

Abstract

The presented thesis contextualizes Joseph Georg Meinert's life and his writings in German spiritual life in the Czech lands at the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th century. It aims to analyze the subject matter of the whole spectrum of his works. His writings attest to the life of this German-speaking teacher, tutor and professor as well as scholar. Equally, they show the cultural and historical development at the time when the patriotism in the Habsburg monarchy begun to evolve.

In the thesis Meinert's texts are divided into groups according to their genres and recurring themes and motives. Next, the texts are analyzed by comparison with the information occurring in the secondary literature and the preserved fragments of Meinert's diaries.

The results of the analysis confirm that Meinert's creations authentically documented the historical, political and cultural circumstances of that time. The creations influenced not only the patriotically thinking fellows and writers in the Austrian, Czech and German lands, but as an editor he also had influence on the less educated readers of his journals. Meinert's writings were mostly received positively. His poetic work related to the negatively perceived historical events can be seen as an exception. Above that, the analysis showed that Meinert's originally neutral patriotic attitude changed over the time. In his later publications Meinert started to distinguish between the inhabitants of the Czech lands according to whether their mother tongue was German or Czech.