

## Résumé

This thesis aims to describe the life and work of the poet, translator, journalist and Czechoslovak diplomat Camill Hoffmann.

Hoffmann was born to a Jewish family in Kolin, his mother tongue was German but he also spoke Czech well. He attended a grammar school in Prague where he soon became a member of a poet's society publishing in the journal *Jaro* (Spring) which was issued by Paul Leppin. "Spring generation", as they were later called after the journal, is counted to the neoromantics. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Hoffmann leaves for Vienna where he begins to work as a journalist for the daily *Zeit*. There he makes friends with Stefan Zweig, together they translate Baudelaire's poetry book *Flowers of Evil*.

While writing for the culture department of the *Zeit*, he has close contacts to writers from central Europe, to Arthur Schnitzler, Marie Ebner von Eschenbach or Detlev von Lilliencron. Recommended by Max Brod, Hoffmann also published a poem of Franz Werfel, by that time an unknown author.

In 1912, Hoffmann moves to Dresden where he works as a culture section chief-editor of the daily *Dresdner Neuesten Nachrichten*. His apartment becomes soon a meeting point for many artists, young expressionists. After the outbreak of the World War I, Hoffmann is declared indispensable for the daily, so he doesn't have to enter the army.

After the War, a new chapter in Hoffmann's life begins. Hoffmann is invited to the Prague Castle by the Czechoslovak president Tomas Garrigue Masaryk. The president accredits him to launch a new daily called *Prager Presse* which should be written in German and for German speaking readers in Czechoslovakia. *Prager Presse* was about to become an important medium for the Czech Germans representing the political programme of the Castle. But before the daily appeared Hoffmann had moved to Berlin. Another presidential task came: Masaryk wanted him in Berlin, in the diplomatic corps, as a press attaché.

For Hoffmann, the most important of his missions was the agitation for the Czech culture. He helped Leos Janacek to bring some of his operas to the stage of several German opera houses. He wrote many articles about the Czech writers and poets. Hoffmann also translated Masaryk's *World Revolution*, a work that was well accepted by German intellectuals. Further, he translated Karel Capek's *Talks with T. G. Masaryk* and Eduard Benes's *World War*.

In January 1939, at the time of the so-called “second” republic, Hoffmann was dismissed. Later, he missed the chance to emigrate and so he stayed in the Nazi controlled Bohemia. Gestapo arrested him in 1942 and deported to Theresienstadt. Two years later, he and his wife died in the concentration camp Auschwitz. They were on the very last transport heading there.