

## **Abstract**

The bachelor's thesis is divided into two parts. The first deals with the phenomenon of the masquerade ball as a popular court festivity of the Baroque period. The second focuses on masquerade masks and masquerade costumes based on examples of selected Baroque paintings and portraits from the European region.

The first part begins with tracking of the origins of the masquerade ball in the folk carnivals, studies their common starting points but considers their different goals. Then, there are defined three main sources of the inspiration for the masquerade. At this part are presented some particularly important masquerade festivities. The second part is focused on a study of masks, their iconography and meanings.

The innovation of this work lies in the theme itself; which at least, from the art-historian position, has not yet been devoted a separate systematic study. The aim of this thesis is to summarize already existing pieces of knowledge on the given topic based on specialized Czech and foreign literature studies, and then through the analyses of individual cultural-historical facts to present an image of masquerade festivity from the point of view of the main inspiration sources, which led to its establishment.

## **Keywords**

Carnival, commedia dell'arte, court festivities, disguise, mask, masquerade ball, masquerade costume, portrait with mask