

Abstract

This bachelor thesis examines the image of Slovakia in the Czech artistic milieu from the mid-19th century to 1918, the year Czechoslovakia was established. It focuses on how Slovakia and Slovaks were depicted in the works of Czech artists such as Josef Mánes, F. B. Zvěřina, Mikoláš Aleš, Jaroslav Augusta, Emil Pacovský and Miloš Jiránek. It presents Slovak mountaineers, robbers and tinker craftsmen as symbolic of Slovaks. This image was created against the background of the building of Czech national identity, at a time when Hungarian Slovakia was part of Hungaria and the Czech lands were part of Austria. With the help of the Slavic, Detvian and Czechoslovak myths, which some Czech artists reflected and subsequently developed, the image of a weaker, friendly Slavic nation fighting against strong Hungarian oppression was created. Two non-art exhibitions that had their share in the perception of Slovakia by Czech artists - the Jubilee Exhibition and the Ethnographic Exhibition - are also set in the context of the Czech artistic milieu. The study also highlights the different interpretations at the time of the creation of the artworks, after the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic and after the communist takeover in the 1950s.