

In the years 1814, 1815 and 1818 Karel Kramerius (1797–1874), a son of a famous publisher and journalist Václav Matěj Kramerius (1753–1808), realized with his friends Karel Michel and Jan Šťasný three great holiday travels over Bohemia. Aims of these travels were mainly castle ruins, speechless witnesses of the past that Karel Kramerius desired to become acquainted with so much. This rigorous work presents to reader mainly the edition of three travelling diaries, which Karel Kramerius wrote during these travels. Apart from detailed descriptions of the castle ruins, often accompanied by self-made drawing, the diaries also contain descriptions of other historic buildings (manor-houses, monasteries, natural monuments), countryside, progress of travel and events, which diversified travelling from one village to another to the travelers. During getting to know their homeland they met revivalists, relations, friends and common people.

Karel Kramerius grew up in a revivalist environment created by the national revival which had already been in progress, and in an epoch of the beginning of the Czech romantic period. Both of these schools of thought projected in his diaries. While patriotic feeling developed in full extensity, romantic reception of castle ruins and country is recognised here only in indications. The edition of Karel Kramerius's diaries aims at extending the up-tonow slight basis of sources of knowledge of the beginning of the Czech romantic period and mainly romantic interest in castles and their ruins.

Edition of diaries, which constitutes the basis of whole rigorous work, is followed by chapters, which deal with travelling around castles and castle ruins in the first half of the 19th century, life of Karel Kramerius and essential contentual analysis of the diaries.