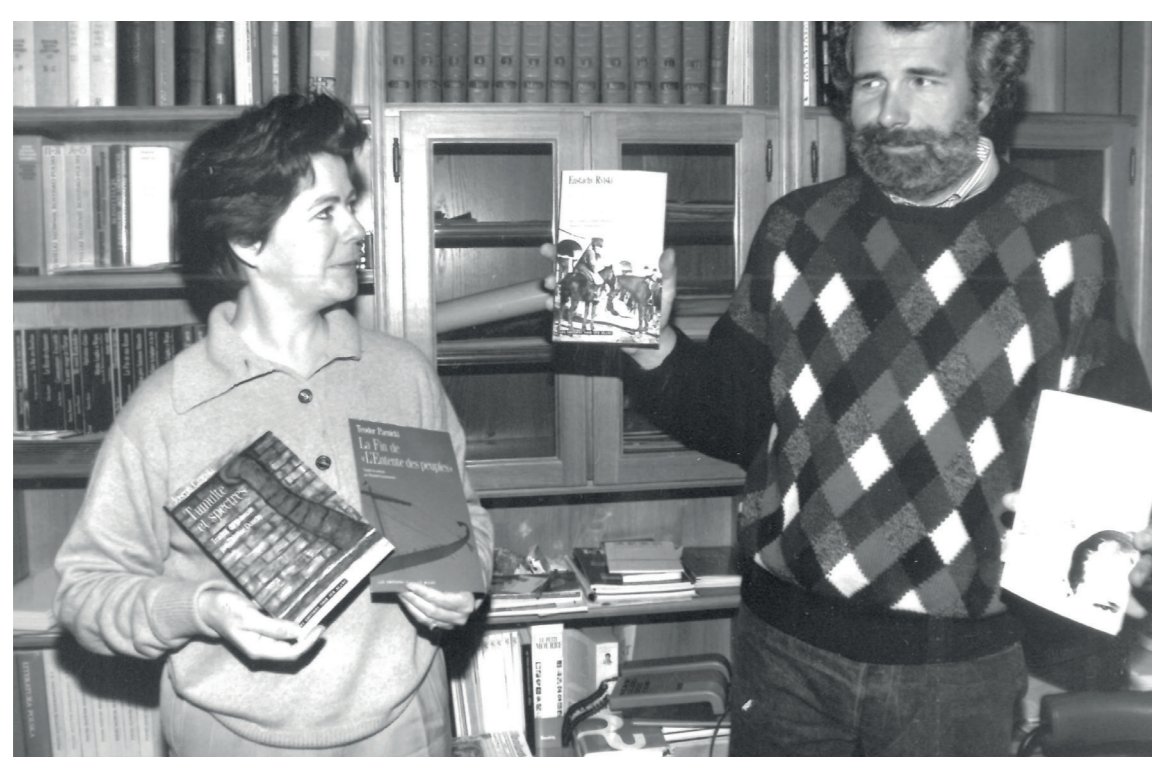




## Vera Michalski-Hoffmann | Class of 1978

Vera Michalski-Hoffmann presides over a broad publishing network located in France, Poland and Switzerland, under the umbrella name of *Libella SA*, based in Lausanne. She created the *Jan Michalski Foundation*, named after her late husband, as a place to nourish burgeoning writers and encourage the love of reading. The Foundation houses a library, auditorium and exposition hall, and welcomes writers who are completing a residency for a literary project. As a literary benefactor, Vera Michalski-Hoffmann has an undeniable voice in literary circles.



© Anoush Abrar.

Vera Michalski-Hoffmann met her husband Jan Michalski in Geneva at the Graduate Institute. In 1986 they launched a publishing house in Switzerland, *Éditions Noir sur Blanc*. In Paris they acquired the historic Polish bookstore *Librairie polonaise*, founded in 1833. The Libella group now includes a dozen publishing houses in Switzerland, France and Poland.



© Leo Fabrizio.

In 2004, Vera established the Jan Michalski Foundation in Montricher in her husband's memory. The Foundation fosters literary creation, encourages the practice of reading, makes a large multilingual library available to the public, awards an annual prize in world literature, grants financial support to literary projects worldwide, and hosts a writer-in-residence programme.



© UNESCO, World Book Capital Program.

Vera Michalski-Hoffmann tries to develop literature and art through diverse foundations where she is involved such as the *Fondation pour l'Écrit* in Geneva, the *Fondation pour l'Art dramatique du Théâtre Vidy* in Lausanne, but also in the *Fondation des Alliances Françaises* and the *Syndicat National de l'Édition* in France in Paris. Since 2016, she has been a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador.

