Summary

THE BEGINNINGS OF TÁBOR: HISTORY, MEMORY AND THE CHRONICLE CONSTRUCTION OF THE EVENT

The study explores the memory of the beginnings of Tábor, primarily in chronicles of the fifteenth to seventeenth centuries, emphasising the different ways of construing the event. It attempts to answer the question as to which chronicle stories were predominant in this period and how they reflected chiliasm and the personage of Jan Žižka as the founder of the town. On the basis of texts that originated outside the Tábor milieu, where no chronicle is attested to and the memory of the beginnings of the town are preserved in a visual form only, the author traces the parallel existence of two interpretative strands. One of them has its origin in the Historia Bohemica of Enea Silvio Picollomini who emphasised the personage of Jan Žižka as the founder of Tábor and depicted the foundation as hasty, without previous planning. A significant adaptation of this narrative is only present in the chronicle texts of Martin Kuthen and Adam of Veleslavín. The alternative narrative of Laurentius of Březová was more vital as it influenced the majority of chronicle accounts from the fifteenth to seventeenth centuries, both Catholic and Protestant, German and Latin. At the end of the seventeenth century, Jan Beckovský attempted a kind of symbiosis, reviving the idea that Jan Žižka was the founder (and the most important one) of the town. This attempt was not successful. Both the general public and professional historians, beginning with František Palacký, accepted as veracious the Laurentius narrative, which remains dominant in modern historiography up to the present time.

Keywords: Tábor; Jan Žižka; historiography; historical consciousness

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