

History of the cloister in Vilémov and its property from the origin to the end

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Abstract

Vilémov is located in the Vysočina region, just under the Iron Mountains in the district of Havlíčkův Brod, at the outskirts of the Czech-Moravian Highlands. The early medieval cloister of the Order of St. Benedict was founded in the SE margin of the Čáslav basin. Its foundation is connected with the internal colonization of the 12th century. The Order of St. Benedict was involved in the colonization of new territories in the Czech State. The Benedictines established the monastery as a fortified complex in the vicinity of the Babský stream. The area of the cloister included two churches: the Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul – a conventual church, and the gothic church of St. Wenceslas. The name Vilémov comes from the first name of one of two founders of the Vilémov cloister, Vilém and Heřman, Counts of Sulzbach. Since the history of the community is rich, I state only the basic data: 1121 – the monastery was founded in a margin part of the medieval Czech State; 1278 – the monastery was torched by the army of Rudolph Habsburgh; 1421 – the monastery was occupied by the Husites, and the members of the order moved to S Moravia to their other properties. In 1541, the last abbas died in the Rajhrad exile, which brought about the final extinction of the Vilémov cloister.

Key words

Early medieval colonization, monastery in Vilémov, order of St. Benedict, Husitian movement, secularization