

The thesis consists of two parts of different genre: the second part comprises that portion of the book FIDLEROVÁ, Alena; BEKEŠOVÁ, Martina, et al.: Inventory of the 17th and 18th Century Manuscripts from the Museum Collections in Bohemia (IInd part, volumes 1 and 2, Prague: Nakladatelství Karolinum, 2007), for which the author of the thesis is responsible (approximately 560 pages). It represents a practical example of how to treat and make accessible a great amount of manuscript source material in a way so that it could be successfully exploited by the scientists of different disciplines interested in early modern ages. Simultaneously, it is a part of the source basis for the first part of the thesis (the accompanying essay), which, nevertheless, dwells on the whole of the material encompassed in all the so far published parts of the Inventory. The accompanying essay has several goals: From the informative point of view it summarizes the content of the Inventory, i.e. which types of manuscripts does it comprise (according to the age of the manuscript, the language or languages used and the genre or subject matter) and tries to trace the causes of the findings. From the methodological point of view it discusses the problem, which methods should be chosen not only in the study of the early modern Czech language and literature, but more generally in the research of the culture (predominantly popular culture) of the early modern ages. From the bohemistic point of view it tries to indicate some research fields, for which the manuscripts described in the Inventory could represent a suitable source material. The essay shows that the great majority of the manuscripts comprised in the Inventory belong to the domain of the popular culture (they were written by people from lower social classes or were designed for them or were adapted by them).