

NORMA COMRADA
990 Van Buren St.
Eugene, OR 97402
541-484-5187
comrada@uoregon.edu

EDUCATION

M.S. Higher Education Policy and Management, University of Oregon, 1983
Certificate, Summer Program in Slavic Studies, Charles University, Prague, 1982
Representative, U.S. delegation.
B.A. Psychology and Education, Whitman College, Walla Walla, WA, 1954

EMPLOYMENT

Courtesy status: Lecturer in Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies for the
Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies Program, University of Oregon
1992-present: free-lance writer, translator, lecturer, illustrator, editor
1990s: Associate Consultant in Human Relations, Management/Marketing Associates, Inc.
1989-1991: Director of Communications, University of Oregon Foundation
1979-1988: Assistant to the President and Director, UO Office of Affirmative Action.
Also served for four years during this period as Assistant Director, UO Russian and East
European Studies Center, and in Spring term 1985 as REESC Acting Director.
Prior to 1979, I spent several years each as kindergarten teacher and administrator; adult literacy
teacher and program supervisor; public affairs television scriptwriter and presenter; editor; human
resources consultant; Oregon State Legislature committee clerk and administrator; legislative lobbyist
for public transit.

The information below pertains only to work in connection with Karel Čapek

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH

Charles University Library; State Literary Archives; Czechoslovak/Czech Academy of
Sciences Institute of Czech Literature; private collections and interviews. Prague. 1968,
1972, 1977, 1980, 1982, 1987, 1990, 1994, 1997, 2000, 2009.
British Library, Colindale Newspaper Library. London. 1972, 1977, 1980, 1987.
Bibliothèque nationale, Institut d'études slaves. Paris. 1972, 1977, 1980.

GRANTS, AWARDS, HONORS

"Czech Treasures Found in Translation; Eugene Woman Translates Author's Literary Works into
English," article and photographs in the *Register-Guard*, Eugene, OR, March 8, 2015.
2014 laureate, Medaile Karla Čapka, Společnost bratří (Čapek Brothers Society).
Appointed Courtesy Professor, University of Oregon Russian, East European and Eurasian Program,
2014.
Invited to present a paper at an international symposium on Karel Čapek sponsored by President
Havel, the Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Czech Minister of Culture, the Czech P.E.N.
Club, and the Společnost bratří Čapků; travel courtesy of the American Embassy and U.S.I.S..
Prague, January 2000.
Invited to present two papers at the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences XX International
Congress, 2000.
Invited to write about the origin and nature of my work on Čapek for two publications of the
Čapků Společnost bratří (Čapek Brothers Society): *Zpravodaj* č. 39 and *Zprávy SBČ* č. 59,
both 2000.
Oregon Council for the Humanities Chautauqua in the Schools presenter, 1997-99.
Translation of Čapek's Tales from Two Pockets selected by Publishers Weekly as "one of
the best books of 1994."
Yip Harburg Foundation grant for retranslating the Finian's Rainbow lyrics from their Czech
adaptation by Voscovec and Werich (Divotvorný hrnec) back into English, 1992-93.
Chautauqua Program presenter for the Oregon Council for the Humanities in various Oregon
Communities around the state, 1990s, followed by presentations in Oregon high schools.
Oregon Council for the Humanities Summer Research Fellowship for research on Čapek's

motivation for writing *Tales from Two Pockets* and their place in his body of work, 1992.
UO College of Liberal Arts and Sciences faculty travel grant (the first given to an administrator) for organizing a panel on Čapek and presenting a paper at the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, 1985.
Prize-winning essay for Oregon Council for the Humanities' *Sweet Reason: A Journal of Ideas, History and Culture*, 1984.

