

Abstracts of Articles and Studies of the Year 2013, Nr. 2

Pavĺína CERMANOVÁ, The power of knowledge: The pseudo-Aristotelian Secretum secretorum in medieval Bohemia pp. 179–213

In the Middle Ages, Pseudo-Aristotelian Secretum secretorum was an exceptionally widespread text, both in Latin and vernacular versions. It was a thematically varied treatise, a kind of sum of knowledge, containing information from statecraft, natural sciences, medicine and health science. The main attention of the study is focused on the spread of this treatise in medieval Bohemia. It follows not only its manuscript preservation and its context, but also the milieu in which this text was received, or which parts were received in the given, specific milieu. An important theme is also the translations into Czech and the reception of this treatise in texts written in Czech.

Keywords: Secretum secretorum – Aristotle – Bohemia – Prague University

Anna LITVINA – Fjodor USPENSKIJ, Cross-dynastic Contacts between Russian Princes and Nomadic Cumans through the prism of anthroponymics pp. 215–230

This article focuses on the interaction between Russian princes and nomadic Cumans (Qipčaq, Polovcians). The starting point of the work are names and family ties of individual Cumans captured in the oldest Russian chronicles which represent “minimum quanta” of the historical information. These “Russian” names are the most important indicator of the cross-dynastic interaction, contacts between Russia and the nomadic world. In our paper we have sought to demonstrate that the cause of the appearance of Russian names in this environment is a cross-dynastic, intergenetic anthroponymic communication, a desire to consolidate the alliance with the Russian princes, but not a conversion of the male representatives of the Cuman elite. The set of “Russian” names used by Cumans allows us to determine the circle of their “anthroponymical donors” among the Rurikids and identify a number of rules and laws on which this communication in the language of names was carried out.

Keywords: Rurikids – Polovcians – cross-dynastic contacts – Anthroponomy

Kateřina PRÁČKOVÁ, Catherine of Siena and her role in the politics of spiritual care in the Dominican order at the turn of the 15th century pp. 231–244

Using the example of Catherine of Siena († 1380), one of the possible motivations of writing down the legend is followed in the study, and the exploitability of Catherine for the promotion and official confirmation of the Dominican Third Order (1405). In the documents promoting the Third Order, her as-yet uncanonised holy example has an important place as a model for

a Tertiary. This fact, however, is in contradiction with the evident “inappropriateness” of Catherine’s life as a real model for Tertiaries, for her extreme practices, exceeding the limits of the Rule. The real function and importance of St Catherine’s model in the life of the Tertiaries should therefore be complementary viewed in the context of the legend of her repentant successor Mary of Venice, whose author is a great supporter of Catherine’s holiness and Third Order, Tommaso da Siena. Whereas Catherine served as an ideal, Marie should be an example for practical imitation for Tertiaries.

Keywords: Catherine of Siena – Tommaso da Siena – Mary of Venice – Dominican Third order

Petr MAŘA, Rožmberk family legend regarding the kinship with the Roman Orsini before Oldřich II of Rožmberk (1403–1462) pp. 245–292

The Rožmberk family legend, which derived the origin of Bohemia’ leading aristocratic dynasty from the Roman Orsini, is usually attributed to Oldřich II of Rožmberk. This attribution however relies on indirect arguments. This article argues that the Orsini claim emerged at least a generation earlier. This conclusion relies on a letter which King Sigismund of Luxembourg addressed to the city commune of Trogir in Dalmatia in 1411 and which contains an allusion to the supposed kinship. The document survived only as a seventeenth-century copy among papers of the Dalmatian scholar Giovanni Lucio. The internal signs of the writing as well as Lucio’s scholastic profile seem to exclude the possibility that Lucio would have forged it. The early emergence of the claim contradicts neither the broader context of the Orsini legend in various regions of the late-medieval Europe, nor other fifteenth-century documents so far known on the existence of the Orsini myth within the Rožmberk family. These documents, I suggest, should be read in a different way than usual.

Keywords: Rožmberk family – Orsini – family legend – Oldřich II of Rožmberk