

## **Summary**

The Inquisition functioned as an institution of the Church which searched for and punished ideas which didn't correspond with the generally accepted rules, mostly raised by the Catholic Church. The Inquisition's target was very often a numerous group of heretics who shared the same fundamental faith of the main stream of the Church but they disagreed in the essential questions. The range of enemies spread out with the raising power of the Church. Next to the heretics, the Church also fought against the uncomfortable opponents, very often of a secular origin.

In the course of history the Inquisition functioned in several forms however it could not keep up with the progress in thought in society. That caused its downfall.

The Inquisition exists up until now in a reorganized form however its role is strictly formal.

Besides the heretics the Church inveighed against the practitioners and followers of witchcraft and magic. At the beginning the Church did not pay as much attention to this phenomenon as to the heretics nevertheless its point of view had changed radically during the Middle Ages. Mass witch-hunts came over from the northern Germany and Silesia to the Czech Lands. The northern Moravia was affected the most. Specifically the city of Šumperk and its surroundings. A hundred of people lost their lives under the action of the Inquisitor Boblig and an atmosphere of fear prevailed throughout the whole area during the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The peak of the local proceedings was a prosecution, a long interrogations together with torture and finally a burning of the Šumperks Dean K.A. Lautner. A man who fought against the human superstitions.

The witch proceedings are sad events in the history of mankind which testify of the destructiveness of the human superstition and a lack of education.