

ABSTRACT

The present thesis focuses on both the actual and the posthumous life of the late 15th c. esquire Dalibor of Kozojedy, beheaded in 1498 by verdict of the Superior Land Court of the Kingdom of Bohemia for capital felony of hostile takeover of a manor house of Ploskovice in the Litoměřice region, including the pertaining peasantry. The text analyses the motives leading to the act and extracts diplomatical, narrative, and literary sources in order to portray the evolution of the tale of Dalibor in the course of 16th through 19th century. The 'afterlife' of the myth is rooted in the period of Czech National Revival and literary Romanticism, which foreshadows the gradual reshaping process of the then Bohemian mythological heritage as commonly shared by the Czechs and Germans into an instrument promoting the Czech national historical tradition, used for defending the Czech culture's milieu against the German one. The thesis explores the aforementioned process as a background for textual instances of the mythical Dalibor's engagement in both society and literature.