

The submitted work uses the example of poetry collections of A.J. Puchmajer (*Sebrání básní a zpěvů /1795, 1797/* and *Nové básně /1798, 1802, 1814*) and other contemporary poetry, theoretic and critical works in the wider context of forming of new Czech prosody and meter system. The focus is put on treatise of verse problems in the traditions of Czech literary-scientific structuralism and development of this scientific tradition; further on the interpretation of relevant social, philological and poetological discourse of the end of 18th and beginning of 19th century with primary focus on literary works; and finally on the treatise of processes, by which the new Czech verse formed, in relation to older local literature of 18th century and current European context. In the general concept of literary science, the reform of the Czech verse, as performed by Slavist J. Dobrovský (*Böhmische Prosodie, 1795*), represents a milestone, perhaps even the beginning of new Czech prosody. Older “lower” syllabism (prosody directed by the constant number of syllables in a verse) and “higher” quantitative metrics (based on the alternation of long and short beats as in the ancient literature) were criticized by Dobrovský as archaic, insufficient (syllabism) or being contrary to the spirit of Czech language (quantitative metrics). J. Dobrovský replaced them with a syllabotonic system based on regular alternation of stressed and unstressed syllables while maintaining a constant number of syllables in a verse. His system was spread by the poetry group surrounding the patriotic priest A. J. Puchmajer which foreshadowed the development of Czech poetry.