

### ***Annotation***

Development, improvement and mass spread of devices used for prospecting of metal objects in the ground entails an enormous problem to archaeology. The problem lays in mass misusing of metal detectors by amateur users or, in worse-case scenario, misusing by organized groups of thieves and planned plundering locations. Those illegal activities lead to irretrievable devastation of the cultural heritage along with the loss of information and thereby imminent danger to possibilities to learn our history. Misusage of detectors has become a society-wide problem.

In a competent person's hands detectors can bring an unexpected look into the past and thus they should not be looked past by the experts. Also the potential of amateur seekers, who offer helping hand in official archaeological explorations, often lies fallow.

The presented thesis is trying to describe the complicated problem of metal detectors in the broadest range and simultaneously to accent some details that the author considers to be important (e.g. pastlooked aspects of possible cooperation among archaeologists and treasure hunters). The core of this work involves four main thematic groups: metal detectors in terms of their technological development and their types, legislation and its working in practice within the Czech Republic and Europe, the issues of complicated relationships among archaeologists and detector amateur users, and the usage of metal detectors in the archeological practice. Consequently there is an independent excursus into options of detectors usage during an exploration of a specific type of an archaeological location – the battlefield and military action areas.

For understanding of the complicated issues the author considers to look onto the issues from different points of view as important. Perspectives of both professional archaeologists and the general public were taken into account. There are also opinions of the group of treasure hunters themselves. The effective legislation was (on basis the author's work in the Muzeum Mladoboleslavská) compared with everyday reality of the archaeological practice. In conclusion the author tries to define the rules in which the cooperation of archaeologists and treasure hunters would be acceptable. The author also tries to outline a presumed direction that the metal detectors problem within archaeology will take.