

The thesis examines the role of poetry from the official Czechoslovak Communist Party newspaper Rudé právo („Red Law“) between 1948 and 1953. It analyzes and interprets selected poetry in the context of major holidays and events, and uses this to describe some of the myths of the time and their symbolic meaning. Using essays and public speeches from thematic conferences and congresses, it describes the development of poetry and journalism in this crucial historical period as well as examines their role and mission. This is used to report on socialist realism in literature and provide testimonies of prominent political and cultural figures of the time on literature, poetry, and journalism. Furthermore, it shows how the front pages of Rudé právo were designed on special occasions and what some of the texts contained. The thesis also introduces the most important socialist holidays, explains their context, and opens up the issue of the societal role of them and the way they are presented. Finally, the thesis also contains information on the the „Pracující do literatury“ („Workers for Literature“) campaign.