

Julius Zeyer and His Inspiration by French Culture is a large subject that includes several topics: Zeyer's personal contacts with French personages, inspiration by French culture in general; by art, literature, philosophy, but also by French lifestyle and mentality. In this thesis the topic is narrowed down to Zeyer's journeys to France and his contacts with local personages as well as to his reading of French literature (Chapter 1) and French literary inspiration of some of his works (Chapter 1 and Chapter 2). We are interested especially in the type and the degree of influence by French sources we can find in his work.

Chapter 1 is conceived as a literary-historical introduction – Francie jako zdroj inspirace (France as a source of inspiration) – concerns his one-year stay in Paris between 1889–1890 and the journeys to Brittany and Picardy in the same year. The source of information on this topic is Zeyer's correspondence with Zdenka Braunerová, Marie Kalašová, Josef Václav Sládek, the Heriteses etc., where he mentions different aspects of life in France as well as his impressions and experiences. He doesn't talk much about his acquaintances with French personages. That's why we are trying to complete this information from literature about Zdenka Braunerová. She mediated most of Zeyer's Parisian contacts. It means especially the artists around her brother-in-law Élémir Bourges: Margueritt brothers, Odilon Redon, Joséph Péladan, Henri Signoret, Édouard Pailleron, Armand Point. Besides that Zeyer established contacts with Polish exiles, mainly with Zenon Przesmycki, called Miriam.

Another topic of Chapter 1 is Zeyer's marginal translations from French and French books from his library. The library can be found in the depository of The National Museum in Terezín, which includes four hundred volumes. One fifth of them is written in French. ...