

Matěj Anastazia Simacek was a distinguished Czech writer, editor and publisher at the turn of the twentieth century. He was significantly involved in the development of the Czech literary criticism and forming a new generation of young authors which later established as Czech modernism. Although he was ranked among the most eminent personages of literature and culture in general, his name is now nearly unknown.

Simacek's contribution to literature comprises of poetry, prose and drama. Though, his poetry is least valued. Due to ponderous style, appropriate for prose, and social issues, his poems are scarcely readable. Social issues link all Simacek's works. It is indisputable that he achieved much greater success in the field of prose and drama. Portrayal of sugar factories, civic society and the world of art salons was chosen as the central theme of his works. Detailed realistic depiction in some of his works is a perfect example of descriptive realism. Attracting attention to the problems of the proletariat perhaps remains the only Simacek's contribution to Czech literature.

Nevertheless, he still did not perceive the proletariat as a powerful social class, thus his writings were neglected even at the time of relative popularity of such themes.

From our modern perspective, Simacek is a notable personality only in the eyes of literary historians who ought not to fail to remember his merits as an editor and publisher. In this respect Simacek was one of the most influential personages in cultural Prague at the turn of the twentieth century. The benefit of my diploma thesis lies in covering the life of this forgotten author and reminding of writings which have now possibly become only neglected files of the archives although they once belonged in popular and widely read works.