

## CASTLE LIBRARY OF OTTO JR. OF NOSTITZ IN JAWOR

The library of Otto Jr. of Nostitz was founded in the beginning of the 1650's in the Lower Silesian castle Jawor. It consists approximately of 5 000 volumes and its structure as well as its history makes it unique and elevates the Jawor library among the most interesting book collections of early modern Europe. Shortly after death of its founder, the library was bought by Otto's brother Johann Hartwig of Nostitz and moved to the newly built palace in Malá Strana in Prague where it laid the foundations of the new family library of the house of Nostitz. The library is placed in two rooms on the second floor till today.

The thesis tries to introduce the personality of the founder of the Jawor library Otto Jr. of Nostitz, his tastes in the book purchase as well as the topical structure of his book collection and its future fates. Notwithstanding, the main point of the doctor thesis is to present the issues of the thorough provenance research of the oldest part of the library. The *terminus ante quem* for the year of edition of the books relevant for the provenance research marks out the death of Otto Jr. in the year 1665.

The most recent and complete catalogue of the Nostitz library in the present use dates back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and shows remarkable leaks and deviations from the actual text of the book titles. Therefore, the provenance research, beside its other issues of importance, ought to mark out the most important and precious groups of books which should be re-catalogued in the first place. Approximately 13 000 volumes were physically checked up during the work on the list of provenance records and the research discovered about 1 000 different former owners of the books, no matter whether private persons, families or institutions.

The structure of the provenance record list reveals important aspects of the actual situation in the early modern Silesian book collections and book collecting. Besides, the provenance records prove and illustrate close relations of the scholars connected in the Silesian *respublica litteraria*. The biggest extant fragment of an earlier book collection in the Nostitz Library is the group of the books marked with name of the personal physician of three emperors and excellent scholar, Johannes Crato of Crafftheim and the library fragments of other 16<sup>th</sup> century physicians. With respect not only for the content of the medical libraries but also for the provenance records and pursuable ways of the books among the scholarly libraries, this group of library fragments on all accounts represent the most precious part of the Nostitz Library.

Analogical attributes can be found even in the other groups of library fragments which are clustered mostly according to the social status of the book owners. Each group is thus distinguished with its own distinctive attribute. E. g. among the bourgeois book owners predominate the members of the city council in Wrocław, among the clergymen predominate the members of the Wrocław cathedral chapter house.

The aristocratic provenance records can usually be attributed to Otto's friends or at least to his good acquaintances who appear in his diary.

A unique category of highly interesting provenance records represent the handwritten commentaries of Otto Jr. von Nostitz himself. The prevailing part of his provenance records actually comments, criticises and reprobates protestant books. The form of his comments as well as their content is unique in Europe.

The catalogue of the provenance records in the Nostitz Library is published as the second part of the thesis. Approximately 3 000 volumes (approx. 5 000 provenance records) of the Nostitz Library were excerpted on account of the creation of the provenance catalogue. To make the search in the catalogue as friendly as possible a CD-ROM with digital version of the catalogue is enclosed to each copy of the thesis.

The provenance research of the Nostitz Library is closely attached to the project "PROVENIO: Methodology of the Book Provenance Research". The newly created bibliographic records of the books from the Nostitz Library as well as the authority records of the former owners of the books are accessible in the online database PROVENIO (<http://www.provenio.net>). The cataloguing of the Nostitz books became one of the first occasions for application of the PROVENIO methodology in the "real life". Therefore, one chapter in the first part of the thesis contains summary of the PROVENIO methodology and samples of the bibliographic and authority records in MARC 21.

The thesis tries to re-introduce the almost forgotten Nostitz Library to general awareness. It also presents the recently finished provenance research and its results as well as the applied methodology which was partly developed during the research in the Nostitz Library. I am fully aware about the fact that this thesis only laid the foundations for a possible further research and the greater part of work awaits in future.