Abstract

This thesis describes the landscape composition of Czech Count Frantisek Josef Slik (Frantz Joseph Schlik, 1656-1740) and attempts to define the influences and principles which were involved in the formation of the landscape in the manors of Kopidlno, Stare Hrady and Velis-Voksice, now in the Czech Republic, during the life of the aristocrat. Frantisek Josef Schlik ruled the manors for over 60 years and during that time he was responsible for many architectural works with considerable landscape-forming and urbanistic potential. A series of visually interlinked chapels was erected in the Velis-Voksice manor. This series included the meierhof with a little palace in Voksice. This landscape composition has been discussed especially as regards its formal design, but its connection to the Count's motivation has been less well researched, as has been the broader social and, especially, religious context in the area. Another aspect that has been put aside, or not perceived within the context of the manorial landscape, were other structures which Frantisek Josef Schlik built or which were of essential importance for the activities in the manor. These structures, meierhofs, were also significant landscape components. This dissertation first attempts to provide a biography of Frantisek Josef Schlik, describe his family backgrounds and career, and also to present the economic, religious and geographic circumstances of his manors. The following part outlines their urban development, which is explored from two points of view – the chronological, put within the context of the Count's life, and the topographical, where the creation of the structures is placed within the context of the landscape and the structures that existed at the time. The last part of this dissertation is an attempt to reconstruct, on the basis of an inventory of books in Count Schlik's personal library, the possible sources of inspiration and cultural assumptions which may have influenced his landscape-creating work in his manors, reflecting the personality of their landlord and administrator.