In this article Josef Grulich and Hermann Zeitlhofer trace long-term migration patterns between approximately 1550 and 1650. It is based on a study of serf lists from 1585 to 1607 and church records from 1641 to 1682. One of their findings is that while there was a connection between the scope of migration and the opportunity to find work or a spouse for all villages and towns, there were no differences between the migration of serfs before and after the Thirty Years War. This close collaborative, micro-historical work between Grulich, a Czech scholar who lives in the southern Bohemian city of Třeboň, and Zeitlhofer, an Austrian who lives in Vienna, just a bus ride away from each other, would have been unthinkable before the Velvet Revolution. Beyond the personal dimension, their collaboration brings together Grulich’s attempts to expand the scope of demographic studies in the Czech Republic to embrace new interests in social-economic history in Central Europe. This article also demonstrates the rich resources available in the Czech Republic for the study of social-economic history.


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**Introduction**

South Bohemia, on whose territory the earliest Czech registers of population have been preserved, has become an increasingly frequent object of interest for historians and demographers. The earliest lists of the local population, compiled for the dominium of the Rožmberks, the most powerful Bohemian noble family in the period under study: for the Vimperk estate in 1577, for the

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2 The most recent work on the Rožmberk domains is Václav Bůžek et al., *Světy posledních Rožmberků* (Prague: Lidové noviny, 2011).