

Abstract

This bachelor thesis focuses on the letters from Milada Horáková, their journey from writing to getting to the hands of her family and their publication, and the associated post-1989 media coverage. The thesis thus aims to describe the different stages of the letters' path and to uncover a part of their journey not known to the public. Furthermore, it sets out to analyse the post-1989 media coverage of the letters up to the present day, using qualitative content analysis of documentary films and series that mention the last letters and were produced after 1989, and relevant national print media articles published after 1989. Along with this, it compares the description of the path of the letters in the analysed material to the one in this thesis. The introduction contains a historical context in which the topic is set, the life of Milada Horáková, and the political trial, therefore the events leading up to the writing of the letters. The following chapters cover the contents of each letter and their publication in 1990. The journey of the letters is further detailed in the thesis, along with the fact that the letters were secretly taken from the General Prosecutor's Office and safely hidden by JUDr. Lubomír Štěpán for twenty years, before their handover to the bereaved family, information not yet known to the public and never fully covered before. In addition, the later part of the thesis provides an insight into the media coverage of the last letters of Milada Horáková: to what extent and how print media and documentary films and series addressed the letters after 1989, in what context and how the authors of the analysed material generally worked with them. For example, significant media coverage of the last letter was found, or a low mention rate of the path of the letters, along with its frequent erroneous or incomplete description.