

The censorship in Bohemia in the context of the Habsburg Monarchy in the Vormärz period

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The PhD-thesis analyses and interprets the role of censorship as well as other institutional and structural mechanisms that have participated in the regulation of literary communication within the cultural sphere of the historical Czech lands (Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia). The act of *censorship* is understood as a set of administrative procedures controlling and regulating the literary communication that takes place in the printed media within the sphere of power of a particular social authority. On the other hand the term *structural regulation* is used for those types of blocked literary communication which cannot be considered for the consequence of the institutionalized power interference. The thesis is based on a triad of ideal-types of censorship – a paternalistic, liberal and authoritarian one. The key concept for the submitted thesis is the type of paternalistic censorship, which decision-making process is governed by a differentiated idea of the various categories of the public and an endeavour to strictly control the reading matter of the broad, less educated masses.

The thesis also introduces and critically revises the methodological impulses of the so-called *new censorship*. It follows the discursive sources for the regulation of the reading process in case it was perceived as merely useless “excitement of the senses”. The fourth chapter focuses on a synchronic view of manuscript and foreign press censorship, as well as other areas of censorship regulation. Based on proscribed book lists, official archive material and other sources, the fifth chapter presents an analysis of the subject and genre focus of pre-1848 censorship. The sixth chapter deals with the consequences of censorship on the literary scene in the first half of the 19th century. The seventh chapter focuses on the issues surrounding the effects of censorship on the publication of Karel Hynek Mácha’s work in the context of period censorship activities. *The eighth chapter shows* the case of the writer and Slavonic scholar Václav Hanka, his publication activity and strategies used in situations where the content of his text clashed with the standards set by Austrian censorship. The ninth chapter focuses on the specific publication opportunities of the philosopher Bernard Bolzano, a dismissed professor of religion at the Prague Philosophical Faculty, as well as on the issue of the impact of censorship measures on the very limited reception of his intellectually original work during the 19th century. There is also an extensive list attached to the thesis of all the periodical records of the

books and manuscripts prohibited by the censorship in the context of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia.