

## Afterword

*Day in, Day out, Pohanka* is the third novel by Alois Vogel that we as a team have rendered into English. The difficulties encountered in the process of translation have previously been described in the afterwords of the novels *Total Blackout* and *The Blue House*. Once again we had to face these same problems, and, in spite of the considerable experience we now have in translating Vogel, the task of transmitting meaning from one language into another one has been as challenging as ever. We have tried to achieve a balance of remaining as accurate and true to the original text as possible and at the same time producing an idiomatic and readable text for the reader to enjoy.

As the story is set in Vienna we have translated geographical features and place names when they are easily identifiable (e.g. Alte Donau as Old Danube) and kept the original names where a translation was either not possible (e.g. Franzensdorf) or not advisable because translating Kahlenberg into Mount Kahlen would be silly.

The abbreviation ETW denoting the eastern European firm engineer Rubnicek works for has been kept as it is an imaginary name for a firm which did not exist.

We kept the German forms of address: Frau, Herr, Fräulein as they are familiar to English-speaking readers.

We did however deviate from the German custom to use designations of an occupation as titles (e.g. Herr Ingenieur as Mister engineer) because in English this sounds peculiar. Whenever people are addressed as e.g. "Herr Ingenieur" or as "Ingenieur Pohanka" we used the form "Herr Pohanka".

Again we have, in spite of all the difficulties inherent in such an undertaking, derived great pleasure from our translation work and hope to have been able to communicate the literary quality of Vogel's novel to an English-speaking readership.

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