

The thesis deals with approaches to and concepts of the otherness in the work of the Czech traveller Alberto Vojtěch Frič. It analyses a complexity of relationship between the European civilisation and its counterparts which are classified as other or different. The thesis focuses on the territory of the American continent treating it as an exotic locality, which attracts the attention of Europeans, and on the Native Americans, who stimulate the European imagination. The introductory chapters discuss European discourses on savages since the time of the first overseas expeditions until the end of the 19th century in order to describe main conceptual practices in the representations of American Indians. It also outlines the ways of representations of Indians in the Czech fiction and press in the 19th century concentrating on the work of Josef Václav Sládek. The main part of the thesis aims at methods of description, grasp and representation of Indians in textual outputs of A. V. Frič. It summarizes his career of traveller and botanist and briefly reconstructs particular expeditions into the South America. It attempts to identify the terms in which Frič grasps the other and define categories which he uses to interpret the otherness. A particular regard is paid to the terms civilisation and savagery which Frič employs as identity classifiers. The thesis finally deals with non-textual methods of representations of Indians and is concerned with Frič's activities in the political sphere.