

Abstract

In this thesis, I focus on the Palliardi family of Italian origin and their activities in the Czech lands using the methodological approaches of historiography and memory studies.

Descendants of the Palliardi family still live in the Czech Republic today and some of its members, including myself, are interested in the family history, keeping it in mind and searching for traces of it in the historical sources of family members who worked as plasterers on important buildings of the Czech Baroque period in the 17th and 18th centuries. The family memory does not go back to the time when the first Palliardi came to Bohemia, but based on the historical findings so far, it is assumed that this happened after the Thirty Years' War. The first documented Palliardi in Bohemia was Giovanni Pietro, a plasterer originally from the Lago di Como area, who is mentioned as a burgher of Prague's Lesser Town from 1680 and the ancestor of five generations (until 1870) of this Lesser Town family who were engaged in the profession of plastering or building. Ignác Jan Nepomuk (May 15, 1737 - March 18, 1821) and his son Ignác Alois (1765 - August 10, 1806) became figures of the family memory and important historical personalities of the history of Baroque and Classicist architecture. The last builder of the Palliardi family in Bohemia was Josef Václav Jan Nepomuk (1798 - 12 Feb. 1870).

After the death of Josef Václav Jan Nepomuk Palliardi in 1870, none of the family members engaged in any profession related to building. The family branched out into several lines and lived outside Prague - in Moravia and western Bohemia. Their fate was shared more in the family memory, although some personalities also left their mark in the wider historical consciousness, but in completely different fields than construction, e.g., in spa, ornithology, botany, archaeology, museology, or in law and charity. I ended my research on personalities in year when Alfred Palliardi (6 Dec. 1861 - 2 Feb. 1924) died.

My task was to investigate how deeply living family memory reaches into the past, what figures and sites of memory it sustains, and when, where, and how family memory intersects with history.