PUBLICATIONS RELATED TO RESEARCH AND TRANSLATION

- "Zeptali jste se mne. . ." (You've Asked Me. . .), in *Šedesát let Společnosti bratří Čapků* (Sixty Years of the Čapek Brothers Society), 2007.
- "From the Window" and "Carpenters." Translations in *basalt*, vol. 2, no. 1, 2007, Eastern Oregon University College of Arts and Sciences.
- Various translations in several issues of *Gobshite Quarterly*, 2003, 2004.
- Karel Čapek: Life and Work*. Translation of Ivan Klíma's Čapek biography, *Velký věk chce mít též velké mordy*. Catbird Press, 2002.
- Cross Roads*. Translation of *Boží muka* and *Trapné povídky*. North Haven, CT: Catbird Press, 2002.
- Apocryphal Tales, with a Selection of Would-Be Tales and Fables*. Translation of *Kniha apocryfů* and other works. North Haven, CT: Catbird Press, 2002.
- "The End of the Twentieth Century." Translations in *Two Lines, A Journal of translation*, 2000, and *the Prague Post*, January 5-11, 2000.
- "An Attempt at Murder." Pocket Tale reprint in *Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine*, October 1996.
- "Golem and Robot: A Search for Connections." *Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts*, Special Issue: The Golem, Vol. 7, 1996.
- "Chintimani and Birds." Pocket Tale reprint in *The SFBARS News* (San Francisco Bay Area Rug Society), Vol. VI, No. 1, January 1996.
- "What Does Not Change: Karel Čapek Writes about Munich." *Transcultures*, la Section d'Études slaves de l'Université libre de Bruxelles, Vol. II, 1995.
- "The Receipt." Pocket Tale reprint in *Prague: A Traveler's Literary Companion*, Paul Wilson, ed. San Francisco: Whereabouts Press, 1995.
- "The Crime on the Farm." Pocket Tale reprint in *Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine*, April 1995.
- Tales from Two Pockets*. Translation of *Povídky z jedné kapsy* and *Povídky z druhé kapsy*. North Haven, CT: Catbird Press, 1994.
- "The Clairvoyant." Pocket Tale reprint in *Legal Fictions: Stories about Lawyers and the Law*, Jay Wishingrad, ec. New York, NY: The Overlook Press, 1992.
- "The Garden of Eden" and "The Death of the Twentieth Century." Translations of two "Little Weekly Reports," the first later titled "Adam and Eve." *Fishtrap Anthology*, Darinda M. Schmidt, ed. Enterprise, OR: Fishtrap Gathering, 1992.
- "Karel Čapek on Science, Progress and Responsibility." *Kosmos: The Czechoslovak and Central European Journal*, Summer 1991.
- "The Crime at the Post Office." Pocket Tale reprint in *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*, August 1990.
- "The Mother" (drama); "The Blue Chrysanthemum," "The Clairvoyant," "The Crime at the Post Office," "The Poet" (Pocket Tales); "Inventions," "The Mail," "In Praise of Idleness" (feuilletons). Translations in *Toward the Radical Center: A Karel Čapek Reader*, Peter Kussi, ed. Highland Park, NJ: Catbird Press, 1990.
- "Karel Čapek, Journalist: 1938." *Selecta, Journal of the Pacific Northwest Council on Foreign Languages*. Corvallis, OR: Oregon State University, 1988.
- "Karel Čapek and Utopia." Prize-winning essay for *Sweet Reason: A Journal of Ideas, History and Culture*, John Witte, ed. Portland, OR: Oregon Council for the Humanities, 1984.
- "The Last Judgment." Pocket Tale translation with Leopold Pospíšil, JUDr., in *The Realm of Fiction*, James B. Hall, ed. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill, 1965.

UNPUBLISHED TRANSLATIONS

The Fateful Game of Love (Lásky hra osudná, drama), Karel and Josef Čapek.

Various Karel Čapek columns, essays, feuilletons, other journalism.

PAPERS

- "Karel Čapek: Author as Visual Artist." Multimedia presentation for the Ellison Center for Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies 20th annual conference, University of Washington and Portland State University. To be given April 26 2014.
- "The Čapek Phenomenon in Japan." Multimedia presentation for a conference on Russian and East European Arts: World Stage, conference UO Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies Program, Eugene OR, May 2012.
- "Karel Čapek: Cosmopolite, Cosmophile." SVU XXII World Congress. Olomouc, Czech Republic, June 2004.
- "Karel Čapek: The Man Who Gave Us Robots, Karburators, and the White Plague." Literature panel, SVU XX World Congress. Washington, D.C., August 2000.
- "Karel Čapek, Poet." As above; translation panel.
- "Karel Čapek, Poems for the Year 2000." International Symposium on "Karel Čapek: Writer and Democrat." Prague, January 2000.
- "Karel Čapek Writes about Democracy." SVU XV World Congress. Toronto, October 1990.
- "Tinkering vs. Leaving Things Alone: "Karel Čapek on Science, Progress and Technology." For "Karel Čapek: 1880-1990" (panel organizer). IV World Congress of Soviet and East European Studies. Harrogate, England, July 1990.
- "Karel Čapek: Citizen and Social Critic of the First Republic." Karel Čapek Colloquium. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. March 1989.
- "The Illusion of a Continuing Conversation: Karel Čapek as Journalist." For "Karel Čapek: Fifty Years after His Death" (panel organizer). American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies. Honolulu, HI, November 1988.
- "What Does Not Change: Karel Čapek Writes about Munich." SVU XIV World Congress, Washington, D.C., September 1988.
- "Karel Čapek, Journalist: 1938." Slavic Languages and Cultures panel, Pacific Northwest Council on Foreign Languages, Eugene OR, March 1988.
- "To Amuse and Alarm: Some Known and Unknown Tales by "Karel Čapek." The Fantastical Tale in Slavic Literatures panel, Western Slavic Association. Portland OR, March 1986.
- "Čapek and Utopia: The World as It Should Be?" Images of Utopia symposium, UO Russian and East European Studies Center, Eugene OR, January 1984.

LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS, INTERVIEWS

Lectures/presentations on Čapek and readings from my translations for a variety of arts, literary, emigré and other cultural groups and organizations around the state; libraries, bookstores; high school, undergraduate and graduate classes (only the most recent listed below); and in connection with film festivals and productions of Čapek's plays. 1965 – present.

- "The Tales behind the Tales from Karel Čapek's Pockets." United States Embassy, Prague, Czech Republic, February, 2015.
- Readings from Čapek's journalism for a class on 20th-century Czech culture. Indiana University, October 2013.
- "The Tales behind the Tales from Karel Čapek's Pockets." Czechoslovak Society for Arts and Sciences conference. Seattle WA, August 2013.
- "Karel Čapek and Translating from the Czech." Literary Translation class, Stanford University, May, 2013.
- "Remembering Peter Kussi: Editor, Adviser, Colleague, Friend." Memorial gathering for Peter Kussi, Columbia University, April 2013.
- Interviews for *The Prague Post*, Český Rozhlas (Czech Radio), Radio Prague International. Prague, 2009, 2000, 1997, 1994.
- "Approaching Translation," UO COLT roundtable with Michael Heim, May, 2003.
- "The Man Who Gave Us Robots, Karburators and the White Plague." UO Retired Faculty Association, May 2003; also in a radio interview for "Creativity and Its Consequences,"

KWAX-FM. Eugene OR, 1986.

"The Life and Writings of the Czech Author Karel Čapek." Two- part series of classes for the UO Lifelong Learning Institute, 2001, 1997.

"On Translating," "Translating from the Czech" and "Translating from Karel Čapek." Presentations for college and university literature and language classes and translation seminars, UO Slavic Graduate Student Association, Lane Literary Guild Windfall Reading Series, etc. 1990s, 1980s.

"Criminals and Other Ordinary People: Karel Čapek's Pocket Tales." Oregon Council for the Humanities Chautauqua presentation, 1996-1998.

"From Karel Čapek to That Old Devil Moon: Adventures in Translating from the Czech." Slavic Fiction panel, American Literary Translators Association conference, University of Texas, Dallas. October 1997.

"Contemporary Czech Writing and Writers." Interview for UO "Oregon Newslines" and "Take 5," KWAX-FM. May 1990.

Readings from my translations for the Karel Čapek Centennial Celebration, Catbird Press/ Northwestern University Press/IREX/PEN American Center; held in conjunction with an IREX/PEN/New York University conference on Czech Literature and Culture. New York, March 1990.

"The Czechoslovak Republic: 1918-1938; 1989-?" UO REESC Slavic Civilization class, 1990.

"Czechoslovakia, 1918-1938: Experiment in Democracy." Oregon Council for the Humanities Chautauqua and Chautauqua in the Schools programs, 1990s; and UO REESC Slavic Civilization classes, 1988, 1987.

"Your Robots Were Scary, Mr. Čapek; Didn't You Ever Write Anything Just for Fun?" UO REESC Slavic Civilization class 1989.

"*Tales from Two Pockets: Karel Čapek's 'Detective Stories.'*" Presented in libraries and bookstores in Oregon, Washington and Prague, in connection with an Oregon Council for the Humanities grant, 1984.

"Robots and Other Warnings from the Work of Karel Čapek." Faculty seminar on "The Humanistic Imperative in a Technological Age." UO Fall Convocation, 1983.

Readings from my translations, UO REESC Faculty-Work-in-Progress seminar, 1981.