

Abstract

Municipal books of Kadaň and administration of the town in the years 1465 – 1620

Work deals with two nearly connected topics. First topic is diplomatic description and palaeographic analysis group of 43 books that were guided by the office of royal town Kadaň. Description and analysis refer to existing research of these issues (*I.1 Possibilities of studies and accesses of municipal books*). Books are minutely described in chapter *I.7 Index of municipal books of Kadaň from years 1465-1620*. They were disposed for the first time during World War I; for next and last time fund was sequenced in years 1966-1968 (*I.2 Fortunes of municipal books of Kadaň to the third quarter of 20th century*).

Books were divided into four groups for purposes of next processing and classification: books of municipal administration (in the strict sense of the word); indisputable civil law books; disputable civil law books and books of villages under municipal domination (*I.3. Contentual fission of preserved official city registers of Kadaň*). According to various written allusions it is possible to identify circa thirty lost books; this number cannot be final indeed (*I.4. Deperdita*). Chapter *I.5. Book description* is devoted to way how books were guided, numbering of folios, indexes, watermarks and origin of paper. Palaeographic analysis showed that most of books were led only by sworn municipal scribes. Separated scribal centre was connected with official working of council servants (“*ratsdiener*”). Other two groups of books are constituted by four books guided by municipal magistrates; and lands registers of villages under municipal domination written by municipal sworn scribes, council servants as well as “occasional” scribes together (*I.6. Palaeographic analysis*).

Second topic of this dissertation aims to broaden present cognisance about history of Czech and Moravian royal town administration. Work is based on studies of municipal councils personal constitution. Lists of municipal councils members served to compilation of municipal councilmen`s “microbiograms”. Those pointed to term of office and position in appropriate municipal council, as well as confessional affiliations (*II.2 The sources and their processing*). Since 1465 as far as to the end of first quarter of 16th century so-called sworn councillors council (8 men) and municipal elders council (24 men) participated on town administration together with town council. Administration of town Kadaň was reformed among June 1519 and January 1524. Sworn councillors council was replaced by so-called elders council (12 men) and municipal elders council by municipal members council (12 men) (*II.3 Administration of the town to the end of first quarter of 16th century*).

Between 1469 and 1517 Jan Hasištejnský from Lobkovic held Kadaň in pledge and also renovated town council. After town was ransomed from pledge, municipal council started to renovate under-chamberlain again (*II.4.1 Installation of municipal councillor corps in Kadaň*). Certain frankness of municipal council (that was obvious at the end of first half of 16th century) declined at the beginning of last quarter of 16th century. So council started to begin more and more concluded and stayed so to the end of period before Bílá Hora battle. Evangelicals got in to the municipal council as far as in 1543 and they almost master it between 1575 and 1588. Thanks to systematic efforts of royal offices, lasting superiority of Catholics were achieved at the beginning of 17th century (*II.4.2 Municipal council*). Approximately in same time (in years 1564-1565 and 1580-1590) Evangelicals handled royal magistrate office too, but this office was usually engaged entirely by Catholics (*II.4.4 Royal magistrates*).

Under-chamberlain renovated elders council and municipal members council together with town council (*II.4.3 Municipal elders*). Municipal magistrates were established by all of these three councils and – since the middle of 16th century – also by royal magistrate. Same as in Louny and Brno, just sitting town councillor were not accredited for municipal magistrate office (*II.4.5 Municipal magistrates*). Significant position among “smaller offices” had vineyard master council and committee, which administered municipal economy. They were compound entirely from members of three municipal councils. Municipal burgess (together with councilmen) were represented in other committees that supervised on bread and meat trading, on municipal hospital, brewing or municipal brickworks – chapter *II.4.6 Committee (smaller offices)*.

Kadaň was divided into four town districts and nine suburban districts. This system of town administration involved also twenty-five local guilds (*II.4.7 Municipal community administration*). Property of serfs in villages under municipal domination was divided between three subjects – the municipality, burgess and rosary fraternity. Most of the serfs (over sixty) belonged to burgess; the municipality and rosary fraternity owned circa forty. Town council appoint magistrate also in villages with minority share of serfs of burgess and rosary fraternity (*II.4.8 Administration of municipal domination*).

Key words:

Kadaň; municipal books; lands registers; municipal scribes; town administration; municipal councils; royal magistrates; municipal magistrates