

# Czech Illustrated Magazines of the Second Half of the 19th Century

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## Abstract of the thesis

Illustrated magazines are a specific phenomenon in the 19<sup>th</sup> century culture. Between the 1860s and 1890s they published an enormous number of pictorial materials of diverse content and quality. Apart from general social importance they played a significant role in the world of art as well. Today they can serve as a beneficial source of knowledge about the situation on Czech as well as European art scene in the period.

The so-called penny-magazines of the 1830s can be seen as predecessors of illustrated magazines. They presented a cheap and popular source of knowledge and amusement, together with a considerable amount of xylographic illustrations. However, it was the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century that witnessed a real boom of illustrated magazines. At the beginning of the 1840s, the *Illustrated London News*, the *Leipziger Illustrirte Zeitung* and *L'Illustration* established the character of this type of periodicals. In following years there were many other magazines rising throughout entire Europe. In the Czech lands, first examples of the type can be found at the end of the 1850s. *Květy* (1865–1872), *Světlozor* (1867–1899) and *Zlatá Praha* (1884–1929) belong among the most successful periodicals.

The thesis deals with the main subjects concerning the role of the illustrated magazines in the world of art. Development of printing techniques that fundamentally influenced the visual facet of the magazines is one of them. Another chapter is devoted to the artists who worked for the magazines, including famous names of 19<sup>th</sup> century Czech art, as Josef Mánes, Mikoláš Aleš or Luděk Marold, as well as those, whose names are familiar only to specialists today. The next chapter discusses the relation of image and text as two aspects of the magazine structure that created very complex interrelations. In the texts accompanying pictures the narrative aspect dominated over the artistic values of the image and the magazines often created manipulative or misleading contexts to reproduced pictures.

Chapter VI provides a detailed view on the most frequent topics presented by the illustrated magazines. Topographic, ethnographic and travel records were among the most favoured; followed by images of rural life, landscape scenes and life in the city. Other topics are history, religion, the world of artists, fairy-tale and literature themes and allegory. Finally, the chapter deals with gender policy of the magazines. Chapter VII focuses on relation between the illustrated magazines and the art world, emphasising the concept of reproduction and its connections with the artwork. It also deals with art critique and problems of presentation of the artwork in the magazines in general. The final chapter of the thesis is devoted to the national contexts of the illustrated magazines. Through their images, pictorial magazines encouraged and stimulated patriotic feelings of their readers, creating thus an important part of Czech national movement.

## Keywords

Czech art – 19th Century Art – Illustrated Magazines – Illustration – Reproduction