

CRIMINAL LAW SCIENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PRAGUE

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This paper discusses how criminal law science was cultivated at Prague university in the period from its foundation by Emperor Charles IV in 1348 to 1945. Initially criminal law science was something of a stepchild within the framework of canon and Roman law. The Professor of the Digest presented criminal law as further

developed by the glossarists and post-glossarists in treating the *libri terribiles*. After the university reform under Maria Theresia, there was a „Professor Digestorum et Iuris Criminalis“ and criminal law gained increasing importance as an independent discipline. An appreciation is given of the long line of professors and docents who taught criminal law and criminal trial law in Prague, along with their works. Discussed in this connection is the impact of the doctrine of natural law, the Enlightenment, the historical school of jurisprudence, and the modern criminal-policy reform concept. A separate chapter deals with the division of the University of Prague in 1882 into a German and a Czech university and the development of criminal law science at both up to 1945. In this year the German university was closed down, and the Czech university soon drifted completely into the embrace of Communist ideology.