

MYTHS AND SYMBOLS IN CZECH PHOTOGRAPHY

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Featuring 53 photographs, this article undertakes to analyze the role of myths and symbols in the forming process of the modern Czech nation as expressed in photographic reproductions. With myth being understood as something not tied to a certain time, the object of the study is mainly pictures pertaining to the specifically national theme and to general phenomena of European civilisation. The main emphasis is placed on photographs which were taken during the period of the Habsburg monarchy. Some motifs, however, as this study also shows, have persisted in a more or less transformed way into the socialist period. The author first examines the myths of the birth of the Czech nation and then moves on to those that are tied to historic figures, historic places and to the rulers. Another point is the motif of the flag. The myths of rural life and those of technology and progress do not escape attention either.