

The History of the Cistercian monastery in Žďár nad Sázavou from the middle of 14th century to 1520

Abstract

This diploma thesis thematically continues my bachelor thesis *The Beginnings of the Cistercian Monastery in Žďár nad Sázavou* written and defended at this Faculty in 2010/2011. It focuses on the historical development of the Cistercian monastery in Žďár nad Sázavou from the middle of the 14th century to 1520. The history of the monastery reflects political and religious circumstances at that time: the accession of the Luxembourg dynasty to the Bohemian throne, the rise and flourishing of the country during the reign of Charles IV and the decline of the country connected with the reign of Wenceslas IV which resulted in the Hussite revolution and the religious and political crisis and instability in Bohemia. All that left its mark also on the destiny of the monastery.

The internal situation of the Žďár monastery in this period was especially influenced by frequent changes in exercising *founders' rights*. After the last member of the Lords of Obřany died in 1312 the first to take over the role of the founders was the Lichtenburk family and their relatives, the Lords of Ronov and Bítov. Around the middle of the 14th century the monarch's influence grew as well as the influence of the Margraviate of Moravia, which the monastery officially belonged to from 1363 to 1423. Despite this submission to the sovereign, the relation between the monastery and the family of the Lichtenburks, the Ronovs and the Lords of Meziříčí, Tasov and Lomnice was never broken. After the temporary disbandment of the Žďár monastic community during the Hussite wars in 1423 and the subsequent crisis, the situation became stable in about the middle of the 15th century. The monastery was renewed in 1437 thanks to the Utraquist king George of Poděbrady (who was Kuno's of Kunštát descendant and that was Boček's of Obřany brother), who presented himself as the founder of the Cistercian monastery in Žďár nad Sázavou.