

The main topic of this dissertation is a philosophical and theological reflection of imagination in the thought of two 20th century British thinkers and writers Owen Barfield and C. S. Lewis. The attention is focused first on C. S. Lewis and his approach to the topic. The analysis of his insights serves as a terminological and interpretative tool for detailed analysis of Barfield's stance which is elaborated later. Lewis's approach is observed in wider context of his epistemology and his theological evaluation of religion. Lewis's concept of imagination is placed from the very beginning into the fundamental frame of his life and thought, which is the tension between „rational“ and „imaginative“ aspect of personality, or between „subject“ and „object“. It is still more obvious in the course of the analysis, that the tension between „subject“ and „object“ as well as seeking of its overcoming is an integrating motif of the whole Lewis's corpus. In the conclusion of Lewis's part, there is presented a summary of his intellectual approach to the imagination, which not being a comprehensive theory, still reveals an elaborated philosophical-theological reflection of the topic. Next part deals with the approach of Barfield, whose conception is analysed in more detail. A comprehensive theory of imagination is presented as a central subject of Barfield's thought. It is successively explained how Barfield operates with a specific concept of imagination in his theory of language and how he integrates this peculiar concept with his complex philosophical theory of „evolution of consciousness“. It is obvious, that Barfield also explores imagination in connection with the „subject“ – „object“ dialectical tension. However, he treats imagination as a crucial instrument of a reconciliation of this tension. In the final conclusion part, there is a summary and concluding comparison of Lewis's and Barfield's conception of imagination.