

Review of Zdeněk Schenk and Petr Žákovský, Švédský polní tábor u Horní Moštěnice. Třicetiletá válka na Přerovsku ve světle archeologických a historických pramenů/The Swedish field camp near Horní Moštěnice: The Thirty Years' War in the Přerov district in light of the archaeological and historical sources. Přerov, Brno 2023, pp.112, published by Muzeum Komenského v Přerově and Archeologický ústav AV ČR, Brno.

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REVIEW OF ZDENĚK SCHENK AND PETR ŽÁKOVSKÝ, *ŠVÉDSKÝ POLNÍ TÁBOR U HORNÍ MOŠTĚNICE. TRICETILETÁ VÁLKA NA PŘEROVSKU VE SVĚTLE ARCHEOLOGICKÝCH A HISTORICKÝCH PRAMENŮ* / THE SWEDISH FIELD CAMP NEAR HORNÍ MOŠTĚNICE: THE THIRTY YEARS' WAR IN THE PŘEROV DISTRICT IN LIGHT OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOURCES. PŘEROV, BRNO 2023, PP. 112, PUBLISHED BY MUZEUM KOMENSKÉHO V PŘEROVĚ AND ARCHEOLOGICKÝ ÚSTAV AV ČR, BRNO

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The Thirty Years' War has been a subject of interest for Czech archaeologists for several decades. Among the more important works, we can mention research on such battles as Bílá Hora (1620),¹ Rozvadov (1621),² Rakovník (1620),³ and Třebel (1647),⁴ as well as attempts to take a more synthetic view of this conflict.⁵

In the reviewed publication, the Swedish military camp near Horní Moštěnice became a pretext for a broader presentation of the archaeological traces of the Thirty Years' War in Moravia. The authors devote only part of the book to the camp mentioned in the title, focusing on presenting events related to the Thirty Years' War – one of the longest conflicts in modern European history, which left many physical traces in Moravia and Czech Silesia in the form of battlefields, fortifications, and other sites, such as

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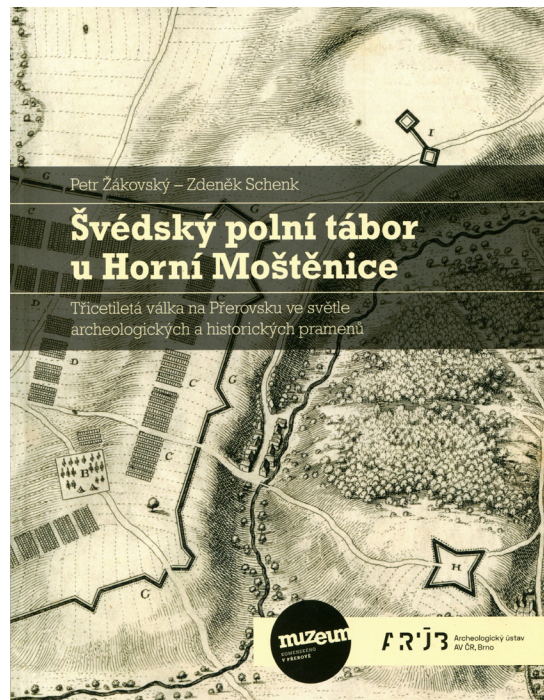
¹ Bureš and Rytíř 2017.

² Matoušek et al. 2018.

³ Blažková et al. 2020.

⁴ Matoušek 2006.

⁵ Preusz 2019.



military camps – primarily from an archaeological perspective.

KEYWORDS

- The Thirty Years' War
- Swedish military camp
- archaeology of conflict
- archaeology of battlefield
- Horní Moštěnice

The book is divided into nine chapters, preceded by an introduction and followed by a conclusion. In addition, the publication contains descriptions of five excursions designed to familiarise the reader with selected monuments related to the Thirty Years' War.

