

Abstract

The subject of this bachelor thesis is tin mining in the Nejdek region in the western Ore Mountains, NW Bohemia, in years 1556–1581. The source basis for this study is the so-called New Mining Register of Nejdek, led in 1556–1651, which is now kept in the National Archive in Prague (NA ČR, f. VHÚJ, inv. no. 600). The continuity of the book is interrupted several times, but the most notable is the gap between 1581–1620. This gap, as well as the year of 1581 also border the first section of the book, that become an object of close analysis.

The first part of the thesis (Chapter 2) summarizes the history of research with special focus to the western Ore Mountains. The following two sections (Chapters 3 and 4) deal with the micro-region of Nejdek, its enviromental preconditions and the history of ore mining in the area from the Middle Ages to the Early Modern Age. The fourth section (chapters 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9) consists of a diplomatic study of the New Mining Register of Nedjek, which records from 1556–1581 were transliterated and subsequently converted into a database in Microsoft Access. Using this research data, we have described the dynamics of tin mining in the region in the second half of the 16th century. The edition of the records and the database are available as OpenData on the ZENODO repository (doi: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.13256170>). In the last, fifth, section (Chapter 10), we analysed the montane landscape of Nejdek using a Digital Elevation Model (DEM) and compared the montane relics with the records in the book.

The conclusions show that the peak of tin acquisition, in this smaller tin mining district, lies in the 1670s with two localities that far exceed all others in number of entries and leases. The distribution of the montane relics appears to be evenly distributed throughout the Nejdek region. A lower representation can be noticed only in the south of the region and a complete absence only in the cadastral unit of Nejdek. This can be attributed to the different development as an administrative centre and long-time settlement.

Key words

Ore Mining – Bohemia – Ore Mountains – Early Modern Age – Mining History –
Diplomatics – Landscape Archaeology