Abstracts of Articles and Studies of the Year 2014, Nr. 1

Petr Kubín, The medieval cult of St Maurice in Bohemia and Moravia pp. 7–16
The article follows the spread of the cult of St Maurice in the Czech lands, where it penetrated apparently from the monastery of St Maurice in Niederaltaich. The chapel in the episcopal palace at Prague Castle might have been consecrated to him under Bishop Severus (Šebíř), primarily Bishop of Olomouc Bruno of Schauenburg was responsible for its spread in Moravia. The spread of the cult was helped also by Maurice’s reliquaries, deposited from the middle 12th century in the cathedral in Prague. In the 14th century, Charles IV brought a sword of St Maurice to Prague, which was part of the imperial treasury. The transport of the body of St Sigismund (1365), which is connected with the beginnings of the veneration of St Maurice, was also important for the expansion of the cult in Bohemia. The study also follows all of the medieval artistic monuments that are connected with the cult.

Keywords: cult of saints – St Maurice – St Sigismund – patrocinium – Prague Castle

Petr Elbel, Bishop of Olomouc Jan Železný and Sigismund of Luxembourg. A contribution to the knowledge of Sigismund’s allied networks in the Czech lands and his court structures pp. 17–68
The study introduces the figure of Jan Železný—the bishop of Litomyšl (1388–1418) and Olomouc (1416/18–1430), administrator of the Prague diocese (1421–1430) and Cardinal Priest of the Title of St Cyriac (1426–1430), who is one of the most famous Bohemian opponents of Master Jan Hus and the Bohemian Reformation. Emphasis is placed on following the relationship of Jan Železný to King of Hungary, later of the Romans and Bohemia, Sigismund. This relationship began deep in the reign of Wenceslas IV, when Jan Železný was among the noble opposition to Wenceslas and therefore cooperated with the king of Hungary, but it acquired a new intensity in the context of the death of Jan Hus and particularly in connection with the wars of Sigismund against the Hussites. In the first half of the 1420s, Jan Železný was an important link in Sigismund’s military coalition, but in the second half of the 1420s he had to go into exile at Sigismund’s court and following the intentions of Pope Martin V he attempted to stop the new course of Sigismund’s Hussite policy.

Keywords: Jan Železný – Bishop of Olomouc – Sigismund of Luxembourg – Council of Constance – Hussite revolution
Přemysl Bar, Unknown forgery of the deeds of Sigismund of Luxembourg and the counterfeiting activity of Oldřich II of Rožmberk pp. 69–113
The presented study is devoted to the phenomenon of the counterfeiting activity of Oldřich II of Rožmberk (Rosenberg, 1403–1462), particularly newly discovered forgeries and their interpretations. The motivation to create the forgeries was not only legitimization of the holding of unjustly seized royal properties, but also the creation of the “image” of a fearless warrior against the Hussite opposition. The author combines diplomatic and historical methods to understand the background of creation of the three groups of forgeries related to the royal castle Zvíkov, the ecclesiastical goods of Svěraz and Zátoň and the trial with the nobleman Jan Smil of Křemže.

Keywords: medieval forgeries – Oldřich II of Rožmberk – Sigismund of Luxembourg – Hussite revolution

Jaroslav Svátek, “It is indisputably suffering to travel in this country in such cold.” Andalusian knight Pero Tafur in Bohemia, Silesia and Moravia (1438–1439) pp. 115–128
This article charts the path and the activity of the Andalusian nobleman Pero Tafur in the Czech lands, which he visited at the end of 1438 and beginning of 1439. The visit formed part of his extensive four-year journey across European countries, the Middle East and the Mediterranean. The main motive then was to meet with King of the Romans and of Bohemia Albert II. It occurred in February 1439 in Wroclaw, where Tafur arrived via Prague and Saxony in the entourage of the royal chancellor Kaspar Schlick, and then from there he continued through Moravia to the south to Austria. The rather obscure testimony of the well-travelled knight is a remarkable document of the person of this monarch and the contemporary historical context of Albert’s brief reign, but also provides an interesting image of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia in the atmosphere of the slowly extinguishing Hussite wars.

Keywords: medieval voyager – Pero Tafur – Albert II. of Habsburg – Kaspar Schlick – Wroclaw