

**Abstract:**

The aim of this thesis is to analyse the preparations, course and consequences of The Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of All Nations, held in London in 1851. The first chapter of the thesis focuses on initial preparations and deals with reasons and motives for arranging the Exhibition. The second chapter deals with building the exhibition palace – Crystal Palace, and other necessary preparations, such as issuing new patent law and ensuring security for the visitors. The third chapter deals with the course of the Exhibition – the opening ceremony, exhibited objects and offered services. It also analyses public and media reaction to the event. The Exhibition is also evaluated in the context of development of industry, museums, education and other aspects of Victorian life.

**Key Words:** 1851; Henry Cole; the Crystal Palace; Museums; Prince Albert; the Great Exhibition; Victorian Great Britain