The beauty and winsomeness of her tales about The Dog Who Had a Boy (*O psovi, ktorý mal chlapca,* 1974), Thomas Who Did Not Fear the Dark (*O Tomášovi, ktorý sa nebál tmy,* 1978), The Little Tongue That Wouldn't Talk (*O jazýčku, ktorý nechcel hovoriť,* 1964), The Little Bird Who Knew a Secret (*O vtáčikovi, ktorý vedel tajomstvo,* 1983), The Little Girl That Went Looking for a Fairy Tale (*O dievčatku, ktoré šlo hľadať rozprávku,* 1984), Fairy Tales (*Rozprávky* 1990), and The Old Man and the Wolf (*Dedko a vlk, 1989*) found their way to both the smallest children and those who love nature and the harmony associated with humor and grievousness.

The great number of prestigious international and domestic awards won by Ms. Jarunková was not only to express a very deep admiration for her works, but also to recognize the ethical principles conveyed by her stories. The genetic code of honesty, generosity, and nobility is something that can always be felt from her books without sliding into preachifying. The spiritual richness contained in these books has always been expressed in comprehensible language, but never simplified – after all, life itself is not simple either. The writer gives her full-blooded heroes both humor and tragicality without any melodrama or false pathos, but she has always clearly shown her deep understanding for their emotions and action. She "leaves them alone" in doing what they do and deciding about what they want to do.

Klára Jarunková has become a pure source of humaneness, equal to the spring where we go to find clear water to drink. And this is not only true for her domestic readers, but also for many readers around the world.

Dr. Gabriela Škorvanková

Municipal Library, City of Piešťany
BIBIANA, International House of Art for Children
University Library, Bratislava, Slovakia

A MEETING WITH KLÁRA JARUNKOVÁ

July 4 – 29, 2007

Ľudovít Štúr Exhibition Hall
University Library, Bratislava, Slovakia

The exhibition opens daily except Sunday
From 12.00 to 20.00 hrs.

The goal of our exhibition „A MEETING WITH KLÁRA JARUNKOVÁ“ is to commemorate the work of the most translated Slovakian writers and her 85th anniversary.

The writer was born on the 28th of April 1922 amidst the beautiful natural scenery around Červená Skala, Slovakia. Her birthplace was the local post office, and she was the second child of the Chudík family. The harmony which reigned in the was interrupted by the death of the Klára's beloved mother in 1930. Since that year, all five children were brought up by their aunt, the father's sister Františka who greatly influenced the writer's future life and, later, spent the rest of her amidst the writer's family. Klára Jarunková went to school in Podbrezová and then Brezno. Afterwards, the entire family moved to the city of Banská Bystrica where, in 1940, Klára graduated from the local Real Gymnasium. In order to make some money and help the family, she then taught for three years at local elementary school in a mountain village named Korytárky. In 1943, after having moved to Bratislava, she studied at the Faculty of Philosophy of Comenius University, majoring in Philosophy and the Slovak language. Having worked full-time with the City Hall, she studied part-time. Later, she worked for the national radio network (Czechoslovak Radio) and then with the popular nationwide satirical magazine *Roháč* [Stag Beetle]. Beginning in 1984 when she retired, and until the end of her life on the 11th of July 2005, she was fully engaged in writing on a daily basis.

During the years of University studies she met her life-long love and companion, Ing. Tichomír Jarunek, whom she married in 1946. The other of her two beloved ones was her daughter Daniela Jarunková – Zacharová (a painter).

Ms. Jarunková's books have been translated into as many as 39 languages and are known on all continents of the world.

A 13-episode TV series was adapted from her book The Silent Wolf's Brother (*Brat mlčanlivého vlka*),

a Czechoslovakia/Switzerland TV co-production entitled "We of the World's End". Slovak Television produced films based on her works of literature The Only One (*Jediná, 1963, in English translation: Don't Cry For Me*) and Black Solstice (*Čierny slnovrat,* 1979). Many of her books were included in required-reading lists for elementary or high schools not only in Slovakia (or what was then Czechoslovakia), but also in a number of other countries.

The books entitled The Diary of a Hero (*Hrdinský zápisník,* 1960), The Only One (*Jediná, 1963, in English translation: Don't Cry For Me*), The Silent Wolf's Brother (*Brat mlčanlivého Vlka*, 1967), The Tramp (*Tulák*, 1973), Silent Storms (*Tiché búrky,* 1977), and The Avenger (*Pomstiteľ*, 1968) became cult reading for perhaps all generations. In her book Meeting with the Missing Man (*Stretnutie s nezvestným*, 1978), Ms. Jarunková even managed to open the sensitive topic of drugs that, at that time, was still considered a taboo topic in the then society of what was Czechoslovakia.

The novel became "a tiny speck of light in the distance" to move us out of our dark ages of ignorance regarding drugs.

A Horehron Talisman (*Horehronský talizman*, 1978), the first part of which had been written by the writer's father Mr. Július Chudík and the second part by Ms. Jarunková herself, told us

a lot about her as an admirable person.