

František Ladislav Rieger was one of the most famous Czech politicians of the second half of the 19th century. He was František Palacký's son-in-law and his successor in the leading of the Czech politics. He and his wife Marie Rieger bought the Maleč farm from Franz Xaver Auersperg in 1862. Rieger had already had experience with management of a farm in Suchdol between 1854 and 1857. The Suchdol farm, much smaller than Maleč, did not bring enough profit. Rieger sold the Suchdol farm and his saw mill in Semily and bought the Maleč domain for 300 000 guildens. It was a big investment and Rieger had to mortgage the farm as well as his wife's house in Prague. By the research I wanted to answer the following general questions:

1. How did the farm in Maleč work?
2. How much of his time and effort did F. L. Rieger invest in the management?
3. How much money did he need for his representative life of an important Czech politician?
4. Where and how did he get his money?

As far as the theme "Farms in the second half of 19th century" is concerned, analytic studies are very rare in the Czech historiography. Most studies about family farms do not go beyond the middle of the 19th century. The available literature is more general in its focus- about the agriculture, industry, demography, Rieger and his family, or political and social life in the 19th century, etc. It was necessary to go through a lot of archives, above all accounting documents (such as bills, balance sheets, account books, contracts, etc.) but there is so much material that only a part of it had to be chosen. These archives are deposited in the National Museum, in the Archives of Zámorsk and also in the National Archives in Prague....