

## **Abstract**

This thesis deals with the tradition of literary reflections on journeys to Rome and Italy by comparing two Czech essayistic travelogues that fall into this tradition – Josef Svatopluk Machar's *Rome* and Jaroslav Durych's *Roman Journey*. Both of these texts present very specific and contrasting representations of the traveller's experience and stay in the "eternal city". On the basis of the genre and Italian-travel contextualization of both works and the theoretical conceptualization of the two basic themes (the issue of movement in travel writing and the concept of Rome as a text or palimpsest), it was possible to analyze the common features of both works as well as significant differences in a comprehensive way. Both author-travelers bring with them to Rome their own, very specific and highly exacerbated view of Italy, history, art or religion, and these dispositions are strongly manifested in the way they elaborate their experience of travel and Rome in their texts. Josef Svatopluk Machar traverses Roman history, creating a strong opposition between antiquity and Christianity, and is completely captivated by Rome. Jaroslav Durych seeks his place in an incomprehensible world through intimate, poetic reflections. Both travelogues, with their distinctive portrayals of Rome, continue the tradition of the "Roman text" and at the same time, each in its own way, update it.