Abstract

The diploma thesis deals with the ethnological contribution and the extensive academic publishing activities of Professor Alois Musil, a remarkable Czech Arabist and Orientalist, especially with scientific pieces published in New York in the six-volume edition of the American Geographical Society between 1926 and 1928. The special attention is given to the sixth edition of the 'Oriental Explorations and Studies' entitled 'The Manners and Customs of the Rwala Bedouins' and this Musil's fieldwork is compared with later anthropological field surveys of the Bedouins ar-Ruwallah. The main part of the thesis is an analysis of Professor Musil's works and its contribution to the ethnographic and ethnological studies of manners and customs of traditional tribes and clans of the Arabian Peninsula and surrounded areas (such as modern Syria, Iraq and Jordan). The diploma thesis is also focused on a brief outline of the life of Professor Musil in a cultural-historical context with regard to his political activities on the Arabian Peninsula and his research of the North-Arab Bedouins ar-Ruwallah, the Banú Sakhr of Jordan and the Shammar tribe.

The main aim of the thesis is a comprehensive evaluation of the ethnographic and ethnological contribution of Alois Musil's works in the social and historical science. The diploma thesis is a follow-up to my own previous research and bachelor thesis entitled 'Alois Musil – Czech Orientalist and Publicist' defended in 2015 at the Institute of Ethnology of Charles University in Prague and is the overall output of detailed research in the archive database of Czech Radio in Prague, archive materials of the Museum of Vyskov in Moravia and archive texts of the National Library of the Czech Republic.

Key words: Musil, Arabist, Arabs, Bedouins of Arabia, Ethnography, Ethnological works, Travelogues, Islam, Orientalist