

Presented diploma thesis named „Early Middle Age helmets, armours and shields of the Czech countries“ aims to introduce information about Early Middle Age protective militaries. Questions regarding the phenomena mentioned have been neglected so far. Region of the former Czechoslovakia in wider geographic context has been emphasized. Thesis is divided into three individual parts dealing with helmets, armours and shields.

As far as the militaries are concerned, especially weapons (see e.g. Košta 2004, týž 2005; Kouřil 2005; Ruttkay 1975, týž 1976) or spurs (see e.g. Kavánová 1976; Bialeková 1977; Profantová 1994) have been taken into account more than the protective fighter's armour. This situation is quite understandable. Weapons and spurs are from the chronological point of view much more sensitive than fragments of armours, helmets or shields. If there is any notice in literature made about fragment of any armour, it is usually only saying that this discovery was made. Fragment of the ringlet armour from Olomouc can be used as an example to illustrate fact mentioned previously (Bláha 2001, 59, obr. 11:6). J. Kudrnáč was the last one who tried to summarize in his dissertation thesis knowledge about the Hillfort period armour and weapons (Kudrnáč 1948). Before him, Salvonic protective armour was studied by J. L. Píč (Píč 1890, týž 1909). As far as the helmets are concerned, the widest information was provided by D. Hejdová dealing with the helmet of Saint Wenceslas (Hejdová 1964). In this paper, also other helmets from the area of interest are mentioned. As it was mentioned in the first chapter, these papers were published considerably long time ago and new discoveries in the field of armour, weapons and shields have been made. In contrary to previous period of research, foreign literature is more accessible today. Complete evaluation of the finds is complicated by fact that majority of the artifacts is stored in foreign collections or even lost.