

Abstract

The main goal of my dissertation is to analyze the personality of Engliš, who was an important representative of the scientific and financial elites during the period of the First Republic. I will venture to explain the causes of his rise during the First Republic and aim to characterize his relations with other elites. The term “elite” refers not only to representatives of the political and financial life of the First Republic, but also to the important leaders of its scientific and cultural scenes. In my dissertation I want to address the relationships between the elite of the First Republic and Karel Engliš. Public opinion played an important role in the relations between Engliš and the elite of the First Republic, in particular as Engliš was presented in the media and how the public perceived him. His family was supportive of Karel Engliš but also caused him many problems.

I have found the main material for my thesis in the archive of the National Museum (Archiv Národního muzea), the Literary Archive of the Museum of Czech Literature (Literární archiv Památníku národního písemnictví), the archive of Charles University (Archiv Univerzity Karlovy), the archive of Masaryk University in Brno (Archiv Masarykovy univerzity v Brně) and the archive of the National Bank of the Czech Republic (Archiv Národní banky České republiky.) Other important sources used in my dissertation include the archive of the Engliš family, personal memories written by Charles Engliš’s contemporaries, and an interviews with his grandchildren.

Keywords: elite (n.), 20th century, history, National Bank of Czechoslovakia, Masaryk