

*Velmi utěšená a kratochvilná historie o krásné panně Mageloně, dceři krále z Neapolis, a o jednom rytíři jménem Petrovi, znamenitého hraběte z Provincí synu (The Delightful and Entertaining Story of the Beautiful Young Maiden Maguelone, Daughter of the King of Naples, and of a certain Knight called Peter, the Son of the Distinguished Count of Provence)* printed anonymously in Olomouc in 1780, is one of those works into which literary science has hitherto scarcely ever inquired. It is nevertheless a text with a very long and complex genesis. We can follow its development from a medieval French tale of love, via a German adaptation to an early modern Czech popular prose romance. In the story of Maguelone, close attention is paid, as the very title suggests, to the main heroine, which is also a theme which in research into older Czech literature has been hitherto rather neglected. In the present thesis, we focus therefore on the analysis of this character. In particular, we try to show how the way she is portrayed is significantly influenced by the medieval conception of courtly literature, despite the fact that courtly epic literature is not otherwise particularly well documented in literature written in Czech and left no particularly rich tradition behind it.

Key words: courtly love, courtly literature, Maguelone, popular prose romances, female character.