

The theme of the thesis "Genre Painting of the 17th and early 18th Centuries in Bohemia" was primarily selected due to the fact that until now none of the scholars had attended to this topic. Therefore the thesis for the first time surveys the situation on the art scene and straightaway from several points of view. Pivotal is the recognition of genre paintings by artists working in Bohemia during the period of Early and mainly High Baroque. However, firstly it was necessary to circumscribe the genre painting as such because this determination was fundamental in selecting the works that I labelled as genre. To this also relates the deeper introduction into the iconography and iconology of genre painting, rendered at the same time from the standpoint of the progress of interpretation of prominent experts in the discussed topic. The attention is paid to the references of genre painting in the commentaries of historiographers, painters, art theorists and further authors from Antiquity to the end of the 17th century as well. From them, among other things, it is clear that this category was not in the centre of their attention and their attitude to the genre painting was practically solely critical. The opposite attitude, however, is presented through the example of 17th and 18th centuries collecting. Plentiful appearance of genre painting in the collections of aristocrats, burghers and convents testifies to their enormous popularity. The art collections also served as sources of inspiration for many painters working in Bohemia because a lot of paintings in the collections were executed by artists of Netherlandish origin who, in European standards, pursued the genre painting most of all....