

Abstract

A fragment of the Fulnek Castle Library was discovered in November 2020 during a survey of the historical collection at the Silesian Museum Library. It contains 573 titles published between 1554 and 1810. The discovery is quite unique, likely representing the largest collection of books from a castle library found in recent times. The significance of this find is highlighted by the fact that the existence of a library at Fulnek Castle was only presumed based on a single source: an article by Christian d'Elvert (1803–1896), titled *Die Bibliotheken und anderen wissenschaftlichen, Kunst- und Alterthums-Sammlungen in Mähren und österreichisch Schlesien*.

The theoretical part of this rigorous thesis focuses on identifying the connections between two key provenance marks: the handwritten signature of Josef Václav, Count of Wrbna and Freudenthal (1738–1819), and a general signature found on most of the books in the collection. The origin of this signature needed clarification. The thesis also aims to determine whether other owners of the Fulnek estate, namely the Czeik family of Badenfeld, contributed to building the Fulnek library. The practical part includes the content and provenance analysis of the surviving volumes, as well as consideration of lost titles identified through archival research. The thesis concludes with a catalog of all the surviving prints that form the remains of the Fulnek Castle Library.