ABSTRACT

The aim of this dissertation is to describe the governing practice (Herrschaftspraxis) of Henry of Carinthia in Bohemia, Carinthia and, subsequently, especially in the Tyrol, in whose southern parts the power base of the Menhart dynasty was situated. The work focuses on four key features of Henry’s rule – constructing consensus between ruler and elites, exploiting feudal rights, the use of mortgages, and the use of culture to project political themes. The analysis of the various power techniques used is divided into individual chapters drawing on sources previously unpublished or insufficiently explored. The first group consists of Tyrolean chancery registers (Tiroler Kanzleiregister) and accounts books (Tiroler Rechnungsbücher, alternatively Raitbücher), the second of Austrian court poetry. Following the initial introduction of the sources, bibliography and methodology used for dealing with this particular topic, the consensual context is introduced, within which the rule of Henry of Carinthia was conducted, ranging from informal consultations to deliberations of the royal council. A list of counsellors, along with short biographical sketches, is included. The third and the fourth chapters consider the role played by feudal rights and mortgages in Henry’s governmental routine. The fifth chapter examines how cultural phenomena such as festivities and court literature were used to project political themes and considers their socio-political impact. The final chapter then assesses what was achieved and sets it within the historical context of the development of the Bohemian lands between the Přemyslid and the Luxemburg periods.