

Abstracts of Articles and Studies of the Year 2017, Nr. 2

ONDŘEJ SCHMIDT, The Second Captivity of Wenceslas IV from the Italian Perspective

pp. 163–214

Bohemian and (deposed) Roman King Wenceslas IV fell into captivity for a second time in March 1402. His jailor this time was his brother and Hungarian King Sigismund who attempted to seize control over Bohemia. The presented study tries to shed a new light on this “unheard of” event and those that led to it, focusing on a specific aspect: the planned but never realised coronation journey to Rome by Wenceslas to Rome organised by Sigismund. Analysing a series of newly-discovered sources, the author shows that even though it seems absurd, Sigismund exerted significant diplomatic efforts to prepare this unusual journey and it seems he intended to see it through. The reason the efforts eventually failed was probably the death of the Luxembourg’s most important Italian ally, Duke Giangaleazzo Visconti of Milan in September 1402. The study includes an edition of certain associated correspondence from the archive in Mantua.

Keywords: Wenceslas IV – Sigismund of Luxembourg – Giangaleazzo Visconti – imprisonment of a king – coronation journey to Rome – diplomacy

ONDŘEJ VODIČKA, Ut dicitur, lapsus est in heresim condempnatam..., or What Libri confirmationum Records and What it Doesn’t. An Analysis of the Confirmation Books from the Prague Diocese in 1421–1436

pp. 215–236

The study covers sources stemming from the activities of the Prague general vicar’s office while in exile in Zittau during the Hussite wars, especially the consistory books. An analysis of these sources tries to determine the real extent of Catholic ecclesiastic administration in war-torn Bohemia. It also examines shifts in the practice of occupying benefices forced by the situation, transfers in the holding of patronage rights, and the effects of these changes on the keeping of consistory books. By comparing six rather well-mapped noble careers, the study attempts to determine how much the political and confessional situation in the divided diocese is reflected in the Zittau records and the reliability of the testaments these sources provide.

Keywords: Ecclesiastic administration – Hussite revolution – Prague archdiocese – patronage rights – Libri confirmationum

The paper examines the Chronicle from Spišská Sobota (Szepesszombat, Georgenberg, Mons Sancti Georgii / Forum Sabathi), written in German in the middle of the 15th century. It argues that the chronicle is not merely an annalistic record, but forms a narrative about the inhabitants of the Spiš region. The unknown author adapted motifs from Hungarian chronicles to promote the rights and legitimacy of the Spišian community, intentionally linking historical and legal arguments. For the chronicler, the Spišians are participants in state-formation and simultaneously the beneficiaries of royal privileges. While constructing the collective identity of the Spišians, the author of the chronicle also concealed conflicts within that community and identified “enemies” in agreement with the narrative of the *Chronica hungarorum*.

Keywords: Hungary – medieval chronicles – chronicle from Spišská Sobota – collective identity – Spiš