SUMMARIES

FARMING BY NOBLE LANDHOLDERS IN BOHEMIA BEFORE THE BATTLE OF THE WHITE MOUNTAIN Jaroslav Čechura

The pre-1620 landed property in Bohemia has hitherto been seen largely in the context of the development leading to the 17th-century economy of large estates, based as it was predominantly on statute labour. This study presents the results of research done, with the aim of publishing a monography, on the development of the most important noble landholders' estates in Bohemia between 1550 and 1620, with accounting data having been analyzed in the first place. In the course of this research, landed property came to be seen more in terms of an enterprise. After 1550, especially on truly large estates a structure prevailed which was based on units (breweries, fish-pond compounds, farms) run by the landlords themselves, and which resulted in considerably higher profits. Its principal feature was paid labour. By 1600, statute labour (robot) had practically ceased to exist in Bohemia. The landed property was commercially linked to the peasant economy: The peasants had an opportunity to sell grain, and they were offered jobs. Seemingly, this is a truly Bohemian contribution to the varied picture of the landed property in the European early modern age. It was a transitional phase, and as a result of the post-1620 events in Bohemia, this development was curtailed.