

Abstract

Early Modern Narrative Sources from Czech Towns

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The aim of the PhD thesis is to collect information about preserved narrative sources relating to Czech towns from the pre-White Mountain period and attempt to classify and put them into historical context by means of analysis and comparison. The creation of various historiographical documents bears witness to the considerable popularity of history during the 16th and 17th century. The thesis is mainly focused on chronicles, preserved mostly as manuscripts, dealing with the past of Czech towns. The research touches on personal memoir records of particular burghers tangentially. The reason is that most of them only refer to their families. Facts about other historiographical sources of literary character were studied only if they were related to the town, where the other source of pre-White Mountain period exists.

The subject of the study was 24 towns' chronicles of the pre-White Mountain Period. The sources were analysed in detail and compared to other sources from the same period, like official or non-official sources from the Czech territory and abroad (mainly German area). Attention was focused on these old documents from a historical sciences standpoint with an emphasis on origination and reception of sources, on their authors and socio-cultural environment, in which they were created. Their information value with regard to the issues surrounding the pre-White Mountain society was studied further, as well as the processes and events being played out both close at hand and further away from the writer, issues surrounding everyday life and the history of mentalities.

The results of the research are divided into two parts. The first part summarizes the collected information and includes the methodology and theory of the research. In the second essential part of the thesis is an annotated list of historiographical works from the selected towns. .