The goal of this thesis is twofold. On the one hand I try to determine a system in the use of the graphemes in the documents of Vac1av IV. from the years 1379-1399 and I confront the findings with the use of the graphemes in the Middle Upper German (Mittelhochdeutsch). On the other hand, I compare these results with the use of the graphemes in the early Upper German (Frühneuhochdeutsch) as described in the literature, in particular in I. T. Piirainen, V. Moser, H.Bokova, L.E. Schmitt and V.E. Mourek.

The first chapter describes the period of reign of Vac1av IV as well as the personality of the ruler. The second chapter deals with the court of Vac1av IV. with a particular emphasis on the language situation at the court. Further, Vac1av IV.’s chancellery is characterized in the chapter three as apart of the court and I also shortly describe its history, structure as well as the competence of its members. Chapter five is devoted to documents as objects of a study; thus, first I define and classify different types of documents and second, I indicate the relevant features both in the form of the document and its content. The next chapter describes the status of the early Upper German (Fruhneuhochdeutsch) as it emerges from the literature. The seventh chapter lists the documents of Vac1av IV. between the years 1379-1399 and deals both with the proper attribution of time and location of each of the documents as well as their content. Naturally, the preservation and previous editions of each document are listed as well. The chapter eight is the core of the thesis. First, I define the graphemic method in this chapter; it is the framework for the analysis. In particular, I apply it to punctuation, contractions, capitalization (or a lack thereof) of the initial letters, and the distribution of graphemes with respect to the vowel and consonantal quality. The concluding chapter presents the findings of the thesis in a rather transparent way.