

The purpose of this paper is to introduce books of financial orders of Prague Old Town Council from 1656 – 1677 (1678) as a unique historical source for studying expenses of the municipality. These books are highly significant for being the only preserved economic Old Town records from that period of time. Thanks to them it is possible to reconstruct the municipal economy in the 2nd half of the 17th century.

The author of this document has tried to analyze individual types of expenses and sort them out into a system. He has recognized four basic categories: repayments to municipal creditors, expenses for the purchase of land and estates, building investments, gifts and donations, salaries and wages. The last category has been made of small number of other expenses. All the above mentioned expenses are described in detail in different chapters and interpreted in the context of Prague Old Town history. There are many other documents, manuscripts and registers stored in Prague City Archives which have been used for this purpose.