

## ABSTRACT

The presented thesis *Guilds in the Lives of Craftsmen (Czech Lands, 1731–1853) on the Example of Joiners' Guilds* represents an attempt at a historical-anthropological analysis of what belonging to a guild meant for craftsmen during the studied period and how these meanings changed. To this end, the thesis focuses on several selected phenomena that were part of many craftsmen's lives. These include initiation rituals (becoming a journeyman and a master), journeyman customs such as 'craftmen's greetings', the ways in which guilds differentiated themselves from the surrounding society, and religious guild customs. In this work, I aim firstly to capture the nature of these phenomena as common to a wide range of craftsmen, especially at the beginning of the studied period. Furthermore, I analyze the development of guilds throughout the eighteenth century and into the first half of the nineteenth century, which I present based on various interpretations of the decline of the guild system in contemporaneous and later literature. I further build on this foundation when describing the functioning of the Joiners' guild in Sadská in the first half of the nineteenth century, drawing from my own research of archival sources. Comparing earlier depictions of these customs with the example of the guild in Sadská allows me to create an interpretation of how the role of guilds in the lives of craftsmen changed throughout this period. For this interpretation, I mainly utilize Eric Hobsbawm's conceptualization of 'tradition' and 'custom'.