

## **Abstract**

The thesis deals with the memoirs of Philippe de Commines and the possibilities of their utilization as a source on the history of mentalities. This significant politician and diplomat of Burgundian origin, although little known in our country, left the court of Charles the Bold to be in service of Louis XI of France. In his memoirs, written after the death of Louis XI., Commines firstly celebrates this sovereign and secondly he attempts to intensify the didactic scope of the text through various literary resources (digression, exempla), and he tries to stress on some political and moral premises. Regarding the focusing on readers of monarchs and courtiers side, the *Memoires* approaches a different literary genre – mirrors for princes. Their advices are however targeted practically and often there rebinds some pragmatism even in their ethic tone. A progressive, modern flow in thinking in the work of Phillippe de Commines is represented by his rejection of “useless” knight graces and values such as pride and glory, and enforcing of “wisdom” perceived entirely newly as a political skill combined with caution. The second part of the thesis attempts to map the testimony of the Memoirs about diplomatic experience of the time, in which symbolic communication and ritual played an important role on one hand, but which was depending however largely on secret alliances. The memoirs can be used also as a source of history of Central Europe , already seen in sphere of West Europe as a region culturally distant and exotic.