

## **Abstract**

### The Nobility in the Usti Region in the Context of Early Modern Heraldic and Epigraphic Relicts

The Ústí region is one of regions which were affected by a loss of historical memory after the Second World War. It was caused by the elimination of a large part of the cultural heritage to a considerable extent. The Royal Town “Ústí nad Labem” was a common and traditional centre of the region at the beginning of the Early Modern period. It had an influence on the development of the whole region on a number of aspects. The absence of a larger noble dominion with a major administrative centre gave a space to minor noble properties, and to a construction of humbler religious buildings. Churches and their movables are often only relicts of the formerly spectacular noble representation in the region.

A doctor thesis concentrates on the documentation and interpretation of heraldic and epigraphic relicts through which people from five noble families presented themselves in the Ústí region. Bearers of sign and inscription elements have been put into the wide, especially art historical context of a cultural heritage fund of North-West Bohemia. The thesis extends knowledge of the use of arms and inscriptions in seven religious buildings which came into existence on the initiative of the nobility of a foreign origin, who mainly confessed the Lutheran Confession. The thesis contains a catalogue which was created on the basis of a field research, respects the contemporary methods of the documentation of inscription writing and includes 53 catalogue records. The records cover the cultural heritage fund from 1477 until 1620. The doctor thesis brings findings about the use of different types and forms of inscription writing in the region and the link of writing to the regional cultural heritage fund as well. The thesis studies a period morphology of arms from the point of view of heraldic issues and on this basis, tries to determine a workshop in which the relicts were created.

The signs and inscriptions as means of a personal and family representation proved a social status of the nobility and made it legal. The beginning of the Early Modern period was in favour of these tangible sources in the Ústí region. They represent an important evidence of the noble representation and cultural heritage of the region within the Czech-Saxon art phenomenon, so called Saxon Renaissance.