

Abstract – English

Vítězslav Nezval's Bulgarian Romance, or Dora Gabe and V. Nezval in Czech-Bulgarian Literary Connections

I first heard about the personal encounters and relationship between the poets Dora Gabe and Vítězslav Nezval in the 90s at the Bulgarian Embassy in Prague. And the information was indeed proven to be true – not only had the poets known each other, they even collaborated on translations and inspired one another. The epistolary correspondence between Nezval and Gabe still bears witness to this. Their real- life romance eventually transitioned to their literary work. A substantial and more important fact is that the romance inspired several works by both – Nezval and Gabe.

Perhaps the most interesting *footprint* comes in form of their joint translation of Gabe's autobiographical prose work *Dávno (Once upon a time)*, which she had primarily written in 1932, and Nezval's novel *Jak vejce vejci (Cut from the same cloth)* from 1933, although this is merely an indirect illustration of the work and the creative personality of Dora Gabe, a *reflection* of sorts.

Dora Gabe met Nezval in the Autumn of 1931 at a memorial evening held for the passing of Thomas Alva Edison at the Vinohrady Theatre in Prague, during which Nezval's poem *Edison* was recited. The poet left a direct written testimony about his contact with Dora in the book of memories *Z mého života (From my Life)*. This, in a way, chain of mutual creative influence and inspiration certainly didn't end with their collaboration on translations. The echoes of ideas, active correspondence and creative inspiration of both poetic individuals can also be traced in their further work. Gabe was the one to have the last word in this story. Memories of a great love, absolute cosmic harmony, precious friendly understanding gradually transformed into a memory of youth, which perhaps best resonates in the nostalgic melancholic poem dedicated to their last 'encounter' at the Vyšehrad Cemetery in 1959 – *U Nezvalova hrobu (At Nezval's grave)*.

Keywords: Poetess, Correspondence, Autobiographical Prose, Novel, Czech-Bulgarian Literary Relations, Czech-Bulgarian Cultural Contacts.