

This diploma work deals with two commanderies of the knights of Saint John in the Zittau region located in the Upper Lusatia i.e. in the present Saxony in Zittau itself and in the township of Hirschfelde northeast of Zittau. I have focused on primarily on the 16th century that has not been treated adequately in the professional literature.

In the first part of this diploma work, which is the shortest one, I have assessed the present historiography and both published and unpublished sources and manuscripts dealing with the aforementioned topic i.e. dealing with the two commanderies in question in the Middle Ages that have survived in good condition and I have delineated their (i.e. the commanderies) development in the 13th through 15th centuries including the procedures intended for the application in dealing with the subject of the two commanderies in 16th century.

In the second part of this diploma work I have described the manifestations of devoutness and religiosity in the town of Zittau at the beginning of the 16th century, i.e. in the era prior to the reformation. I have made my best to document whether the town of Zittau where the knights of Saint John possessed the patronage right to the parish church was also struck by the phenomena typical of religious life in the Central Europe at the threshold of the Reformation i.e. the phenomena such as the campaigns featured by indulgences, great foundations (altars, masses, brotherhoods and confraternities, sacral works of art, etc.) and construction and building activities though including anticlericalism as well. I have also made an attempt to outline an influence of humanism in the town and the state of the education, as it was, i.e. prerequisites of Reformation. ern Age.