

Abstract

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Name of the MA thesis: Utopia in the Works of Adalbert Stifter

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Faculty: Faculty of Arts

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Place and date of publishing: Prague, March 2011

The subject of the present work is Adalbert Stifter's utopia. The aim is to outline its main essence and in part describe the motives that had led Stifter to his utopia. The work describes the artistic, political and social background of the Biedermeier era and approximates Stifter as its principal representative in Austrian literature. Adalbert Stifter's talent was versatile; he had affection for nature and art. Art was one of his most faithful friends. Stifter's Biedermeier literary works are original and in a certain sense possess great depth. For every opinion in these works is put down rationally. In this regard we would be hard pressed to find selfcontent in Stifter's late work. This opinion is also shared by the Austrian writer Peter Rosegger, who regards Adalbert Stifter higher than Johann Wolfgang Goethe for this very reason. As Rosegger rightly states, Stifter's style is also very original.¹ This work takes note of the utopian features in some of Stifter's short stories and in his educational novel *Indian Summer*. It is certainly not possible to put Stifter's utopia into practice in its full extent, as much as the author may have, doubtless, wished for it. However, it is possible for the reader to look for inspiration there.

Key words: Adalbert Stifter, Biedermeier, revolution of 1848, education, utopia, „das sanfte Gesetz“