JOHANNES VON IGLAU. AN INTERPRETATION OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Christine Bauer

The author deals with two hitherto unpublished manuscripts from the National Library in Vienna — Cod. 1646, Folio 2b—5b and Cod. 2956, Folio 118r—123r. Both manuscripts are copies of an original, the whereabouts of which remain unknown.

A commentary on research methods to date is followed by a description of the manuscripts. It is pointed out that while only minor variations are to be found in the content, only Cod. 1646 is complete. Cod. 2956 breaks off suddenly in the course of the tenth commandment. Moreover, in the case of this manuscript the name of the author is missing.

The author of the commentary on the decalogue, Johannes von Iglau, was a typical product of his age, as is shown by his mention of witchcraft. Despite his apparent familiarity with the scholarship of his epoch, there is a striking discrepancy between the strictly formal structure, following the form of the scholastic commentaries, and the actual content which is not in the least intellectually demanding.

A study of the religious situation in Bohemia at the time of Emperor Charles IV — when these manuscripts were written — reveals that Johannes was influenced in his interpretation of the decalogue by the contemporary movement to introduce the Bible in the vernacular to the laity.

The language of the two manuscripts emphasizes their individuality and at the same time indicates that the original was probably written in Middle German.

The text given as an appendix is based on Cod. 1646. This apparently accords more closely with the original than Cod. 2956 and is also complete. A glossary of unusual words is also given.

THE COMPETITION BETWEEN BOHEMIAN AND IDRIAN MERCURY IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE 16TH CENTURY

Richard Klier

A study of new archival sources and a critical evaluation of familiar material reveals a detailed picture of the competition between Bohemian and Idrian mercury during the first half of the 16th century. About the year 1520 a group of wealthy merchants from Nürnberg opened the mercury mines at Oberschönbach in collaboration with Count Schlick. Hans Tegler, factor of the Mercury Monopoly Company of Hans Pflügel (Salzburg) and Wilhelm Neumann (Villach) took over, at Pflügel's request, the sale of mer-
cury from Oberschönbach. It was a binding term of the agreement that neither mercury nor cinnabar was to be supplied to Venice.

The firm of Hochstetter from Augsburg in 1525 took over the monopoly for the sale of mercury from Idria, and, like his predecessors, signed an agreement with Tegler for its sale and distribution. As the Augsburg firm did not keep to the prices agreed upon, Tegler ignored the prohibition against the delivery of mercury and cinnabar to Venice. As a result, Archduke Ferdinand at the request of the Hochstetters closed the passes of his hereditary lands against the transport of Bohemian mercury.

In 1534 Hans Steber (Staiber), a member of a rich Nürnberg merchant family, appears as the owner of the monopoly for the sale of mercury from Oberschönbach. In 1534 he contracted a three-year agreement with the mines at Oberschönbach for the sale of their mercury. In 1535 Hans Steber negotiated again with the Idria mines in Villach with the object of renewing his contract. Whether an agreement was signed is not known.

According to production figures (about a third of the output at Idria) the mercury mines at Oberschönbach could not compete with those of Idria and Almaden. "Bohemian Quicksilver" however proved to be a troublesome competitor in the mercury market in the first half of the 16th century because it kept prices down.

HISTORY OF THE ARCHIVAL MATERIAL SEIZED BY THE SWEDES IN NIKOLSBURG IN 1645 AND IN PRAGUE IN 1648

Emil Schieche

The archival material seized by the Swedes in Nikolsburg in 1645 consists largely of the correspondence of Cardinal Prince Franz von Dietrichstein. In 1648 material was removed from the registries of the Imperial Court Chancellery, the Court Chamber and the old Bohemian Court Chancellery in Prague. Kriegsrat Alexander von Erskine took an active part in both these actions. Some of the archival material was lodged in the Imperial Archives in Stockholm in 1653. A further section was kept by Erskine in Schwinge, the small castle he had built near Stade.

In 1717 Johann Anton Count von Nostitz, Imperial Ambassador in Stockholm from 1685—90, acquired archival material from Bohemia in Sweden for 1,000 ducats. This was incorporated into the Bohemian Crown Archives as an independent body of documents (130 numbered files and 45 numbered books). When the Bohemian Crown Archives were transferred to the Geheimes Hausarchiv in Vienna in 1750, only 26 numbered files and a few numbered books were left in Prague. In 1920 28 numbered files, some numbered books, together with the Dietrichstein correspondence were returned to Prague.