

METALGATE

Mapping the history of Czech metal

On December 1, 2016, the list of literature about Czech metal shall be expanded with another interesting title. For on that day, **MetalGate Records shall publish “Kniha kovu”** (Book of Metal), with the subtitle “Část 1” (Part one), that is, the **first installment of a series precisely exploring the evolution of the local metal scene from its origins till present times.**

Simultaneously, it is the first book that MGR shall release in its history.

Its author is Václav Votruba, who is well known on the local metal scene in České Budějovice. He has behind his belt a **long career in music journalism**, i.e. in the Metal Forever & Metal Man e-zine, and still works as a journalist in local news. Václav is also a **musician**, active in bands **AFTER RAIN**, **DARK ANGEL**, with which he released eight albums between 2007 and 2015, and most recently also in **THE RIVER OF LOST SOULS**. His literary career is relatively new, though it already has **its first score - the novel “Na pokraji”**, set in Hollywood in the last century. **“Kniha kovu” shall thus be his second book**, this time in the genre of fact.

And what does it contain? First, it is worth mentioning that it is not a comprehensive chronicle, but rather is **comprised of micro-historical probes into the evolution of individual metal sub-genres on the Czech scene.** The scope of **part one thus covers the trinity of black, death and thrash metal.** Each style has one segment of the book devoted to it, and although each features a list of key bands or individuals, do not expect an encyclopedia or a dry historical study. **Václav’s approach is one based primarily on people, or rather on their recollections and opinions**, which thereby **form the main content of each probe.**

History, as presented by Václav, is thus very much alive, so it **stands to interest not only those, who would like to know what went on back then**, since they themselves were not around, **but also those, who were there**, for they can reminisce about what they themselves were part of.

Let us add furthermore that **author’s primary motivation** was to observe that though the Czech Republic is not in any dominant position on the global metal map in relation to a specific metal sub-genre, as is the case of black metal in Scandinavia, death metal in America or post-metal in France and Benelux, **we on the other hand have nothing to be ashamed of, for even the Czech metal has its tradition, fandom and supporters.**

Typesetting and visuals were taken care of by **Tomáš F. Hanzl**, or “Chymus”, a seasoned graphic designer, lyricist and frontman of ANTIGOD.

Should you wish to know how Czech metal began and what it went through, mark December 1, 2016, and then delve into “Kniha kovu” during the long winter evenings. It is worth it!

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