

Annotation

The theme of my thesis is the most famous British admiral, Lord Horatio Nelson. I have chosen to write about his life, glorious deeds, thoughts and ideas supported by the quotation of his prolific correspondence. In my opinion, Nelson was unfortunately put in the shade by Napoleon in my country - apparently because of the fact that he fought some of his battles in Moravia and thus entered in the Czech consciousness. My aim is to prove that Nelson's personality deserves much more attention among the Czech public, to draw a portrait of Nelson and remind how important was the role he played in the British history – above all, by his last victory at the Battle of Trafalgar that absolutely averted the threat of the French invasion led by Napoleon and thus secured British supremacy at seas till the end of 19th century. But it is not only the Battle of Trafalgar I would like to give an account of, it is also the Battle of the Nile which was marked as “the most significant victory which had crowned the British Navy since the era of Spanish Armada” by one of Nelson's contemporaries. I would like to acknowledge the reader with the Battle of Copenhagen and the Battle of the Cape St. Vincent as well. Besides his military achievements I mention his private affairs such as his marriage to Fanny Nisbet and his well-known passionate relationship to Lady Hamilton, the beautiful wife of the British ambassador in Naples, so scandalous that it shocked the Europe.

My thesis has a chronological setting. I also mention the historical context such as the American war of Independence, French Revolution and Napoleonic wars which are very closely related to Nelson. The work is limited by Nelson's lifetime (1758-1805) but in order to obtain a better portrait of him and his importance nowadays, especially when I speak about the development of his legend, I had to go beyond this limit. The inset of maps and pictures relating to Nelson's life and battles and people who surrounded him is added to my work.