ABSTRACT

Vyšehrad in the Age of Vratislav II

My thesis is concerned with one of the famous periods of Vyšehrad. Prince Vratislav II, from 1085 the first Czech king, laid the foundation stone of St. Peter's basilica here at 1070, and established a collegiate chapter. The foundation wouldn't be unusual if it hadn't been taken out from the competences of the Prague bishop and been subordinated directly to Papal Curia. In specialized literature it was concluded for a long time that the establishment of the unusual ecclesiatical institution in the area of medieval Bohemia was a reflection of private disagreements of Prince Vratislav and Prague bishop Jaromír-Gebhard. In the last few years, explorers point out that Vratislav with his foundation of Vyšehrad pursued higher political interests. This condition supports the fact of Vratislav's construction activity in the area of Vyšehrad. The foundation of collegiate chapter of St. Peter's basilica, in a two-choir basilica form, wasn't the only one of Prince's qualities. In the area of Vyšehrad there is also a smaller three-aisled basilica of St. Clement and St. Lawrence that is built in the spirit of actual influences of the Hirsau reform architecture. The foundation of St. Martin's Rotunda is also associated with Vratislav's reign. For the current research, the topic of Vyšehrad in the age of Prince Vratislav II has many difficulties. One of the biggest is that from this epoch, only the Rotunda of St. Martin still stands.

The thesis is divided into three basic chapters, which are followed by a summary of sources and literature. The first chapter focuses on Vyšehrad before 1070, for Vratislav realized his first foundation at the Castle that was occupied almost for one hundred years. This part of thesis summarizes the issue of the foundation of Vyšehrad, the location of its first churches and its position within first crisis of the Czech State around 1000. The second chapter concerns with the form of Vyšehrad during the reign of Vratislav II. Briefly, it is written about issues of the foundation of Vyšehrad collegiate chapter, and then the chapter focuses on the original form of St. Peter's basilica, St. Clement's and St. Lawrence's basilica, and the Rotunda of St. Martin. The last chapter is dedicated to the interpretation of Vyšehrad as a Czech Rome.

The aim of this thesis is to reconstruct the form of the "disappeared" romanesque Vyšehrad. To fulfill this diffucult issue, it was necessary to conclude these questions with a wider interdisciplinary outlook.