

The thesis aims to summarize our existing knowledge about the time of composition and the literary context of an important historiographical work of the Middle Ages - the so-called Sefer Josippon. The thesis is divided into three main parts: the first one is concerned with critical comparison of different conjectures regarding the origins of the book, the second attempts to interpret the book from the point of the history of Jewish literature of that period and the final part consists of a Czech translation of three short extracts of the book, that are chosen to demonstrate the stylistic and artistic techniques of the author and his way of handling with his literary sources.

The first part starts with defining the problem of the authorship of the book. We have shown that Sefer Josippon wasn't originally written as pseudo-epigraphical book, but it was traditionally ascribed to Josephus Flavius (called here „Joseph ben Gorion“. a mistake caused by misunderstanding of Josippon's sources) only later, while in the original text of this chronicle often quotes Josephus as its primary source of information. The question of the causes and time of this ascription has not been successfully solved. since already in the 10th century the book is referred to as „book of Joseph ben Gorion“. This might possibly point to the fact that the book was written earlier than it is generally agreed: but more probably ...