

Josette Baer

## THE GREEN BUTTERFLY

Hana Ponická (1922–2007), Slovak Writer,  
Poetess, and Dissident

*ibidem*  
Verlag

# **The Green Butterfly.**

## **Hana Ponická (1922–2007). Slovak Writer, Poetess and Dissident**

**Foreword by Ivan Kamenec, Historian at  
the Slovak Academy of Sciences .....IX**

**Abbreviations .....XIX**

**Acknowledgements .....XXIII**

**X. Introduction ..... 1**

X.1 Method, Key Contexts, Research Questions ..... 6

X. 1. 1 Method: Contextual Biography..... 6

X. 1. 2 Research Questions ..... 9

X. 2 Slovak and Czech Dissidents under the  
Normalization regime. Oral History Interview  
with Dirk Matthias Dahlberg (SAV) ..... 10

**I. Writer, translator and poetess (1939–1974)..... 35**

I. 1 Early years: women’s themes and cultural issues  
(1939–1953) ..... 35

I. 2 Liberalization and its end (1965–1969)..... 45

I. 3 Janko Novák (1974)..... 55

**II. Lukavica, the StB and the Bratislava Five  
(1977–1989) ..... 61**

II. 1 Notes from Lukavica—one year in the life of  
Hana Ponická (1977)..... 61

II. 1. 1 The Slovak Writers’ Union ..... 67

II. 1. 2 The State Pension Fund .....	90
II. 1. 3 Nature as allegory for politics .....	98
II. 2 The ŠtB: surveillance and intimidation.....	105
II. 2. 1 Operation MILL (September 1977) .....	106
II. 2. 2 <i>Pravda</i> and the November interrogation (October–November 1977).....	116
II. 3 The end: the trial of the Bratislava Five (November 1989).....	143
<b>III. A Slovak voice for Slovak Democracy       (1990–2001).....</b>	<b>161</b>
III. 1 The Velvet Divorce (1989) and Sovereign Slovakia (1993) .....	161
III. 2 Oral history interview with Vlasta Jaksicsová ...	175
III. 3 Oral history interview with Mary Šamal .....	182
<b>Conclusion .....</b>	<b>191</b>
<b>Chronology .....</b>	<b>197</b>
<b>Bibliography .....</b>	<b>229</b>
<b>Index .....</b>	<b>241</b>