

Summary

This thesis deals with the phenomenon of Carpathian Ruthenia, or Zakarpattia, which is one of the most discussed issues in Czech literature. It expands the traditional view of the issue with a chronological survey of works by Czech authors who were inspired by Carpathian Ruthenia, and maps their writings created from the end of the 19th century to the beginning of the 21st century. It focuses on their interpretation, with particular reference to the topology.

The first chapter presents the terminological problems associated with the territory of the Transcarpathian region.

The next chapter submits an account of the exceptional nature of this area (its contrasts, periphery, regionalism, myths, exoticism, idylls and adventures), and attempts to characterize its uniqueness (backwardness, belief in superstitions, Jews, alcoholism, poachers, enchanting countryside and outlaws). Carpathian Ruthenia appears to be a place of secrecy, where hypothetical characters grow. The topology of the mountain is also an important element.

The following chapter, the longest, presents most of the works by the Czech authors who were inspired by this region. The first of these authors came to Carpathian Ruthenia during the 1920s as government workers or tourists. Their works are arranged within the chapter according to the characteristics of their genres. Out of this follow several important conclusions: The favorite genre for depicting Carpathian Ruthenia was the novel, especially novels with a documentary component. The primary desire of the authors was to inform the readers about this unknown region, and they even left their mark in children's literature – mainly in works with nature themes. There is a predominance of the balladic spirit in the prose.

The last chapter offers a suggestion for a lesson plan based on what can be learned about Carpathian Ruthenia from Karel Čapek's novel *Hordubal* and it offers some suggestions of classroom project about Carpathian Ruthenia.

Those interested can find in the appendices a clear chronological chart of the works published between 1926 and 2011, that were inspired by Carpathian Ruthenia. In addition, for better orienting oneself in the reading of the text, there are maps of Czechoslovakia and Carpathian Ruthenia.