In the first part of the volume, in addition to a brief summary of the most important events of the Thirty Years' War in Moravia and the Přerov region, the reader is introduced to a description of the fortified field camp set up by the Swedish army in 1643 near Horní Moštěnice, during the Swedish invasion of Moravia under the command of Feld Marshal Lennart Torstenson. The said camp had a hexagonal plan and was located in a convenient communication and strategic position. It housed various types of troops: dragoons, infantry, and artillery. The Moštěnka stream, which flowed through the camp area, was a suitable source of water for horses. The embankments were surrounded by a ditch and reinforced with triangular and quadrilateral bastions. In addition, four redoubts were built outside the fortifications. A notable external object was the so-called 'main rampart' – built in the shape of a four-pointed star near Přestavlký. Remains of these fortifications are preserved on a wooded hill between Moštěnice and Újezd. They disappeared over the years in the surrounding fields as a result of cultivation, but are still visible on aerial photographs.

It was possible to find the exact location of the camp due to an important iconographic source, namely a map of the camp drawn up by Swedish officer Conrad Mardefelt, which became part of *Theatrum Europaeum* – a journal on the history of the German-speaking lands, published between 1633 and 1738.

The authors interpret the Horní Moštěnice camp as typical of Swedish strategy in Moravia – a checkpoint securing communications and military operations. They draw attention to the importance of the topography – hills, accessibility, and a defensive position – as factors that determined the choice of the site as the campground. They emphasise that due to the short lifespan of the camp, some structures were temporary and artefacts were scarce, reflecting the pace and nature of military campaigns. The first finds related to the functioning of the camp – coins – were discovered as early as the beginning of the 20th century. In 2010, research conducted using metal detectors yielded new finds, such as lead musket balls, a cannonball, and elements of forquets.

The next chapter describes the imperial army's camp in Křenovice near Kojetín, which was

also built in 1643, this time by troops commanded by Lieutenant General Matthias Gallas. A part of these fortifications, including a linear ditch and a four-sided redoubt, was discovered during rescue archaeological research conducted in 2006 in connection with the construction of the D1 motorway. In this case, archaeologists recorded evidence of the use of the remains of early Iron Age fortifications in the Hradiško field that can probably be linked to the functioning of the imperial army's field camp from the Thirty Years' War. Metal detector surveys conducted in this area revealed numerous finds of lead bullets used as ammunition for muskets and pistols, as well as coins, mainly from the years 1620-1630.

One of the main parts of the reviewed publication is the chapter entitled "The Thirty Years' War in the light of archaeological finds of early modern militaria in Moravia," in which the authors discuss the different types of military forces that participated in the armed conflict, their weaponry, and combat tactics. The next chapters discuss the finds divided into specific types of weapons: hilt weapons, polearms, firearms, protective armour, and other military equipment.

The militaria presented in Schenk and Žákovský's book primarily come from archaeological finds from various locations in Moravia and Czech Silesia – the authors gathered and presented in one volume numerous pieces of weaponry and military equipment from collections held by various institutions. They selected many interesting artefacts, including the particularly noteworthy collection from Sovinec Castle that consists of protective armour, polearms, hilt weapons, and firearms. In many cases, unfortunately, there is no precise information about the location of the find's, discovery but it is still possible to link some of them to specific events of the Thirty Years' War. Since most of these artefacts have not been published before, this creates a tremendous opportunity for professionals and amateurs alike to become acquainted for the first time with important archaeological material.

As already mentioned, the book contains descriptions of five trips to historic locations related to the events of the Thirty Years' War. The first one is Přerov and the treasure of gold and silver coins from the 2nd half of the 16th century and the first decades of the 17th century. The coins come from various European countries: Germany, Switzerland, Poland, and the Netherlands. The hoard was found in 1923 and contains a total of 2,390 coins weighing 8.12 kg.

The next trip leads the reader to the Swedish ramparts – relics of a redoubt associated with

the above-mentioned Swedish military camp in Horní Moštěnice. Further trips describe three castles: Cimburk Castle near Koryčany, Helfštýn Castle, and Sovinec Castle.

