

## EARLY MEDIEVAL CULTURAL CONTACTS BETWEEN BAVARIA AND BOHEMIA

The Ph.D. thesis focusing on the topic of Czech-Bavarian cultural contacts in the Early Middle Ages was assigned in 2010 to develop the author's MA thesis, which was conceived as a probe into sources and a program study<sup>699</sup> as well in order to form the first comprehensive monograph of this date of these professionally and regionally fragmented issues. In those times, the assignment of the thesis assumed “*to decide whether there is an objective historical significance of this concept, or whether (and how) the meaning of this term has shifted in time, and how should this legacy be treated in the prepared thesis.*” Furthermore, five material-oriented topics were defined in order to test the overall theoretical concept on parts of otherwise too broadly conceived sources: (i) a study focusing on interpretative possibilities of langaxes in the context of Early Medieval row-grave cemeteries; (ii) an attempt to narrow the regionalization of the s-shaped temple rings occurrence in connection with the settlement context; (iii) revision of archaeological evidence from the Cheb (Eger) castle; (iv) a chapter focusing on the issue of Early Medieval elites in north-eastern Bavaria; and finally (v) a discussions on the current concepts of toponomastic research on the phenomenon of Slavs on the Czech-Bavarian borders.

Research activities concentrated mainly on the project *Czech-Bavarian cultural contacts in the Early Middle Ages (1)*,<sup>700</sup> the following research project *Czech-Bavarian cultural contacts 2*,<sup>701</sup> and the internal research plan of the Faculty of Arts of the Charles University in Prague *Communication connections of the selected micro-regions on the Czech-Bavarian borders*,<sup>702</sup> and marginally also the project *The archaeology of Přemyslid Bohemia*.<sup>703</sup> Simultaneously, it was also necessary to anchor the planned study in a broader context of the contemporary South German and Austrian archaeology; this effort resulted in a series of reviews published in the *Archeologické rozhledy* journal.<sup>704</sup> The decisive impulse that significantly influenced the thematic construction of the text and its formal form came in spring 2014 when Professor P. Sommer and the *Nakladatelství Lidové noviny, Ltd.*, offered publication in the *Archeologica* edition.

When the general intention of the prepared thesis had been considered, a decision was achieved to articulate the research results as a broadly based comparative text, which would, however, focus only on one (micro) region, the Egerland. As practical experience gained by presentation of the exhibition

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<sup>699</sup> HASIL 2010C.

<sup>700</sup> Grant Agency of the Charles University. HASIL 2010A; idem 2010B.

<sup>701</sup> HASIL 2013A; idem 2013B; idem 2014A; idem 2014B; idem/IN PRESS/A; idem /IN PRESS/B; BERÁNEK/HASIL 2014; eadem /IN PREP/.

<sup>702</sup> BERÁNEK/TAIBL/HASILOVÁ/HASIL 2014; HASIL 2014C; idem 2014D.

<sup>703</sup> HASIL 2011A.

<sup>704</sup> HASIL 2011B; idem 2012; idem 2013B; idem 2015; idem 2016; LORENČIČ/HASIL 2014.

*Archäologie ohne Grenzen – Slawen in der Oberpfalz und im Egerland/Archaeology without borders – Slavs in Upper Palatinate and Egerland* to the Czech audience<sup>705</sup> as well as a previously submitted Ph.D. thesis on a similar subject,<sup>706</sup> has already demonstrated, neither Czech nor German public or scholarly audience is sufficiently compatible to be meaningful to seize and evaluate such topic generally. On the other hand, a case study intensely focusing on the region to which both research traditions (Czech as well as Bavarian/German) have built a long-term relationship gives hope that there is a future possibility to meaningfully grasp the issue of the Early Medieval Czech-Bavarian relations. Partial themes focusing on archaeological evidence that were mostly published separately in the form of preparatory studies (or, at least, were submitted for publication) are, therefore, not included independently in the text, but rather as a part of the chapters that reflect particular aspects of the development of the Early Medieval Egerland. The presented thesis partially corresponds to the editorially modified manuscript of the study *Egerland in the Early Middle Ages: Archaeology of the Central European Region in 7th to 12th centuries*.

The thesis is divided into seven main chapters. The first chapter summarizes creation of the *master narrative* of the earliest Early Medieval history of the Egerland that was created in the times of the Enlightenment and Romanticism (**pp. 11–16**). Next chapter (**pp. 17–35**) follows development of this concept in times of the critique historiography and archaeological research, focusing mainly on the nationalistic discourses of the second half of the 19th and 20th century. The third chapter (**pp. 37–52**) discusses the topical research issues, provides basic characteristics of the interpretative possibilities of various source categories, and, last but not least, comments the two main theoretic problems. It focuses on the issue of the relationship between written sources and archaeological evidence, in the sense of the paradigm of new cultural history,<sup>707</sup> and, from the viewpoint of Freiburg (mainly S. Brather) and Vienna (W. Pohl, R. Steinacher, etc.) schools, outlines methods applied for solving the issue of ethnic interpretation in the protohistoric archaeology. The fourth chapter presents the region of Upper Eger (Ohře) River as an inner periphery of the Early Medieval Europe (**pp. 53–95**), with its development closely linked to the culturally immanent region of the northeast Bavaria. The core of the publication is the fifth chapter (**pp. 97–205**) dealing with the development of the Egerland in the course of late Merovingian, Carolingian and Ottonian periods. This chapter focuses on a

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<sup>705</sup> Partial results of this Ph.D. thesis as well as other related research activities formed part of this exhibition. The exhibition was held in 2011 (Neustadt am Kulm), 2012 (Historisches Museum der Stadt Regensburg), 2013 (Regional Museum in Kolín – Museum of the Kouřim region in Kouřim), and 2014 (Museum of the City Cheb/Eger).

<sup>706</sup> SCHEJBALOVÁ 2013.

<sup>707</sup> See BURKE 2005; idem 2011; DANIEL 2005.

catalogue of sites (**pp. 114–193**), which provides a comprehensive analysis of sources, evidence, its documentation, and it reflects the current state of preservation of the sites and appropriate find collections. Two independent essays are attached at the end of the thesis. The first pursues the issue of High Medieval transformation in the region of Upper Eger River (**pp. 207–224**); and the second one deals with the significance of studies of (micro) regions in connection with the “major” themes of the current Medieval studies (**pp. 225–229**).

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