Abstract

Czech immigration to Latin America in the 20th century is relatively well-documented phenomena. Nevertheless it still opens up some areas that invites to detailed research. One of them is the Czech emigration to Chile in the first half of the 20th century. Due to the remoteness of the Chilean Republic immigration developed much later compared to the situation in traditional immigration countries that were mainly Argentina and Brazil. We can say it is the marginal area of the Czech migration although it is possible to find even in this small group of immigrants interesting life stories of Czechs that decided to try their luck in distant South America. This thesis aims to introduce main periods of the Czech immigration to Chile in the first half of the 20th century and to describe the life stories of Czechs who have left a significant legacy in Chilean society. Author also intends to focus on motives of choosing Chile as a final destination, Chilean migration policy in the particular periods and also to development of compatriots’ activity in the areas of concentration of Czech citizens.

Unfortunately there is not much literature related to this issue and that is why author will primarily derive from the archival sources of Chilean or Czechoslovak origin (Archive of the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Fund of the Czech Foreign Institute and the National Archive in Santiago de Chile with Fund of Immigration Office) and also on emigrants’ and their families’ testimonies (especially from the contact with Benedict Kocian’s family).