ABSTRACTS

CREED IN TEXT AND IN POLITICS

Introduction

Pavlína Cermanová

The present, largely monothematic, Bohemia issue is the result of cooperation between two projects that are closely connected in terms of research objective as well as researchers working on them: Cultural Codes and their Change in the Hussite Era, which is being worked on at the Center of Medieval Studies in Prague, and the ERC Starting Grant Origins of the Vernacular Mode, which is handled in Vienna at the Institute for Medieval Research, Austrian Academy of Sciences. The contributions in this issue look into the effects of the Hussite events and into the confessional identities involved. In what ways did they shape political developments and societal values? What effect did they have on communication strategies of persons and on the way those persons acted? And how were these events interpreted later on? The contributions work predominantly with published texts from the time in question. Aspects such as confessional affiliation of the authors, their linguistic skill, the usage of symbols and the manner of presentation are also analyzed.

CONVERSIONS OF BOHEMIAN AND MORAVIAN NOBLES DURING THE HUSSITE ERA

Robert Novotný

In this article, conversions of persons of noble birth from Bohemia and Moravia occurring between the outbreak of the Hussite revolution and the beginning of the reformation are analyzed and placed in a greater context. Ten particular conversions are comprehensively described, taking into consideration not only the religious situation of those concerned, but also the family settings and the social, economic, and political circumstances. A case which has not so far been taken up by historians is evaluated at length, namely the conversion, in Würzburg, of Jan Mičan z Klinštejna, which has been described in great detail by the Franconian knight Michel von Ehenheim. On the basis of these case stories, the whole problem field is placed in the broader context of modern-day "conversion research", comparison being made primarily with research dealing with the (later) era of confessionalization, offering a number of parallels with 15th-century Bohemian developments. The final part is made up by a more general look at some distinct aspects involved, in particular the legal framework for conversions and the ceremonies involved.