

## ABSTRACT

The aim of this dissertation thesis is to provide first critical edition of Latin correspondence written by the missionaries from Bohemian Province of Society of Jesus, who were destined to *Indiae Occidentales* (Northern and Southern Americas, Philippines and Mariana Islands).

This edition contains all the documents, according to present-day knowledge, preserved in the archives in Czech Republic. These are 114 letters and one collection of *excerpta*. 28 of them are autographs, the rest are copies. Nearly fourth part of this corpus is represented by letters of Paulus Klein, eighth part by letters of Augustinus Strobach, the remaining part was written by 25 other Jesuit missionaries. The correspondence comes from the years 1657-1741. Most of these letters describe the journey of missionaries from Bohemia to their mission destination, many of letters originate from the period of waiting for West Indies Fleet in Spain. Smaller part describes the reality in oversea mission, above all its early period.

The edition is sorted to 27 blocks according to the authors, the letters within these blocks are ordered chronologically. All the letters are provided with regesta in Czech language.

Introduction study contains general remarks on the importance of this corpus as a historic source. It also reveals synopsis of editions, translations, and literature about edited documents. In subsequent chapter, a chronological survey of correspondence is added, according to successive periods within missionary career. Then, several aspects of Jesuit missionary mentality are considered, especially disillusion and disgust of missionaries during encounter with ibero-american reality; several causes of this phenomenon are suggested. The role of martyrdom in the Jesuit education is also reflected. In the end, several considerations about Jesuit humour and ridiculosity are added.

## KEYWORDS

Society of Jesus  
Bohemian Province of SJ  
Correspondence  
Critical edition  
Missions  
America  
Philippines  
Mariana Islands  
Neo-Latin travel writing