

In the early modern age the town of Rokycany belonged to the smaller towns with an economy characterized by crafts and agriculture. In the 16th century the city started to bloom remarkably. Because of its loyalty shown to Ferdinand I, the town wasn't affected by the sanctions of that ruler, but was instead granted many privileges.

In 1547 Rokycany became a free royal town. The above treatise discusses and follows the evolution of the town administration, the purpose of the single offices and its personnel. The most important administrative institution of the town was the municipal council with legislative, jurisdictional and executive powers. The town's economies and the administration of the town's property belonged also to the duties of the council. The municipal council counted twelve counsellors; its most prestigious member was called primate. Every counsellor was in charge of the government of the town for the period of one month, during this period he used the title of burgomaster.

In the examined period of time, 19 men became primates and the majority of them kept the title lifelong. Three men worked as imperial town magistrates. In the period preceding the Battle of the White Mountain two primates managed with their eminence to reach fame also outside the town. That is Jan Novoměstský Srnovec from Varvažova and Zikmund Celestýn of Freifeld. The two primates were the offspring of two well rooted families of the town, whose members used to be teachers at the local school or scribes. They managed to marry into the most prominent families of the town and imposed themselves in the town administration. Almost all the primates of the period before the Battle of the White Mountain were of higher education. Many of them had obtained their bachelor's degree and all of them, were strongly committed to foster humanism.