

Abstracts of Articles and Studies of the Year 2012, Nr. 2

Lukáš REITINGER, Royal insignia from the monastery Pegau and ‘sacrificing crowns’

pp. 169–206

In the summer of 1096, Pegau Abbey not far from Leipzig was consecrated. The founder of the monastery Wiprecht of Groitzsch and his wife the Přemyslid Judita, daughter of King of Bohemia Vratislaus II (1061–1092) were not absent from the spectacular celebration. According to the Annals of Pegau, Judita approached then with a golden crown on her head and wearing a dress with golden thread with a cloak to the local altar on which she placed the items decorated with gold and precious stones and dedicated them to the monastery. The study sets the question of to what extent this report is trustworthy, whether these objects were royal insignia and whether the act itself belongs to the ritual of ‘sacrificing crowns’. Regarding the sovereign acts of this type, the study attempts to map the various symbolic levels of these acts, which the literature does not reflect in its entirety. The work predominantly offers an answer concerning the character and origin of the donated gems and places it in the practice then of using specific royal diadems.

Keywords: Vratislaus I – Wiprecht of Groitzsch – royal insignia – Pegau Abbey

Piotr WĘCOWSKI, The origins of Poland in the light of testimonies of witnesses at the Kingdom of Poland versus Teutonic Knights trial in 1422–1423

pp. 207–214

In 1422–1423 a trial between the Teutonic Order and the Polish Kingdom took place in the presence of the pope’s envoy Zeno. Around 120 witnesses brought by the Polish side confirmed Poland’s rights to the disputed lands (including Pomerania). The author studies witnesses’ claims regarding the early history of Poland, namely its origins and the first decades of the existence of the kingdom. Witnesses recounted the establishment of the kingdom in AD 1000, during the meeting between the Emperor Otto III and Bolesław I Chrobry. They talked about the introduction of a special payment for the pope, the so-called denarius sancti Petri, usually associated with the activity of Kazimierz I, but also about the loss of the royal crown by Polish rulers, usually explained as a punishment for the murder of the bishop of Cracow Stanislaus by the King Bolesław II. According to the author, the witnesses’ knowledge about the beginnings of Poland was rather extensive, although it was very inaccurate. It was superficial, vague, imprecise, or simply false. It seems that the majority of the inhabitants of the Polish Kingdom, including its political and intellectual elites, were only familiar with a few historical characters and events.

Keywords: Polish Kingdom – Teutonic Order – Bolesław I the Brave – memory

The Tábórite Manifesto from 1430, which required inter alia a free disputation on the Hussite demands, provokes a broad response in Europe. The study deals with the reaction of two theologians from the University of Erfurt, members of the Franciscan Order Matthias Döring and Johannes Bremer. These did not refuse disputation with the Hussites in principle, but they took a stand fundamentally against the participation of laypeople. A component of the study is also an edition of both documents.

Keywords: manifestos – Hussitism – University of Erfurt – Prokop Holý

Martin NEJEDLÝ, „Comme il advint, en la cité de Pragues, une merveilleuse confusion entre religieux et demoiselles“. *Bohemicalia* and Luxemburg passages by Georges Chastellain from 1455–1459 as a historiographic and methodological problem pp. 233–257

The official Burgundian historiographer Georges Chastellain (perhaps 1415–1475) left an extensive work of various genres behind. We also find in the Chronicle noteworthy *Bohemicalia* and Luxemburg passages, concerning particularly the origin of Hussitism. Chastellain saw the roots of this revolution in the lascivious alliance of Prague girls and the monks of one monastery there. To be able to sleep with their lovers, the girls cut their hair and wore monk's cowls. It was the beginning of absolute chaos and reversal of the established hierarchies in Bohemia.

We do not know the direct source of the author's inspiration, but ideologically the story is close to a number of works of anti-Hussite propaganda, emphasising the destructive role of women in the revolution. It is also not an accident that Chastellain included the chapter on the Prague girls just before the narrative on Joan of Arc, for whom as an author from Burgundy he did not sympathize. Also she changed into men's clothing and her behaviour led to wars and chaos according to the author. The parallel was to be obvious. At the time when he wrote the passage on Hussitism, Georges Chastellain also considered the mission of historians and their place in the period society. He ascribed a place to them almost on the same level as aristocrats. It was a parallel: like aristocrats use the sword, the tongue must serve men of the quill for the elimination of the injustice of this world.

Keywords: Georges Chastellain – Burgundy – Hussitism – Joan of Arc – medieval historiography

Alena M. ČERNÁ, Annals on the way to a chronicle: The beginning of the fictionalisation of an annalistic text pp. 259–270

The paper is devoted to the gradual fictionalisation of historical text, which is observed in Manuscript B of the Old Bohemian Annals. The fictionalisation is related to the gradual transformation of annalistic records in the medieval chronicle. This transformation is connected inter alia with a change of the function of the text, when an entertainment function was added to the original informative, didactic and possibly also agitating functions. In the text investigated, fictionalisation lies in compositional and topical alterations, in the individualisation of the text and particularly in the stylisation of the text, influenced by fictionalisation elements.

Keywords: Old Bohemian Annals – medieval chronicles – fictionalisation