

ABSTRACT

The Lords of Colditz originally came from Meissen, which is also the location of the town and castle Colditz (Koldice). Their first contact with the Kingdom of Bohemia dates to the reign of Wenceslaw II. During the rule of the Luxembourg dynasty, they became (as counsellors) one of the pillars of their sovereigns' power. At first, they served King John of Luxembourg, and then his son and Emperor - Charles IV. Besides their counselling services, Lords of Koldice often lended quite large amounts to indebted rulers. Thimo (Těma) the Elder is considered to be the first Lord of Colditz, who settled in the Kingdom of Bohemia. King John of Luxembourg gave him some goods in the northwestern part of Bohemia (the most important of them was Krupka, a mining town with a castle). One of his sons, Thimo (Těma) the Younger, enlarged the domain and eventually turned his allodial property Colditz (Koldice) into a feud (1368). Thus he became a vassal of the King Wenceslaus IV. A large number of documents show that Lords of Colditz mostly stayed around the royal court. Thimo the Elder, Thimo the Younger and Albrecht held many important offices. For example sheriffs (capitaneus) of Upper Lusatia and Wrocław, master of chamber (magister camerere, head of the royal finances), and other less important offices. During the investigated period, two members of the Colditz house also built a successful spiritual career as Bishops in Meissen. This paper focuses only on one century of their service at the court of Luxembourg dynasty, that is, from its beginning to the end of the reign of Wenceslaus IV (1419). However, the „Czech“ stem of the Lords of Colditz prevailed in the Kingdom of Bohemia until its extinction at the beginning of the 16th century.

(Keywords: Lords of Koldice, nobility, the court of Luxembourg, the Lands of the Crown of Bohemia, sheriff (capitaneus), seigniorial system)