

Ms  
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00592

## ŠKVORECKÝ (Josef) Papers

### Dates:

ca. 1955- 2011 [predominant 2002-2010]

### Extent:

23 boxes (3 metres) of textual records.

### Biographical Note:

Josef Škvorecký was born in Náchod, Bohemia, Czechoslovakia, on September 27, 1924. In 1943, he graduated from the local high school and worked at Messerschmidt factories in Náchod and Nové Město for two years. Transferred to trench-digging duty, he defected and worked in a cotton mill for the rest of the war. In 1945, he began his studies at the Faculty of Medicine at Charles University, Prague, but soon transferred to the Faculty of Philosophy. He graduated in 1949. In 1948, he was awarded first prize for fiction in a literary content sponsored by Charles University for his short-story collection **Nové canterburské povídky (New Canterbury Tales)**. The award was cancelled after the communist coup d'état. He subsequently became a member of the Prague literary underground. In 1951, he defended his PhD.

In 1956, his first novel, **Konec nyloneho věku (The End of the Nylon Era)** was accepted for publication, but banned by censors before it could appear. In 1958, he married Zdena Salivarová. Publication of his second novel **Zbabělci (The Cowards)**, written 1948-49, led to the loss of his editorial position with the magazine *Světova literatura*, banning and confiscation of the book, and the dismissal of the editors and directors of the firm responsible for its publication. From 1959 to 1960, Škvorecký co-authored a script with film director Miloš Forman which was banned by the Czechoslovak president. In 1963, changes in political climate allowed for the publication of the novella **Legenda Emöke (The Legend of Emoke)**; he wrote two film scripts and received a Czechoslovak Writers Union award for best translation of the year for William Faulkner's **A Fable**. From 1964 to 1968, Škvorecký worked as a freelance writer, producing many novels, film scenarios and translations of American and English literature. In 1968, he served as a member of the Central Committee of the Writers Union, the Czechoslovak Film and Television Artists Union, and the Prague Pen club. In August 1968, the Soviet Army intervened in the domestic affairs of Czechoslovakia. In January 1969 Škvorecký and his wife, Zdena Salivarova, emigrated to Canada after several months in the United States. After one-year as Writer-in-Residence at the University of Toronto, Škvorecký accepted a position as a Professor of English at Erindale College, University of Toronto. In 1969, he published a satirical novel **Tankový prapor (The Tank Corps)** and a short story collection **Hóřkej svět (The Bitter World)**. In 1971, together with his wife, he established a Czech language publishing company, 68 Publishers, in Toronto. In 1973, he began

regular monthly talks for Voice of America on American, British, and Canadian literature for broadcast to Czechoslovakia. In the 1970s and 1980s, English translations of his works were published by Collancz (London), Grove Press (New York), Peter Martin Associates (Toronto) and others. In 1982, he was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature. In 1984, the English translation of **Příběh inženýra lidských duší (The Engineer of Human Souls)** was published by Lester and Orpen Dennys, Toronto, for which he received a City of Toronto Book Award. In the same year, he was awarded the Governor General's Award for the English edition of **Příběh inženýra lidských duší** and elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. In 1989, the Velvet Revolution overthrew the communist regime in Czechoslovakia. During a state visit to the U.S. and Canada, Vaclav Havel (who was published by 68 Publishers) visited his Canadian publishers and invited them to return to Czechoslovakia for an official visit. The Strahov Library in Prague and the Government of Canada sponsored an exhibition of 68 Publishers and Škvorecký's work. Some materials from the holdings of the Fisher Library were on display. The Škvoreckýs were received by universities in Prague, Brno, Olomouc, and Bratislava, where they lecture and presented each university with one set of the complete output of 68 Publishers, courtesy of the Canadian government. During this visit and subsequent ones, Škvorecký was able to retrieve materials that he wrote as a teenager and young man, left behind when he emigrated. In 1990, Škvorecký retired from Erindale College and, together with his wife, began to wind up the affairs of 68 Publishers. In 1992, he was made a Member of the Order of Canada. He died in Toronto in 2012 at the age of 87.

### Scope and Content:

Articles, interviews, obituary tributes, and drafts of Josef Škvorecký works. The largest part of the collection consists of correspondence sent and received by Josef Škvorecký. Correspondence is arranged alphabetically by correspondent. Please see correspondence index.

