

herself occupied, together with her sons, the building of the new castle, i.e. the property of Bloch-Bauer family.

By the end of the war, the castle buildings in Panenské Břežany shortly served as the Soviet garrison. Both buildings, as a property of two families, then got their national administrators. The administration over the Ferdinand Bloch-Bauer's property was established by the Land National Committee [provincial government] in Prague by the finding No. III NS/zem.- 1662/ 1945 of November 28, 1945. JUDr. Jiří Janda, the general plenipotentiary of the owner, was nominated at his own request as the national administrator. (The administration of the old castle buildings No. 11 and 12 was given to František Voves, who rented out these real properties to the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia on November 16, 1945). JUDr. Janda tried to rent or sell some pieces of land from F. Bloch-Bauer's property to physical or legal persons (e.g. to Mr. and Mrs. Šedý, to Sokol [sports club] of Odolná Voda, to the sugar refinery in Úžice, and others) The rental and selling contracts were then always approved by the Provincial National Committee in Prague and also by the Department of Agriculture. The crucial rental contract was signed by Dr. Janda and the Czechoslovak Steelworks, a national enterprise in Prague. This information is contained in a file from the cache ZNV-Department of Land Reform, Interior Settlement and Administration of the Enemy Property. There are additional documents in the same file: reports on the estate's economy from the years 1947 and 1948, excerpts from the land register, the list of the remaining castle furniture from 1947, and others. On November 13, 1948, a protocol was signed with the administration of the Panenské Břežany estate about the takeover of the forestry part of the property by State Forests and Estates, an allotment administrator acting on behalf of the Czechoslovak state, according to the law No. 142/ 1947 Sb. of July 11, 1947 "on the revision of the first land reform." The national administration was then abrogated and its liquidation was ordered by the decision of the Regional National Committee in Prague of 26th July 1949. The records about the further destiny of the Bloch-Bauer family property are kept in the archives of the State administration of historical monuments in Prague. We learn from these documents that the castle building was given to the Czechoslovak Steelworks according to the law No. 142/1947 by the decision of the Department of Agriculture of May 22, 1951. The District National Committee of Prague-North then established a national administration over the interior furnishings of the castle on the condition that objects of cultural worth would fall under the administration of the Cultural Board in Prague. The only things considered were two baroque paintings, a mirror, a copper vessel, a stove, a lantern and two hand-wrought grates. The two paintings were probably transferred to the administration of the National Gallery in Prague during the liquidation of the State Administration of Historical Monuments on January 30, 1964.

We made copies of the documents we located for you, but only of those we considered important (the total of documents discovered includes about 250 single sheets). Because of the condition of the original papers, it was impossible to make better quality copies. For this reason we would like to offer you to examine the documents in our archive. We also recommend you to address the State Regional Archive in Prague, Horská 7, 128 00 Praha 2-Nové Město, and the Archive of the Capital City of Prague, Husova 20, 110 00 Praha 1.

(s.) PhDr. Václav Babička
Director, State Central Archive in Prague