

A new book from the Czech grindcore scene now published. Dělníci kovu II: Vlakin offers the story of the Ingrowing frontman

In terms of Czech grindcore, this year belongs to Ingrowing. After years, the band is back on the scene to great delight of all fans, and now, MetalGate Records is publishing a book about their frontman Patrik "Vlakin" Staněk, entitled Dělníci kovu II: Vlakin and penned by Václav Votruba.

"It is just a coincidence that the book comes out when Ingrowing are having a comeback, though come to think of it, it is rather symbolic. By the way, I finished the manuscript just before their first comeback show, so it was as if we concluded Vlakin's past and began a new era. I enjoyed it very much and I believe it shows," says the author.

"I feel joy and anticipation. I believe that friends and fans alike will appreciate the book... and maybe it will provoke someone to listen to Ingrowing," smiles Vlakin, who is now fully immersed in the band of his lifetime. "It has been great so far. Since coming back, we already played some ten shows and we very much enjoy both playing live again and the interest of fans, which did not diminish, quite the contrary. Ahead of us now is another important milestone, that is, the recording of split album with Disfigured Corpse, which should be released late this year."

Content-wise, the book is not just about Ingrowing, since Vlakin was also involved in Isacaarum and Plastic Grave, both iconic names of the local grindcore as well. In fact, the book also devotes some of its space to the history and evolution of the genre (and of hard music) in the Czech Republic, with Vlakin being first a spectator, then a devoted fan and soon after a direct participant.

Dělníci kovu II: Vlakin is structured as a book-long interview of 122 pages in total. Design, layout and typesetting was taken care of again by Tomáš F. Hanzl, a.k.a. Chymus. Also included are various rare photos from the archives of both Vlakin and Chymus.

Dělníci kovu is a biographical series that is a loose sequel to the Kniha kovu trilogy, and whereas the latter mapped the history of the various metal subgenres on the Czech scene, the former presents biographies of key Czech metal musicians. The first volume in the series was published three years ago and told the story of Necrocock.

Václav Votrba holds two Břitva Awards (for Kniha kovu I and Kniha kovu III). Besides writing about music, he also pens fiction, the most notable of which is probably the horror trilogy Šumavský Děs. Born in Domažlice and a longtime resident of České Budějovice, Václav is also an active musician.