

## **Abstract**

The aim of this dissertation is to analyse and evaluate the content of a unique source from the Rudolphine period, the manuscript by Evangelista Papazzone, a dance master at the court of Rudolf II. The starting point is the independent transcription and translation of the manuscript into Czech. First, the thesis paints a picture of the situation in Bohemia in the second half of the 16th century and the court of Rudolf II, summarizes the existing knowledge about the relationship of the Bohemian nobility to Italian culture and the importance of dance in Bohemia, and discusses the professional possibilities of an Italian dance master in this milieu. The thesis also presents in detail the Italian dance style of the 16th century and presents an analysis of Italian dance treatises, in the context of which Papazzone's manuscript is considered. His treatise is exceptional in that it is the only one of the Renaissance Italian dance manuals to have been written outside Italy, but it shows numerous correspondences with them, especially in that it also favours the *gagliarda*, the most popular Renaissance dance. *Gagliarda*, characteristics, variability, social function and use is another important topic, in connection with the prominent position of this dance in Papazzone's manuscript. The final part of the thesis traces the specifics of Papazzone's way of writing down specific dance terms and variations of the *gagliarda*, in comparison with other dance writings of the late Renaissance.

## **Key words**

Evangelista Papazzone, Rudolf II., Italian dancing master, dance manual, renaissance dance, *gagliarda*.