Summaries

HIERONYMUS ŠROL
CONJECTURES ABOUT A HUSSITE’S FATE

Jaroslav Mezník

Jaroslav Mezník presents three possible ways of interpreting the personality of Hieronymus Šrol, a citizen of Prague. Having started out as a radical Hussite, who sympathized with the supporters of Jan Želivský in Prague’s New City, Šrol later became a moderate council member of the Old City, who sought to coerce Želivský’s people into relinquishing their political clout. Possible motivations, according to the author, might be greed, thirst for power, cowardice, anxiety, or a gradual change of orientation. Again and again, Mezník contrasts his suppositions with the classification of Šrol as a traitor by his contemporaries. The elegant way of combining factual explanations with historical philosophy and even ethical considerations about individual and collective guilt, makes this a masterpiece of Czech essayistic writing. The study was written in the 1970s, but only recently has it been made available to the Czech public. In German, it is published for the first time.

THE ROUTE TOWARDS THE DECREE OF KUTNÁ HORA: FROM A RECONCILIATION AMONG NATIONS TO AN UNRELENTING NATIONALISM

Martin Nodl

Due to the impression created by the issuing and subsequent enforcement of the Decree of Kutná Hora, the coexistence of the university nations at Charles University in Prague during the pre-Hussite era is often viewed as conflict-laden. The reactions, later on, of those former members of Prague university who took up work at the universities in Leipzig and Vienna after 1409, as well as the reactions of the Czech masters, many of whom welcomed the exodus of the Germans, lent a semblance of a xenophobic nationalism (with roots allegedly reaching as far back as the 1380s) to the relationship of nations at Prague university. The present contribution aims at demonstrating that quarrels about filling vacancies among the masters and about the reform of the university statutes in 1384-85, and the debate about the custodians and sub-custodians of the rights of the alma mater in Prague in the 1390s, were the only conflicts motivated by the parties belonging to differing ethnic communities to become relevant at this university before 1409. Thus, it would seem rather inadequate to call the relationship among the university nations conflict-laden.