

The thesis deals with an Old Czech novel in verse *Tristram and Izalda*. Initially, I examine the genre of chivalric novel in the context of Czech literature of the thirteenth and fourteenth century. I am interested in the view of literary history on these texts and primarily in the assessment of *Tristram and Izalda*. I pursue the reception of the Tristanian topic in the Czech environment, which has first been introduced to the German versions of this epic. The Old Czech translation from second half of 14th century gains from three German sources that are variously combined. I endeavour to use the novel as a source reflecting the ideological world of the Czech aristocracy of late mediaeval times. I have defined - on the basis of the characters present in the novel – four social groups: rulers, knights and court officials, noble women and servants. On the selected virtues – faithfulness, generosity, wisdom and honour – and social relationships – friendship, marriage and love – I observe the way of their depiction at individual social groups. Each social position carries different expectations. The attribution of characteristic features and the preferred type of behaviour reveal a clear hierarchy. The central character is the knight, to whom the other groups are always specifically related. In my opinion, the novel – due to its aim – corresponded, above all, to the demands of the higher nobility and the courtiers.