

The thesis focuses on the life of gentlewomen at the turn of the 16th and 17th century. An example of the wives of last Lords of Hradec shows how they were enabled to realize in the “men’s world” of the early modern age and familiarizes the life of the last Lords of Hradec at the same time.

The first chapter called “World of gentlewomen in the Renaissance and baroque times” is a brief introduction into the daily women’s life of the early modern age. It emphasizes the main fatal moments of the life of every woman. Marriage and birth of a descendant were very important landmarks as the family was a place where the woman should be of use. The husband’s death was crucial for both low- or high-born women. The position of every woman relied on the position of her husband, therefore the social situation of each widow was treated by this.

Following chapter describes briefly the history of the Family of Lords of Hradec, who, since the middle Ages, had been ranked among the most significant noblemen in the Czech Kingdom and whose power and position was based on a faithful service to the ruler.

The third chapter is dedicated to Anna Hradecká of Rožmberk (1530-1580). Anna came from an important old Czech Lord’s Kin and her step-brothers were Vilém of Rožmberk and Petr Vok of Rožmberk. Marriage to Jáchym of Hradec in 1547 was a highly prestigious matter, which should stipulate the unique position of both Czech families in the Kingdom. Surviving personal correspondence of the time of separation of the married couple discloses more about the life of the aristocratic family, when Jáchym stayed at the court and Anna lived at the Jindřichův Hradec estate. Anna gave birth to a few children during the marriage, but only Adam II. and the daughter Anna lived to the age of majority. Besides parenting Anna also took

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care of running the estate and managed the whole property instead of her underage son after the death of her husband.