

## Summary:

FROM THE *DICTIONARY OF MEDIEVAL LATIN  
IN CZECH LANDS: GRACOCENDERIUS*

The main aim of this article is to identify the origin and meaning of one Latin zoological term transmitted in the works of Thomas of Cantimpré and the Czech medieval lexicographer Bartholomaeus de Solencia dictus Claretus. Both works employ names of animals that are extremely difficult to interpret either semantically or linguistically and whose Greek or Latin origin is not immediately clear. Most of them are attached to animals which mediaeval authors became acquainted with through Aristotle. Thomas used the Latin translation of Aristotle's work *Historia animalium* translated from Arabic by Michael Scotus. Due to phonetical differences between these languages as well as inaccuracies and mistakes in both translations, the text of Aristotle and the forms of the original Greek names were variously modified. Aristotle's term (genitive plural) κορακοειδῶν from the phrase τὸ τῶν κορακοειδῶν ὀρνίθων γένος, „the birds of the raven group“, appears at Michael Scotus as *cracocenderon*, at Thomas of Cantimpré in the form *gracocenderon* and at Claretus in the form *gracocenderius*. The meaning of the name remained hidden to medieval encyclopedists and lexicographers, and illustrators of Thomas' encyclopaedia and related works were apparently also at a loss as to the looks of the chaste bird: each took a different approach, which resulted in very divergent visual interpretations.

Keywords: medieval lexicography; ancient and medieval zoology; Latin names of birds; Bartholomaeus de Solencia dictus Claretus; Aristoteles; Aristoteles Latinus; Michael Scotus; Thomas Cantimpratensis

HANA ŠEDINOVÁ, Kabinet pro klasická studia FLÚ AV ČR, v. v. i.,  
Na Florenci 3, 110 00, Praha 1, sedinova@ics.cas.cz.