

This thesis focuses on scientific elaboration of two heraldical manuscripts from the Vratislavs from Mirtovice family archives in the village Dírná (Soběslav region). According to the village name, the manuscripts are known as the Armorial from Dírná in the professional literature. They were laid aside a little bit because their existence was known only to a relatively narrow circle of specialists as they were kept far away from the research centres. Both books had never been observed in light of authorship, datation or analysis of their content. We are speaking about two paper manuscripts, inventory No. 56, sign. I B 9 and No. 58 sign. I B 10. They comprise 984 and 1358 painted coats-of-arms including name of the family beneath each picture. The codicological analysis enabled to identify authors of both armorials, i. e. Kryštof Vilém Harant from Polžice and Bezručice (1617–1690) and Václav Ignác Vratislav from Mitrovice (1645–1728) and the époque of their creation in the 1670's and 1680's. Further research proved the necessity of creating an electronic databases that enabled to work effectively with immense volume of data. Analysis of the content of armorials showed that they contain 961 family coats-of-arms. Those represent from the two thirds Czech noble families, the rest is approximately in the same proportion of the noble families from Moravia, Silesia and other foreign families that immigrated to the Czech lands. From more than two thirds these are families nobilitated before 1500 A. D. 36% of the content are extincted lineages, 41% of contemporary living lineages, the rest was not possible to find out. 66% of the armorial represent the coat of arms of gentry. Only in 21 cases it is possible to observe a qualitative change of an coat of arm when a gentry family was ennobled.

These armorials do not contain lot of further information. It was then necessary to reconstruct the resource basis of their authors. They drew mainly from the heraldic manuscripts, monumental and sepulchral memorials and less from the diplomatic resources (and in referenco the Moravian and Silesian nobility, also from printed literature).