

The thesis deals with the issue of property transfer of servile real estates in the Estate of Melnik during the 17 century. As the main resource material was used the collection of Melnik Books of Land Ownership founded during the 80s of the 16 century. After the Thirty Years' War these books were restored in connection with the afterwar reconstruction of the Estate of Melnik and were published in a new edition until the turn of the 17 and 18 century. Besides these Books of Land Ownership we also studied other kinds of resources such as land and duties registers, land-registries, inventories and estimations which originated in the 17 century with respect to this Estate. In the end of the 17 century was formed a uniquely preserved register of serfs which enables us not only to have better knowledge of the structure of settled farmers themselves but also create the first picture of general structure of servile population in the Estate.

In the introduction I tried to place the Estate of Melnik in the structure of Early Modern Times country estates. With the size ranging from medium to smaller the Estate of Melnik was formally as a chamber estate in possession of the Czech king for the most of its development in the period of Early Modern Times. Nevertheless in reality the Estate as a pawned land was held by several of the prominent Czech nobility. This situation changed in the 80s when the Estate was given to the hereditary possession of the family Cernin and so it became a part of their dominion. Economic development and structure of this Estate was very much determined by its location in the fertile part of country around the river Labe where already in the period before Bila Hora four manorial farms can be found with the largest manorial farm in Horin significantly surpassing a common manorial farms of that period.