



**FAKULTA  
HUMANITNÍCH STUDIÍ**  
Univerzita Karlova

**Zadání přijímací zkoušky – 23. 4. 2016 ráno**

**Text k překladu:**

M. W. MacCallum: *Shakespeare's Roman Plays and their Background.*

Shakespeare's Treatment of History

The turn of the centuries roughly bisects the dramatic career of Shakespeare. In the first half he had written many comedies and a few tragedies; in the second he was to write many tragedies with a few plays which, on account of the happy ending and other traits, may be assigned to the opposite class. But beyond these recognised and legitimate subdivisions of the Romantic Drama, he had also before 1600 busied himself with that characteristic product of the Elizabethan Age, the Historical Play dealing with the national annals. In this kind, indeed, he had been hardly less abundant than in comedy, the proportions being nine of the one to eleven of the other. Then suddenly he leaves it aside, and returns to it only at the close in *Henry VIII.*, which moreover is but partially his handiwork.

Why this should be so it is impossible to say. It may be that the patriotic self-consciousness stirred by the defeat of the Armada and the triumph of England waned with the growing sense of internal grievances and the loss of external prestige, and that the national story no longer inspired such curiosity and delight. It may be that Shakespeare had exhausted the episodes which had a special attraction for contemporaries and himself. It may be that he found in the records of other lands themes that gave his genius freer scope and more fully satisfied the requirements of his art. Or all these considerations may have co-operated.

**Otázky k textu:**

1. Co bylo podle autora charakteristickým výtvořem Alžbětinské doby?
2. Co probudilo vlastenecké sebevědomí?
3. Čím se Shakespeare zabýval v první polovině své dráhy dramatika?