The collection also includes original letters and other materials by and about Škvorecký's wife, Zdena Salivarová. Salivarová was a singer, dancer, actress, translator, writer, and founder and manager of Sixty-Eight Publishers in Toronto, with her husband. Salivarová also published works of fiction and co-authored several mystery novels with Škvorecký. Beginning in late 1950s, as a member of the National Song and Dance Ensemble of Czechoslovakia, she toured in the USSR, Mongolia, China, North Korea and France. In the early 1960s she joined Incognito Quartet and later worked as an actress and singer for Magic Lantern Theatre and for Paravan Theatre Group, in Prague. In June 1992, she received a Doctor of Letters *honoris causa*, University of Toronto. The collection includes Salivarová's letters to Škvorecký written during her travels in 1957 to 1968 as well as her diary from her travels in China. The collection also contains Škvorecký's letters to Salivarová, from 1956 to 1967, including the ones written by him as he was hospitalized in April-June 1960.

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An extensive collection of Josef Škvorecký papers, including correspondence, writings, and photographs, is held at the Hoover Institution Library & Archives.

The current finding aid is an updated version by Natalia Barykina. The correspondence index was compiled by Ioana Zamfir and Natalia Barykina.

**Custodial history:**

Papers were donated to the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library in 2009 (Boxes 1-5), 2010 (Boxes 6-18) and 2011 (Boxes 19-23).

**Notes:**

Textual materials are largely word-processed; correspondence is mostly print outs of emails.

**Arrangement:**

The records are arranged in 23 boxes.

**Languages:**

Predominantly Czech, with some in English.

**Restrictions on access:**

Open.

**Use:**

For permission to publish, please contact the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library.

BOX:	FOLDER:	CONTENTS:	DATE(S):
1-15		Correspondence arranged alphabetically, A-Z. <i>See Correspondence index.</i>	2004-2010
16	16:1	Registration of a Claim to Copyright for <b>Love and the Treacherous Genes</b> (1999).  Newspaper clippings and interviews.  Conference paper <b>Dvorak in Love: Josef Skvorecky's first American novel</b> by Paul Wilson.  Comments on Gruša's <b>Questionnaire</b> (2000).	1999-2006
16	16:2	<b>A co o Honzlové ví aříká její brácha</b> by Lumír Salivar. 3 copies.	n.d.
16	16:3	<b>A possible source of inspiration for the running Lola</b> by Josef Škvorecký.  <b>Poznámka autora</b> by Josef Škvorecký.	n.d.
16	16:4	<b>Alice</b> : interview for Mladá Fronta Dnes.	2004
16	16:5	Anketa. Untitled draft.	2006
16	16:6	<b>Apologia pro creatio sua</b> . Three drafts with corrections by hand.	n.d.
16	16:7	<b>Autorova poznámka</b> .	n.d.
16	16:8	"Hits and pieces."	n.d.
16	16:9	<b>Cesta Honzlové z Prahy do Ameriky</b> . Drafts.	n.d.

16	16:10	<b>Definitiví verze. Cesta za Svatým Grálem. Draft.</b>	2000
16	16:11	<b>Čtenáři Zbabělců.</b>	2002
16	16:12	<b>Lidové noviny</b> publications.	2004
16	16:13	<b>Detektivky v mém životě.</b> Two drafts.	[2004]
16	16:14	<b>Interview for Mr. Farzad.</b>	2005
16	16:15	<b>Ferdinand Peroutka.</b>	n.d.
16	16:16	“Host:” interview.	n.d.
16	16:17	Hosch: interview.	n.d.
16	16:18	Obituary tribute to Igor Hájek.	1999
16	16:19	Obituary tribute to Vratislav Blažník.	2002
16	16:20	Interview.	n.d.
16	16:21	Ivan Blatný.	n.d.
16	16:22	Jaroslav Celba.	n.d.
16	16:23	Karel Čapek.	n.d.
16	16:24	Interview, Josef Škvorecký and Zdena Salivarová.	2003
16	16:25	Karel Kryl.	n.d.
16	16:26	Letter addressed “Kolegové.”	n.d.

