

Univerzita Karlova v Praze
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Latinská medievistika a neolatinská studia

Teze Disertační práce

Italian Rhetoric and Courtly Love in the Formulary of Queen Kunhuta. A Critical Edition of the Letter Collection of Magister Bohuslav with an English Introduction (Codex Vindobonensis Palatinus 526)

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2016

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The present dissertation provides a critical edition and analysis of the letter collection of Master Bohuslav, who probably was one of Queen Kunhuta's notaries. This epistolary work is part of the work published in 1842 by František Palacký under the title *Formelbuch der Königin Kunigunde*. It is preserved in the manuscript sign. 526 (olim Philol. 187) held by the Österreichische Nationalbibliothek (ÖNB).

The introduction of the thesis is divided in four chapters. The first chapter ("Recovering Queen Kunhuta (ca. 1244/1245 - 9 Sept. 1285): Image, Power and Memory") should introduce a figure to whom is linked a letter collection, which represents the main theme of the present dissertation (i. e. the letter collection of Master Bohuslav). It provides an approach to the study of the queen, which mediates between a partial point of view and Kunhuta's multi-faceted image. In Czech historiography Queen Kunhuta has been quite neglected. Her figure has not been investigated in monographs or specific studies. She can be somehow included within the group of defamed queens, which is especially rich in the Middle Ages. This negative image of the queen finds its origin in medieval chronicles, which blamed Kunhuta for her love affair with Záviš of Falkenštejn, who was accused of being one of the promoters of the defeat of Otakar II. Kunhuta's negative portrayal has been very stable and despite its rehabilitation in the most recent studies, it probably influenced scholars' disinterest in the part she performed as a political agent. The documentary material preserved shows that her active role in Bohemian society of the thirteenth century deserves more attention. She was involved in various administrative and political tasks. The collection of master

Bohuslav and the manuscript which preserves it, as it will be shown in the other three chapters, confirm the relevance of the queen's agency and political power.

The analysis of the letter collection of Master Bohuslav can be found in chapters II and III. The chapter II ("A Queenly Letter Collection") first reviews the past extant scholarship on the subject of the so-called Formulary of Queen Kunhuta. Afterwards, it addresses some major problems faced when editing a letter collection. More specifically it concentrates on the issues which relate to the dating, the selection, the arrangement and the content of the letter collection presumably compiled by master Bohuslav. The interpretation of this letter collection was in the past a matter of dispute among scholars. Palacký considered the epistles as documents based on real letters. Jan B. Novák had a different opinion. He defined this source as a compilation of fictive letters ("figované dopisy"). Conversely, the most recent studies stress the "variation in the material" (Ysaerbert) and the complex character of this kind of epistolary work. The letter collection compiled allegedly by magister Bohuslav should be studied taking into consideration this new outlined approach method. The letters investigated are precious historical sources, both from the dictaminal and socio-cultural points of views. They are beyond the brute facts and raise questions about identities and mentalities of the time. From them we learn how relevant contemporaneous events were read at the queen's court. Besides, the letters bring light on the way in which conjugal affection and emotions were expressed at the royal court. Furthermore, they inform us about the development of a rhetoric tradition established in Bohemia from 13th century through the mediation of Henricus de Isernia (chapter III "The Queen's Letters. A Rhetorical and Socio-Cultural Historical Source").

A relevant fact is that this epistolary work is preserved in a manuscript, which was held by Queen Kunhuta's court in Opava in the years 1279-1281 (chapter IV "A Dictaminal Manuscript at Queen Kunhuta's Court"). This fact draws the attention at least to three relevant points: 1) the court of the queen continues to be active after the death of her husband; 2) her notaries perfect their knowledge in the art of letter writing by using the practical model letters contained in the manuscript; probably they started to learn the dictamen in some Bohemian rhetoric school that presumably can be identified with that of Henricus de Isernia in Vyšehrad; 3) the chancery of the queen applies the method of learning the letter composition, which is usually adopted in the main European chanceries. It is based on the usage of a practical epistolary composite manual containing some of the most relevant dictaminal authorities of the time, among which are the *summae* of Petrus de Vinea and Thomas de Capua and also some dictaminal texts apparently more specifically connected to Central Europe.

The second part of the dissertation contains a critical edition of the queenly letter collection. The letters have been edited following the order they have in the manuscript. On the contrary, Palacký published them by creating six groups of letters. Each of these groups are given paying attention to the relation sender-recipient. Few texts which do not belong to the collection presumably compiled by master Bohuslav have been included in the Appendix. They have been edited because they bring useful information for the interpretation and analysis of the letter collection. It has been generally preserved the orthography of the codex since the edition is based on only one manuscript. Peculiarities of the spelling of the manuscript have been kept if they do not affect the meaning of the text. On the contrary, the previous editors, especially Palacký normalized the text according to classical norms. Each correction by the editor has been indicated in the critical apparatus. Conversely, Palacký and the other historians, who included some of the letters in their collections of documents (e. g. Gusztáv Wenzel, Gelasius Dobner, Joseph Georg Meinert) corrected frequently "silently" the text and did not indicate what found in the original text. The apparent incongruities

connected to pointed names of people and places have not been corrected if they do not affect the meaning of the text (e. g. Ed. nos. 60, 75). They are conscious changes made by the author of the collection or the scribe, who copied it. Concrete details in medieval model letters were regularly eliminated or changed in order to create general exemplar letters to be used at any proper occasion. In this respect, any correction would go against the documentary literariness of such kind of texts. The edition of the letter collection has a standard structure. An apparatus criticus at the foot of the page and a source apparatus at the bottom of the edition are given. A regestum that summarises the content of the letter and a related commentary part have been provided. The names of the correspondents and the date furnished by previous editors are also referred. Furthermore, the manuscript's folios and the reference to previous editions/regesta have been placed before each document.

Conclusion

The letter collection of master Bohuslav can be considered a meaningful historical source from the socio-cultural and rhetorical point of view. Its historical value was already noticed by the historians of 19th century, who included part of the letters in their editions of documents. This study does not want to be exhaustive. Many aspects should be perfected and more deeply investigated. Its goal is to draw the attention to a queen and a queenly letter collection so far neglected.

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Feminae: Medieval Women and Gender Index

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