

THE CHANGING FORTUNES OF THE BENEDICTINE
ABBEY OF RAIGERN DURING TWO CENTURIES

(1813—1950)

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This paper encompasses the history of Raigern from its elevation to abbey up to the dissolution of the monastery. In the 19th century Raigern became a scientific and cultural center. Its pastoral responsibilities were limited to the four incorporated parishes. The continuous activity of the provosts and abbots was visible in their successful efforts to make the monastery independent, to elevate it to an abbey, to place it under the diocesan bishop, and, finally, to achieve its entry into the Austrian Benedictine Congregation of St. Joseph. Especially in the cultural-scientific sphere, abbots and conventuals cultivated lively contacts with Benedictines in the German-speaking areas, in Hungary and in the USA.

The abbey suffered under the economic consequences of the First World War, and then had to fear for its very existence during the period of the National Socialist German Protectorate regime (1939—1945). It was dissolved by the Czech government in the year 1950. Since then Benedictine life has ceased to exist in Moravia and Bohemia.