

Abstract

The diploma thesis presents the history of the first half of the 20th century through the development and activities of the Sokol Mělník Physical Education Unit. The thesis will trace and analyse how the key milestones of the last years of the monarchy, the war period, and the emergence of Czechoslovak state were reflected in the organisation and activities of the Sokol, and what influence this association had on the wider region of Mělník, along with other "competing" organisations (Orel, DTJ, S.K. Mělník), and in relation to its national importance. The thesis attempts to capture not only the everyday life of the Sokol with a focus on its practical functioning including property management and association activities, but also exceptional moments such as festivals (preparation for the All-Sokol festival) as well as other social events. Great emphasis is placed on the role of the Sokol as an important state-forming institution and the shifts of this position in connection with the changes in the situation in society. The period under review ends with the last stage of interwar Czechoslovakia, when the republic became a protectorate, representing a violent interruption of the promising activities of the Sokol.

Keywords

Sokol, Mělník, regional history, Physical Education, Czechoslovakia, 20th century, First World War