

The thesis provides a brief analysis of the London underworld in Charles Dickens's *Oliver Twist*. The theoretical part of the thesis concentrates on the image of London in the 1830's, social conditions of the lowest class, the early Victorian underworld, the status of the Jewish minority and Dickens's attitude towards executions as a method of punishment as well as his opinion about Jews. The practical part focuses on an analysis of individual characters in the novel's underworld, their role and development throughout the work as well as their plausibility in comparison to the real London underworld depicted in the theoretical part.