Kosek, and Marie Hanzelková: The History and Reception of Czech Broadsheet Ballads within Local, Regional, and Global Contexts

## Czech Broadsheet Ballads

### General Overview
2. Jiří Dufka: Broadside Ballads as Artefacts

### Topics
5. Michaela Soleimani pour Hashemi: Previous Research on Broadside Ballads, with a Particular Focus on Literary History

### Finding Justice: Punishment in Broadsheet Ballads

### Broadside Ballads and Religious Pilgrimage Songs: The Virgin Mary of Vranov
8. Marie Hanzelková: Broadside Ballads and Religious Pilgrimage Songs: The Virgin Mary of Vranov

### Women in Broadsheet Ballads: Roles and Stereotypes

### Give the Devil His Due: Demons and Demonic Presence in Czech Broadsheet Ballads
10. Maciej Mrak: Give the Devil His Due: Demons and Demonic Presence in Czech Broadsheet Ballads

### Reality and Fiction in Broadsheet Ballads and Their Contemporary Reception: A Case Study
11. Jana Poláková: Reality and Fiction in Broadsheet Ballads and Their Contemporary Reception: A Case Study

### Musicology and Transmission
12. Kateřina Smyková: Broadsheet Ballads as a Printed Medium and the Rise of Literacy
13. Tomáš Slavický: Melodies of Czech Broadsheet Ballads in the Historical Contexts of Song Culture

### The Melodies of Broadsheet Ballads and Pilgrimage Songs and the Many Media of the Song Tradition

### Czech Religious Broadsheet Ballads in Slovak Manuscript Hymnals of the Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Century
15. Peter Runiform: Czech Religious Broadsheet Ballads in Slovak Manuscript Hymnals of the Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Century

### The Language of Czech Popular Broadsheet Ballads: Revisiting the Low

### The Orthography of Czech Broadsheet Ballads from the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries
17. Pavel Kosek, Veronika Bromová, Alena Andrllová Fidlerová, Dmitrij Timofejev: The Orthography of Czech Broadsheet Ballads from the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries

### The Wider Context
18. Patricia Fumerton: English “Heyday” Broadsheet Ballads
19. Piotr Grochowski: Broadsheet Ballads in Poland: Content, Forms, and Research Perspectives

### Czech-Polish Interrelations: The Example of Marian Songs in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries
20. Monika Szturcová: Czech-Polish Interrelations: The Example of Marian Songs in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries

### Roaming Heroes and Their Ballads: Brazilian Cordel Narratives in the Context of the Global Broadsheet Ballad Tradition

## List of Figures and Tables

## Bibliography

## Acknowledgements

## Index

## Contributors