

THE DESERTS OF BOHEMIA

Bohemia



The Deserts  
*of*  
Bohemia

CZECH FICTION AND ITS SOCIAL CONTEXT

PETER STEINER

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TO HENRY HOENIGSWALD

ANTIGONIUS: Thou art perfect, then, our ship hath touched upon  
The deserts of Bohemia?

MARINER: Aye, my lord, and fear  
We have landed in ill time. The skies look grimly  
And threaten present blusters. In my conscience,  
The Heavens with that we have in hand are angry  
And frown upon's.

—William Shakespeare, *The Winter's Tale*