16	16:27	Konec války.	n.d.
16	16:28	Konflikt civilizací.	n.d.
16	16:29	Kterou část 20. Stol. Bych napříště zakázal.	2000
16	16:30	Kvadratury kruhu.	n.d.
16	16:31	Lék na nemoci české páteře	2002
16	16:32	Literaturná Akademia.	n.d.
16	16:33	Literární názory Ernesta Hemingwaye.	[1956]
16	16:34	Obituary tribute to Maruška Staňková.	n.d.
16	16:35	Lidové noviny, 21.XI.2002 mentioning Škvorecký.	2002
16	16:36	Zdena a Josef Škvorecký. Naše knihy, naše děti.	2000
16	16:37	Neoprávněnost generalizací.	n.d.
16	16:38	Neobvyklá setkání se šlechtici.	n.d.
16	16:39	Osudný žertík.	n.d.
16	16:40	Ota Ulč.	n.d.
16	16:41	Letter addressed "Paní rektorko, kolegyně a kolegové, dámy a pánové."	n.d.
16	16:42	Obituary tribute to Pavel Tigrid.	n.d.
16	16:43	<b>Plzeň.</b>	n.d.

16	16:44	<b>Poznámka autora.</b>	n.d.
16	16:45	Letter from Škvorecký beginning with “ Protože se pamatuju.”	n.d.
16	16:46	<b>Radost z konce války a uzlový bod naší historie.</b>	n.d.
16	16:47	<b>Setkání s idolem dětství</b> by Zdena Salivarová.	n.d.
17	17:1	<b>Something about me, not much.</b>	n.d.
17	17:2	<b>Solidarita.</b>	[2005]
17	17:3	<b>Spravedlnost.</b>	n.d.
17	17:4	<b>Světovka.</b>	n.d.
17	17:5	<b>These-Antithese. Synthese?</b>	n.d.
17	17:6	<b>Ten years since the “Velvet Revolution”</b>	1999
17	17:7	<b>Troublemakers.</b>	[2003]
17	17:8	<b>Trýzeň žizně.</b>	n.d.
17	17:9	Interview with Zdena Salivarová and Josef Škvorecký.	2003
17	17:10	<b>Vážená redakce.</b>	n.d.
17	17:11	<b>Vážený pane redaktore.</b>	n.d.
17	17:12	<b>Večer.</b> Feuilleton in HOST 6 (2000).	2000
17	17:13	<b>Večernice.</b>	2000

17	17:14	<b>Výročí čeho.</b>	n.d.
17	17:15	<b>Vyznání kmotra.</b>	n.d.
17	17:16	<b>Vzpomínkan a divadlo Paravan</b> by Zdena Salivarová-Škvorecká.	n.d.
17	17:17	<b>When I came to Canada.</b>	n.d.
17	17:18	<b>Záhady kolem Edwina Drooda.</b>	n.d.
17	17: 19	Obituary tribute to Mirek Žilina.	2000
17	17:20	<b>Známý hlas.</b>	[1966]
17	17:21	Zdena Salivarová's "Deník z Činy, Duben-Červenec 1955."	1955
17	17:22- 17:29	Correspondence, Zdena Salivarová to Josef Škvorecký, <i>See Correspondence index.</i>	1957-1968
18	18:1-18:8	Correspondence, Škvorecký to Salivarová. <i>See Correspondence index.</i>	1956-1967
19	19:1	<b>Legenda Emöke.</b> Screenplay (Word-processed).	2010
19	19:2	<b>Jiří Menzel a historie Ostře sledovaných vlaků</b> (Word-processed).	2011
19	19:3	<b>Le Meurtre de la chance. Josef Škvorecký &amp; Jan Zábrana.</b> (Word-processed). Pages 1-47.	2011
19	19:4	<b>Le Meurtre de la chance. Josef Škvorecký &amp; Jan Zábrana.</b> (Word-processed). Pages 48-104.	2011



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19	19:5	<b>Le Meurtre de la chance. Josef Škvorecký &amp; Jan Zábřana.</b> (Word-processed). Pages 105-152.	2011
19	19:6	<b>Le Meurtre de la chance. Josef Škvorecký &amp; Jan Zábřana.</b> (Word-processed). Pages 153-212.	2011
19	19:7	<b>Le Meurtre de la chance. Josef Škvorecký &amp; Jan Zábřana.</b> (Word-processed). Pages 213-283.	2011
20	20:1-20:51	Correspondence arranged alphabetically, A-J. <i>See Correspondence index.</i>	2010-2011
21	21:1-21:41	Correspondence arranged alphabetically, K-R. <i>See Correspondence index.</i>	2010-2011
22	22:1-22:31	Correspondence arranged alphabetically, S-Z. <i>See Correspondence index.</i>	1968-2011
23		Family prayer books and a CD, CBC Man Alive (documentary series). <b>Keeper of the Flame</b> (1990).	n.d.