

Abstract

The thesis deals with the image of rural Jewish society in the fictional world of prose of Vojtěch Rakous, a Czech Jewish author publishing at the turn of the 20th century. Its aim is to explore the “new type of Jew” that enriched Czech literature, and to characterise several prominent types of Jews’ literary characters in Rakous’s stories. It focuses on the issue of the Jewish minority’s coexistence with the mainstream society, and on the author’s original depiction of rural Jewish characters. It also deals with the specific quality of the author’s poetics (Rakous as an autodidact, autobiographic nature, author’s relation to his own Jewishness, idyllic character of the depicted world, the genre of humorous short story). The thesis also contains a brief outline of the types of Jews’ literary characters in Czech literature of the period in question. Considering Rakous’s ties to the Czech Jewish movement, the thesis addresses this context as well.