

ABSTRACT

The thesis “A Traveller During the Přemyslid Dynasty” addresses the phenomenon of travel in the Middle Ages. A precise time frame is implied in the title with attention paid to the Přemyslid period and the narrative sources that describe it. The testimony provided by chronicles and legends is supplemented with knowledge from academic literature. The aim of this thesis is to present a comprehensive picture of life on the road and to address every circumstance that a traveller could encounter along his journeys. Starting with a description of the medieval landscape, which sets the basic conditions for any form of travel during this period. The thesis also focuses on the main reasons for travelling and the concept of travel in the medieval imagination, which then leads into the necessary preparations that had to be made before the beginning of each journey and the obstacles that had to be overcome along the way (most problems were faced when crossing a river or other bodies of water). Other chapters are dedicated to old roads and their legal status, orientation and to various forms of accommodation during longer journeys. A separate chapter focuses on pilgrims and describes the most important pilgrimage sites of the Middle Ages: Jerusalem, Rome, and Santiago de Compostela. A quick outline of the general conclusions will reveal that the medieval world was not nearly as static as it may initially seem. A relatively high number of people travelled and often journeyed to distant places, but it should be noted that travelling was often strenuous, sometimes dangerous, and always time consuming. However, this did not discourage medieval travellers, travelling was not perceived negatively and people who visited foreign places merited considerable respect for their endeavours.