SUMMARIES

"HONOUR AND PRAISE TO GOD"

BOURGEOIS PIETY IN NORTHWESTERN BOHEMIAN TOWNS UP TO THE BATTLE OF THE WHITE MOUNTAIN

Michaela Hrubá

This contribution examines bourgeois wills from selected towns in northwest Bohemia directly subordinated to the king (Louny, Litoměřice, Žatec, Ústí nad Labem) as to their religious significance. A close look is taken at legacies addressed to ecclesiastical institutions, religious brotherhoods and literate societies as well as at charitable legacies. The author thus seeks to solve the question of religious orientation in general and in particular of the importance of religion in the everyday life of urban dwellers. 20 to 30 percent of the testators left estates for the good of their religion. They represented all social strata, with the financially better off, however, proving the least generous. There is a distinct predominance of the female gender among those leaving an estate toward a religious end, which might suggest that the will was a way of making up for the women’s marginal social status in this life.

WHAT EARLY MODERN BOHEMIAN BOURGEOIS LIBRARIES EXPLAIN ABOUT BOHEMIAN AND EUROPEAN CONFESSIONAL TRADITIONS

Olga Fejtová / Jiří Pešek

This study deals with the “consumption” of religious (in the broadest possible sense) literature during the period of confessional division and under pressure from re-Catholicization, and makes use of research work devoted to the history of printing, the book market, and bourgeois reading habits developing in urban Bohemian communities in the 16th and 17th centuries. It focuses on Prague and subordinated towns and is based predominantly on systematic analysis of comprehensive collections of estate inventories and testaments by citizens of Prague and Louny (Laun). In contrast to what Czech literary studies and ecclesiastical history have maintained until now, from about 1520 onwards reading consumption in those towns and cities was characterised by a massive influx of German reformatory literature, whereas interest in the locally established tradition waned. Works of local origin were supplanted in bourgeois libraries by new, reformatory titles which found their readership throughout Central Europe. This process had its fluctuations which were caused by overall economic developments and, more specifically, the evolution of the book market and
also by the ebb and flow of the process of reformation and counter-reformation in Europe. As a rule, works belonging to the more traditional Czech religious environment did not survive in the second half of the 16th and throughout the 17th century unless they had been altered and adapted in the course of a new wave of reformation and in this new guise "reimported" to Bohemia.

"NE VERBUM DEI IN NOBIS SUFFOCETUR ..."
PREACHERS OF THE EARLY HUSSITE ERA AND THEIR RHETORICAL TECHNIQUE

Pavel Soukup

Since preaching was very important for the Hussite reformers, the present contribution is based on the assumption that this appreciation of the role of the homily in connection with the use of certain communication strategies is one of the principal reasons for the broad resonance the Hussite doctrine found across the whole social spectrum. The study focuses on the structural and rhetorical approaches used in those Latin and Old Czech sermons that have been preserved in verbatim form, mainly texts by Jan Hus and Jacobellus of Mies. Thus, the reconstruction of the communicative process does not depend exclusively on meta-homiletic sources, but rather takes into account the sermons themselves, which had been neglected by past research efforts. In homilies both ad clerum and ad populum, the study detects addressee-oriented wording and specifically homiletic patterns of thought. Closer analysis shows that homiletic methods from the heyday of scholasticism were applied to Hussite sermons in a selective fashion. This result is especially valuable for an appraisal of the true importance of early Hussitism among the ecclesiastical reform movements of its time.

OF HUMANS AND GRAVES
THE ROLE OF THE PLACE OF BURIAL IN LATE MEDIEVAL URBAN LIFE

Hana Pátková

This contribution deals with the question what importance their place of burial had for those living in an urban environment during the late middle ages. Hitherto international as well as Czech scholars have held the view that only for the nobility was the place of entombment of any relevance. Written sources and artefacts, even though their number may be rather small, permit a different interpretation. Hints pointing to special ideas having been entertained about where one would like to be buried and the desired looks of grave and gravestone allow conclusions (which are not further elaborated upon) to be drawn about what was common. Thus, analysis of sources from several Bohemian towns of differing religious orientation proves