

## ABSTRACT

This dissertation thesis deals with the Sokol identity changes during its whole existence as Sokol was founded in 1862. In 2012 Sokol celebrated 150th anniversary by XV Sokol gymnastic festival 'Slet'. There were different opinions about that festival. That is the reason why the question about motivation of being a Sokol member in the past and now is so important. Are the same traditional Sokol values in the present?

The thesis is divided into two parts – historical and contemporary – each chapter deals with a logical part of Sokol identity development. The historical part is based on a well-known historical studies that are confronted with both Sokol writers and archival resources. Besides of the general facts about the Czech Sokol Organization, the contemporary part also includes a field research focused on topics of both 'ethic' and 'emic' Sokol values. The research was prepared by using a quantitative method of questionnaire survey of both Sokol members and non-Sokol public. The second part of research was prepared by using a qualitative method of directed interview with Sokol leaders. In the research participating observation at the Prague Sokol ball 'Šibřinky' was also used. The question is whether they are still popular or not.

It was necessary to find new goals in a new political and social situation after the Czech Sokol Organization re-creation in 1990. Sokol could be defined as an organization with a strong national tradition demonstrated by the presence in ceremonies although it mainly focuses on physical training and culture topics now.

Key words: Czech Sokol Organization, Sokol, Sokol Prague, associations, Gymnastics