

## **Abstract**

This diploma thesis is the first biography about a journalist and writer Josef Novotný, who was born in Chrudim of 1900, considered one of the culturally liveliest Czech towns at the sunset of the 19th century. He engaged in writing as early as at grammar school, gaining first journalist experience in regional press, above all in *Středostavovský buditel*. This periodical was published by *Československá živnostensko-obchodnická strana středostavovská*. In the following years he worked as a reporter in *Nová Praha*, *Trn*, *Tramp*, *Úl* and others. In the 30s he started cooperation with *Melantrich*, where he wrote for *České slovo* and *Český ilustrovaný zpravodaj*. Later on in the late 40s he was employed as a reporter with *Masarykův list*. In 1948 his membership in *Syndikát českých novinářů* had expired and by that literally his journalist career, too.

He wrote tens of books, some of which were of autobiographic and regional character. He is the author of literature for children and youth, theatre and puppet plays, detective stories and *rodokaps*. He elaborated many historical themes and literary criticism essays. The biggest acknowledgement he received for his novel *Piava* based on his experiences from the frontline during the First World War. Most of his life work has never been published and is archived in the collections of the Museum of Czech Literature in Prague.

This thesis is built around memoirs from the author's estate and materials stored in archives and libraries. It introduces Josef Novotný as a man, journalist and writer.