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Czech Lexicography of the 15th Century

Abstract

The thesis deals with Czech medieval lexicography. Based on research into rich manuscript material totalling over 350 items, it describes the development of Czech lexicography from Czech glosses in foreign-language texts and first Latin-Czech glossaries to the flourishing Czech lexicography of the 15th century covering both Latin-Czech, Czech-Latin and multilingual lexicographical works and also infrequently attested Czech monolingual dictionaries. The high number of lexicographical works is divided according to formal and content criteria. With respect to form and macrostructure we discern Czech glosses in Latin and Latin-German glossaries, a bilingual glossaries with Czech as one of the languages, alphabetaries and nomenclators and glossaries lacking an ordering criterion. With respect to the content we distinguish large dictionaries covering as many lexical items as possible on one hand and short glossaries covering only a narrowly delimited part of vocabulary on the other hand. The lexicographical works are supplied with a short description which is in case of short and yet unedited works complemented by an edition using transcription. The thesis also contains description of selected phenomena of orthography and language of Old Czech works examined.