During the Thirty Years' War, Cimburk Castle belonged to Gabriel Horecký of Horka, who served as a royal councillor between 1624 and 1626 and was also an associate judge of the provincial court. Despite his modest landholdings, he was accepted into the nobility in 1641 for his services to the Catholic faith. We have no direct and reliable information about any military actions directly affecting the castle. Although local literature mentions the conquest of the castle in 1623 during the invasion of the troops of Gabriel Bethlen, Duke of Transylvania, when the castle was allegedly betrayed by Gabriel Horecký's half-brother Kašpar Suňek of Jesenice, and Gabriel Horecký was captured and had to pay 10,000 gold coins for his release, this report is not very reliable. The information about the unsuccessful siege of the castle in 1645 by a Swedish army of 4,000 men is also unverified.

After its confiscation in 1622, Helfštýn Castle became the property of Cardinal František of Ditrichštejn, who, after defeating the anti-Habsburg uprising in 1621, served as governor and supreme imperial commissioner in Moravia. During the subsequent stages of the Thirty Years' War, this extensive castle complex, which was gradually expanded with external fortifications during the 17th century, was repeatedly targeted for capture. Helfštýn was an active stronghold of the imperial army and continued to serve a military function until the end of the war. The permanent garrison of Helfštýn, commanded by Štěpán of Vrbno, who was the Cardinal's estate manager in 1645, had food supplies delivered on an ongoing basis from the Hranice area to Olomouc. In 1645, the Swedish army of General Hamilton made an unsuccessful attempt to capture the castle – after the siege of Kolínsgarmark, Hamilton continued the siege of the castle in Olomouc on the night of 28 October 1645, but failed to capture Helfštýn. Two years after the signing of the peace treaty that ended the Thirty Years' War, on 28 October 1650, Imperial Colonel Jiří of Ditrichštejn withdrew the garrison from Helfštýn Castle, which thus lost its military significance.

Sovinec Castle was founded on an important road connecting Moravia and Silesia in the 1320s and 1330s. In the 1st half of the 17th century it was acquired by the Teutonic Order, which made it one of its main strongholds and between 1627 and 1643 carried out intensive construction works

to reinforce the fortress. The castle's location near a major transport route meant that the events of the Thirty Years' War had a dramatic impact on its history. The castle, which was repeatedly besieged and plundered, was significantly expanded and became such a powerful fortress that it is now one of the best-preserved monuments of seventeenth-century military architecture in northern Moravia. At the end of 1642, the castle garrison numbered almost 400 soldiers. However, even the improvement of the castle's fortifications and the further reinforcement of the castle garrison with infantry and cavalry units of the imperial army did not prevent it from being captured by General Törstenson's troops in 1643.

The capture of the castle by the Swedish army is documented by a relatively large number of written sources describing in great detail the individual days of the siege and specific combat actions, from which it appears that the attack on Sovinec Castle was carried out by the Swedish side with extraordinary intensity. The Swedes took control of the castle and, despite an attempt to recapture it in 1644, held it until 1650.

Although Schenk and Žákovský's book is popular science in nature, it is a valuable publication for archaeologists and historians, mainly due to the large number of high-quality photographs presenting various types of weapons and military equipment. Its additional advantage is the aerial photography, historical cartography, and iconography supplementing the text.

My concern is that the title of the book may be misleading for the reader, as the Swedish military camp near Horní Moštěnice is only one element of this publication. A more appropriate title would be the second part of the publication's title, i.e., "The Thirty Years' War in the Přerov district in light of archaeological and historical sources."

The discussed publication came into existence in connection with the implementation of the Přerov museum's exhibition project "Švédové na Přerovsku: třicetiletá válka na Hané ve světle archeologických a historických pramenů" (*The Swedes in the Přerov District: The Thirty Years' War in Haná in light of the archaeological and historical sources*), which took place at Castle Přerov from 30 June to 29 October 2023, and was made possible thanks to the cooperation of the Comenius Museum in Přerov and the Institute of Archaeology of the CAS in Brno.

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the author(s).

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