ABSTRACT

The subject of the thesis is the epistolary novel genre in the works of German and Dutch female writers Sophie von La Roche, Betje Wolff and Aagje Deken. This narrative genre continued the former novelistic tradition and is inseparably connected with epistolary culture, sentimentalism, cult of friendship and the name of the English novelist Samuel Richardson. It attracted readers' attention, especially of female audience in the period of social changes based on ideas of the Enlightenment and its philosophy. In the second half of the 18th century it became the most popular genre. Thanks to its characteristics it became the medium of female opinions' and feelings' presentation in times of the beginning women's emancipation as well as the genre which enabled more women to enter the field of literature. The issue of the thesis is the comparative analysis and interpretation of two most successful novels of the women writers in the bordering countries with cultural influences: the first German professional women writer La Roche and her novel Geschichted es Fräuleins von Sternheim and the Dutch author couple Wolff a Deken and their collective work Historie van mejuffrouw Sara Burgerhart.