

Tomáš BÁRTA PRAŽÁK, Baroque humanist-preacher Emmanuel Ernst von Waldstein at the Metropolitan Chapter of St. Vitus in Prague, Praha 2023.

Abstract

The dissertation presents the personality of Emmanuel Ernst von Waldstein through his own work in one of the stages of his life before he became bishop in Litoměřice. The actual content is divided into two main sections: 1. Introductory study on the personality of Emmanuel Ernst von Waldstein, and 2. Edition of manuscript sermons. In the first part, Waldstein is presented in a broader context in the form of a biography, highlighting the significance of his extensive written estate, which is also presented here; what is not neglected, of course, is Waldstein's preaching activity including the interpretation of selected texts. Some data within Waldstein's biography have been revised, for example, information about his birth and leisure activities. Among other things, information on some sources has been clarified. As far as Waldstein's sermons themselves are concerned, it is obvious that he reflected contemporary practice in them, using the current knowledge and relevant facts of the cited authorities. For the second part of the dissertation, the primary source was a set of sermon concepts of 1746–1755 written by Emmanuel Ernst von Waldstein, which were mostly written in Czech (only one is in German). In total, we can speak of 38 consecutive speeches. The collection includes Sunday, feast and occasional sermons from Waldstein's time at the Metropolitan Chapter of St. Vitus' Cathedral in Prague. There are, for example, feast sermons concerning Czech patrons such as St. Vitus, St. Wenceslas and St. John of Nepomuk. These 38 thematic speeches and speeches with conceptual elements illustrating the practice of the future bishop are reworked according to the relevant editorial principles into a critical edition, which is a significant part of this dissertation.

Keywords

Bishop Emmanuel Ernst von Waldstein; the Metropolitan Chapter of St. Vitus' Cathedral in Prague; baroque sermons; critical edition