

## **Abstract**

The Master's thesis follows the unusual fate of the castle library in Mikulov. This library belonging to the family of Dietrichstein-Mensdorff-Pouilly was sold off through auctions in the times of the so-called Czechoslovak First Republic (1933, 1934). A part of its stock became a property of today's Moravian provincial library in Brno and some of the old manuscripts were sold to other institutions in Czechoslovakia. The thesis focuses on the position of the aristocratic family of the Dietrichsteins which was connected with the legal institution of fideicommissum, the cancellation of which led to the selling off of the Mikulov castle library. Moreover, the thesis deals with a comparison of the above mentioned situation and the other castle library sales between the two world wars. Over 200 000 items were sold from the Mikulov library, most of them being old and valuable books.

**Key words:** fideicommissum, Mikulov, Nicolsburg, Dietrichstein family, aristocratic libraries, history of libraries