

## **Abstract**

This thesis aims to analyse the possible forms of the relationship between historical architecture and urban concepts and literary fiction. As a concrete subject for this analysis it chooses the genre of the Gothic novel and its very concrete case, the novel *Sedmikostelí* (1999) by the Czech writer Miloš Urban. In the individual explanatory and interpretive chapters, he puts two unique ideological concepts in relation to each other. The first is the concept of the New Town of Prague in the thought of its founder, Charles IV. The second is the literary mirroring of this concept and its inspirational role for the fictional New Town in Urban's novel *Sedmikostelí* and for the central idea of the work, which is the utopian escape from the everyday into the Gothic period with its aesthetic and social ideals and rules. This escape is to enable the re-presentation in the work of the vanished Chapel of Corpus Christi, which in the minds of the novel's characters represents the centre of the space of the so-called *Sedmikostelí*. This work introduces the history and architecture of the New Town and the symbolic dimension of the urban concept in the thought of Charles IV and reveals step by step the relationship between this concept and the individual buildings, characters, and the ideological basis of Urban's *Sedmikostelí*. The results of this comparison, supported, among other things, by the testimony of an interview with the writer himself, are twofold: it is shown, firstly, that in the case of the Gothic novel, architecture is indeed a fundamental source of inspiration, and secondly, that Miloš Urban in novel *Sedmikostelí* presented, in effect, a kind of spiritual counterpart to the conception of the New Town originating with Charles IV. While the medieval monarch used the buildings to imprint the city with the "stamp" of the cross and thus tie it to Christianity, the figures of Urban's brotherhood attempt to revive the spiritual centre of the pentagram, and their conception of the Gothic ideal is fundamentally inverted, involving murder, torture, and psychological abuse.

## **Keywords**

Charles IVth, historical fiction, Miloš Urban, Prague's New Town, *Sedmikostelí*