

## Abstract

The aim of this study is to follow the development of the family archives Metternich, especially its genesis, methods of processing, the possibility to use and biographies of some personalities that are linked to his fate. The author attempts to achieve this goal in two ways.

1) a detailed analysis of developments in the family archives from its beginnings to the contemporary time based on the interpretation of sources regarding the development, organization, processing and retrieval,

2) by putting the fate of the family archive to the development of noble archives in Bohemia and in the framework of theoretical and methodological approach to the history of archives.

The first part is devoted to analysis of foreign and domestic literature on the history of archives and in selected examples are characterized by methodological approaches to this issue, in the actual work once applied.

The second part introduces the issue aristocratic family archives in Bohemia, the author examines gradually terminological issues, genetic (baseline development of this type of archives from the Middle Ages to the 20th century), ways of processing of family archives and personalities of their archivists. The author also discusses the role of the state in care for family archives, a separate excursion is a chapter on the fate of Czechoslovakia Archive Society as a professional organization of Czechoslovak Archivists.

In the final part of the same themes are demonstrated on the example of the Metternich family archives. The individual chapters are monitored stages of development of the archive from the medieval beginnings, through the formation of the modern archives of the late 18th century, through its subsequent transport to the Czech Republic and implement reform here in the 70s of the 19th century, associated with the name archivist Alfons von Klinkowström. Family Archive Metternich is observed in the 20th century, after 1945 as a fund deposited in the Central State Archives in Prague (today National Archives).