

SUMMARIES

BOHEMIAN OLD CHURCH SLAVONIC LITERATURE IN THE 10TH AND 11TH CENTURIES

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In the early medieval Bohemian "Slavonic" liturgy one must distinguish between the kernel of the Mass, that is the celebration of the Eucharist, and the non-sacramental part (the pericopes). Whereas according to contemporary sources the use of Slavonic was not allowed for the sacramental part, it was actually required for the marginal sections of the liturgy and other edifying purposes. This mainly oral usage led to the rise of a sparse Slavonic literature. This is evidenced by philological enquiry and a few extant texts. As a comparison with the contemporary German Empire shows, the period we are dealing with was extremely unfavourable for the evolution of vernacular writing. In Bohemia conditions were particularly unpropitious for its survival (eg. the absence of libraries). For these reasons the original dimensions of Bohemian Old Church writing, which died out in the eleventh century, are impossible to gauge.