

THE CASTLES OF THE ZLÍN REGION

Summary

The monograph about the castles of the Zlín Region is an attempt to summarize the issue on the basis of older and more recent researches carried out by members of the authors' team. The publication builds on the pioneering work of the Zlín archaeologist PhDr. Jiří Kohoutek, CSc. (1952–2007), whose practically whole professional life concerned with the issue of fortified seats in Moravia with a focus on the area of eastern and southeastern Moravia. He published the results of his research into a number of published articles and studies, as well as monographs, of which we must mention at least his book *Hrady jihovýchodní Moravy (The Castles of Southeastern Moravia)* of 1995.

The monograph is dedicated to 43 castles located in the territory of the Zlín Region (an administrative organization since 2000). This territorial definition has no deeper historical justification, but is due to the original assignment of this monograph. This is the territory of eastern Moravia with overlaps in southeastern and central Moravia.

A total of 43 sites were selected for the monograph. For many of them, their classification into the category of castles (*Burg*, *castrum*) is indisputable, some of them in many respects stand at the border of the castle and fortress categories. Both of these terms are contemporary terms used in the Old Czech (*hrad*, *tvrz*) and correspond to them in Latin or German. Both expressions were not clearly distinguished in the Middle Ages and both categories overlapped, so some castles were sometimes referred to as fortresses and vice versa. Difficult or inconclusive is also the modern definition of both concepts. Under the term „castle“ is usually meant a more demanding building of larger dimensions with a stone architecture, the builder of which was usually a monarch or an affluent nobleman.

In the case of castles, the disposition of the building was usually divided into two or more functional parts (the core of the castle and the bailey). Castles were mostly built in elevated positions isolated from the village settlement. On the other hand, the fortresses (*propugnaculum*, *municio*) represented mostly simple buildings without the most demanding stonework. These were usually the manor house of the lower nobility, and their location was closely linked to the country

environment (usually mostly inside or on the outskirts of the villages) and economic background (farmyards).

This monograph also contains objects which are usually referred to as “fortresses” in written sources, but the term “castle” also appears in connection with them. Also the fortified seats, which are not mentioned in the written sources, were included, but due to their location in the landscape, available and presumed function, we can categorize them in the category of castles.

Introductory chapter describes a historical context of the formation of castles in eastern and southeastern Moravia in the Middle Ages. The oldest layer of stone castles consists of castles founded by the Bohemian kings and the Moravian margraves in the first half of the 13th century (castles Lukov, Brumov, Buchlov). The aristocratic castles were built throughout the period of the Middle Ages – most of them were built during the 14th century. The youngest group of the castles includes Nový Světlov (it was built at the end of the 15th century) and the never-completed castle of Nový Haugvicov from the second half of the 16th century. In the case of the castle Obřany we have also documented the conflict between the monarch (the Moravian margrave) and the nobleman of the right of construction of the new castle. A major builder was also the bishop of Olomouc, as Olomouc bishopric owned a number of estates in the pursued region.

The second chapter is a brief summary of more general knowledge of the studied castles in the region. This part contains a brief outline of their construction development, not burdened by the complicated interpretation of often incompletely preserved situations, nor by trying to sort objects into typological sets. In other parts there is information about individual parts or structures of a medieval castle (wall, bastion, tower, gate, palace, chapel, kitchen, building details).

The main part of the monograph is a treatise on 43 castles in the Zlín Region. Each chapter contains brief information on the location of the castle, its history (Middle Ages with overlapping to a later period), description and building development. Some chapters also contain data on archaeological research and findings.

The final chapter presents an overview of the efforts of knowledge, monument renewal and the modern use of castles and castle ruins in the Zlín Region.

