

Abstrakt v anglickém jazyce

The study of sources related to the folk provenance is often in terms of the Czech historiography a neglected issue. Especially the research of folk chronicles has reached the utmost boom in the middle of the nineteenth century and then also in the interwar years. Nowadays, the study does not attract much attention. Therefore, the aim of this work is to capture and systematize the existing knowledge on this subject. Moreover, it is necessary to emphasize and show some other possibilities of dealing with these particular sources because they are valuable work for contemporary historiographical studies such as microhistorical and cultural anthropological research. Although one might think that these annals have rather a small informative value for the traditional political historical events, they offer an interesting insight into everyday life of ordinary people living in the countryside those days. This fact can definitely help one understand traditions as it also represents tendencies and trends in attitudes and behaviour of the rural society those days.

The main purpose of the thesis is to consider what motivated folk authors to note down their stories and experience in chronicles. The alarming fact is that the post-war historiography has caused a lot of confusion over the true message about our history and some of the gathered sources are still misconstrued as well as interpreted incorrectly. With the intention of avoiding further misinterpretations, it is important to carefully examine all the reliable sources. Because of large amounts of the historical sources, I will focus on the period from 1700 to 1800 in the region of Rychnov. The great emphasis is put on natural disasters and weather phenomena as they are one of the most frequently discussed issues in folk chronicles. Anyway, this can prompt the question what it was that made and inspired folk people to record their experience.