

## **Abstract**

The presented dissertation deals with the painter Josef Navrátil (1798-1865) and his social roles during the Biedermeier period. It does not aim to be a classic monograph evaluating the life and work of the artist, but rather strives to provide a collection of independent (case) studies, which will map and point out Navrátil's role in society and his artistic and professional status. Therefore, special interest is paid to Navrátil's clients, the cultural background of his work, his connections, social engagement, and activities in various associations, but also to specific phenomena of the time, such as the so-called Zimmerreise or pub-based “table companies”. However, emphasis is also placed on the Navrátil's exceptionally wide range of professional activities, which was so typical of the Biedermeier epoch. In this respect, Navrátil's official occupation - room painting / decorating, which he applied with his renowned painting workshop in many Prague and non-Prague buildings for a wide circle of clients of various social classes (imperial court, church, burghers, landowners), must not be overlooked either. Contracts of this kind reflect not only Navrátil's extraordinary competence in the field, his craftsmanship, undoubtedly stemming from his restoration practice, but also a great deal of artistic freedom, especially in painting, for which he was appreciated only many generations later.

Key words: Josef Navrátil – Biedermeier – 19<sup>th</sup> century room painting – Zimmerreise – table companies