

Sbírka kramářských tisků Národního muzea v Praze / Broadside Ballads and Chapbook Collection of National Museum in Prague

The history and content of the Library of National Museum in Prague's collection of seventeenth to nineteenth century small prints functionally related to broadside ballads and chapbooks in English speaking environment. Collecting of these prints has a long history in the Library of the National Museum, starting with an important figure of Czech history and ethnology study and a librarian Čeněk Zíbrt. The genre was purposefully collected by Zíbrt and his followers in the first half of 20th century, although the documentation of the collection was started much later, in the fifties. It got more attention in the sixties in connection of a series of conferences Václavkova Olomouc, named after one of the first researchers of the genre. The collection has since grown to include around 40 thousand prints. Most of these are song texts, but the related genres range from individually printed prayers, small prints that used to be brought home by religious pilgrims and many other interlinked genres of cheap, affordable chapbook production.