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Prague Johanniters in the Middle Ages

This thesis, named Prague Johanniters in the Middle Ages- architecture and wall painting is focusing on architecture and frescoes of Order of Malta in Prague before the break of Hussite wars. One of aims of the thesis is also to figure out typology and function of buildings of the Order, falling within the Priory of Bohemia's authority. Art production od the Orderhas not been systematically examined till today. Range of authority of the Priory overlapped the area of Bohemia into Moravia, Silesia, Hungary and Austria. The relations among commandries were quite close, most likely because of expansion of the Czech king Přemysl Otakar II. Under the autority of the Priory of Bohemia was a great amount of commandries. Several of them are preserved till today; others were partially destroyed or even damaged completely. The most important Order's seat in Bohemia was a commandry belonging to the Church of Lady beneath the Chain, founded in 60's of 12th century, developing till the first quarter of 15th century. The Church of our Lady beneath the Chain is a very significant monument because of its architecture. This church is composed of many construction phases, from Romanesque to baroque times. This thesis is focusing on medieval architectonical production of this church from Romanesque epoch, via Early Gothic to High Gothic era. Unfortunately, there is preserved only a few architectonical remains from that times, but in a very high quality. And because of their quality we can get a piece of knowledge from them for a better and much more proper explanation of a progress of Czech medieval architecture. Significant part of the thesis is also devoted to the mural paintings from 13th and 14th century, preserved in a high quality in today's sacristy of the church of Our Lady beneath the Chain.