Abstract:

The presented B.A. thesis pursues the viewing of the Knight as an ideal figure during the later phase of the Hundred Years' War in France as depicted by the chroniclers Enguerrand de Monstrelet and Gilles le Bouvier, herald of Berry who presented this ideal to the noble public. A primary aim of the study is therefore to specify oftentimes abstract ideas of the knight as an ideal that the society of the time embraced. Furthermore, this thesis attempts to answer the question whether there was any development in the perception of the ideal as the war progressed. To facilitate the understanding the events of the Hundred Years' War, the first part of the study focuses on the causes and development of the War, and on the role of the chroniclers. The second part then presents the origins and evolution of the western chivalry and the concept of the knight as such. In addition, it also attempts to reflect upon the knight as an ideal – what it meant for the aristocratic society and why it was created. The third and most detailed part discusses, in particular, knightly virtues and their violation mainly on the battlefield as recorded by the chroniclers.

Keywords:

Middle Ages, Hundred Years' War, France, England, Burgundy, Armagnacs, chivalrous ideal, propaganda, chivalry