

Abstract:

This bachelor's thesis focuses on how Jiří Kolář depicts the city in his poems in the first half of the 1940s. As a member of Group 42 (known as Skupina 42 in Czech), Kolář was strongly influenced by its poetics. Disagreeing with the tendencies of art for art's sake in modern art, the group aimed to depict reality as truthfully as possible and to create art that would be of use to people and the society. The reality and the people were supposed to be shown without stylization. In particular, the artists' main focus was to portray the reality of the metropolis, because, according to Group 42, it was the natural environment for modern people. This thesis analyses the literary devices used by Kolář to depict the reality of the city and their development in time. The analysis relies on a broader theoretical framework of the poetics of the city in literature. It is shown that, when depicting his own experience with the city, Kolář uses features of the spoken mode and contrast. He connects those into elaborate structures as a reflection of the non-linear nature and complexity of reality. Kolář's city is not a background for action – it presents itself as a living organism, just like human life.