

## SUMMARY OF THE DOCTORAL THESIS

**Title: The von Bees family in the 16th-18th centuries**

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The dissertation is devoted to the history of the Silesian von Bees family in the 16th-18th centuries. During this period, individual lineages built their status and their representatives developed their official and court careers and undertook various activities in the field of politics, economy, religion and patronage.

The von Bees family, like many Silesian families, had lines that can be classified as aristocracy and middle nobility, as well as branches with a much lower property and socio-political status.

The main purpose of the study is to show the activities of the Silesian von Bees family and its individual lines in the modern period. In order to achieve the aim of the work, it was necessary to reconstruct and organize the genealogy of the family, determine family connections within individual lines and branches, and present at least the most important genealogical data of individual representatives, which was not always possible. In addition, the most outstanding representatives of the family were discussed in more detail, extraordinary people whose careers often crossed the borders of Silesia and allowed them to appear in supra-regional politics and at the royal courts of the Habsburgs, Vasas and Hohenzollerns.

For the period from the 16th to the 18th century, five family lines are traditionally distinguished - the main line (from Kolnie and Karłowice, later from Lewin Brzeski), the Malerzowice line, the Olesno line (the Bees of Wrchles), the Kujawy line and the Chrostin line. Among them, the line from Kujawy has been omitted in this dissertation, due to the thinness of the source base, as well as the line from Chrostin, which is the only one that has survived to modern times, and due to its proliferation and rich history deserves a separate, comprehensive recognition and study. Following Pilnáček, an additional line from Myszowice has been distinguished but, due to the fragmentary preserved information about its representatives, it causes many difficulties. For the sake of simplification and greater precision of the description, the Mąkoszyce line, which originates from a common trunk with

the main titled line, has been typically excluded as a separate line.

The dissertation has been divided into ten chapters, including six chapters devoted to individual lines, three cross-sectional chapters and a summary.

The first chapter discusses the medieval foundations for the success of the family, especially the main titled line from Kolnie and Karłowice.

The second chapter outlines the issue of aristocratic titles and coats of arms used by individual family lines.

The third and fourth chapters present the history of the main line of the titled von Bees family - the barons of Kolnie and Karłowice (Freiherr von Köln und Ketzerdorf) and the von Bees counts. Individual branches and families of this line achieved aristocratic position, first entering the state of lords and then reaching the title of count. Much space has been devoted to the most outstanding representative of the family - Count Otto Leopold von Bees and his immediate family.

The fifth chapter is dedicated to the Małoszyce line which has been distinguished for the first time.

The sixth chapter presents the history of the Olesno line of the family ( the Bees of Wrchles), one of whose branches was promoted to the status of lords at the end of the 16th century (barons of Wrchles and Olesno) and within three generations gave five outstanding representatives, including the unique figure of Catherine Francis Denhoff.

The seventh chapter covers the history of the Malerzowice line, whose intricate fate ended in the mid-18th century, shortly after achieving the baronial title.

The eighth chapter concerns the poorly explored Myszowice line.

The ninth chapter covers the issues of patronage and commemoration of the family. It discusses the main family seats, church and charitable foundations, and family necropolises, but also less tangible involvement in various fields of culture and art.

In the last chapter, which summarizes the study, the von Bees family is shown against the background of the Silesian nobility of the modern era.

For each of the analysed lines, as far as possible given the confines of the collected sources and literature on the subject, genealogy and family relationships as well as basic biographical data and information on the activities of individual people have been arranged. Particular emphasis has been placed on outstanding figures who, in a sense, define the position of individual lines and the family as a whole among the Silesian nobility and in the mosaic political and social landscape of Silesia.