The modern prince family of Lobkowicz has its roots in North Bohemia several hundred years ago. This diploma work deals with the general history and cultural meaning of this family in Late Middle Ages, concretely in the course of 15th century and at the beginning of the following century.

This work consists of three chapters. The first one is concerned with the history of the Lobkowicz family in its first five generations (14th-16th centuries). Rare information about the first known members of the family are dated to the end of the rule of the Emperor Charles IV. The Lobkowicz family belonged to lower nobility and were known as lairds of Újezd. Martin (commonly Mareš) of Újezd had three sons: Blaze (Blažej or Blažek), Wenceslas (Václav) and Nicolas (Mikuláš). The oldest Blaze died early and Wenceslas was a priest, so it was only the youngest son Nicolas who could secure the maintenance of the family. Nicolas of Lobkowicz, a man of high intellectual skills, a talented diplomat and politician, gained confidence of Wenceslas IV, King of Bohemia, and kept a close connection to the royal court. It was him who bought the village and fort Lobkovice in 1410, that gave name to the family. A few years later he had also gained the castle Hassenstein in North-West Bohemia and Hluboká in South Bohemia, which supported the future rise of the family. Nicolas had two sons, Nicolas II and Jan (John) Popel. On their father’s request they devided his estate in 1440. Jan Popel chose Hluboká and Lobkovice, Nicolas II gained the Hassenstein estate and a part of the property in central Bohemia. This is the moment of the division of the Lobkowicz family in two main branches – the older one of Hassenstein, which is the subject of this diploma work, and the younger branche of Popel, which I have not dealt with. Nicolas II had four sons – John (Jan) of Hassenstein, Nicolas III, Jaroslav I (Jaroslav) and Bohuslaus (Bohuslav), who became very important noblemen in the region.