

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to focus on the destiny of an unknown Jewish poet Ilse Weber (1903-1944). In the first part, the emergence of the Holocaust Literature is presented. The thesis then illustrates the history of the Jewish population in the Czech lands. The main attention is paid to the life and writings of Ilse Weber. She was born in Vítkovice near Ostrava and wrote in German, notably songs, fairy tales and theater pieces for children. During her imprisonment in the Terezín concentration camp she wrote around sixty poems, which were luckily saved. These writings describe the horror of her surroundings. Her husband and the older son survived the war, Ilse and the younger boy were sent to the gas chamber on arrival at Auschwitz in October 1944. In conclusion, the thesis argues that this forgotten poet was an admirable personality, who was able to grasp emotions and give hope to others in hard times.

KEYWORDS

Holocaust, World War II, literature, Jews, Terezín.