

The theme of my thesis is the patriotic pedagogue Josef Věnceslav Soukup (1819-1882) whose life was full of feverish activity in the educational system. Moreover he was a prolific author of textbooks (one of his famous is *The Technological Natural History*) and musical works - we can mention his *Wreath of fine songs* which includes the song *Wayfarer* that is known for today. In music he paid attention to carols and Christmas songs and plays as well (the most famous is *The Young Shepherds of Bethlehem*). J. V. Soukup excelled in almost every field, not only in pedagogy and music but also in drawing (he even taught Mikoláš Aleš, the well-known Czech painter), chemistry, technology and cultivation of plants. Moreover he contributed to many pedagogical magazines.

The beginnings of his teacher's career were not easy, he strained for an appropriate position and during that time he had hardly anything to eat. He gave private lessons for food and played in pubs with the band of musicians to earn some money. However, as really hardworking and diligent student he got stipendium and thus he had not have any financial problems since that time. He knew K. S. Amerling (a great pedagogue who participated in the efforts of a higher girls' education) whose lectures he attended and was influenced by his philosophy. Josef Věnceslav Soukup was the most active in Písek where he was a headmaster of a school and he cooperated with his friend in a struggle for establishment of higher girls' school. That school was established in 1860 and it was the first school of that type in Czech countries.

One chapter is about his friend and an outstanding pedagogue V.V. Janota who cooperated with Soukup in the attempt of foundation of the educational institution for girls that was eventually successful.

In the thesis I also marginally mention the evolution of a girls' education in the Czech countries of the Habsburk monarchy but most of all I focus on Soukup's biography and his work. I have gained the informations from the archive of Pedagogical Museum of Prague and from many books I have studied in the National Library.