

FROM WENCESLAS TO ADALBERT – BETWEEN THE LEGENDS

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This contribution presents an international public with the results of contemporary Czech research into the earliest examples of Latin-language hagiography of Czech saints, above all St. Wenceslas and St. Adalbert. The hagiographies of Wenceslas (and Ludmilla) were (after the important edition by Josef Pekař, 1906) most thoroughly researched by Jaroslav Ludvíkovský, professor of classical philology and medieval studies at Brno University. By applying philological methods, Ludvíkovský succeeded in proving that the legend of the so-called *Christian* belongs to the last decades of the 10th century. His conclusions and the dating were supported and refined, in 1978, by the historian Dušan Třeštík. The most important result of their research into the Wenceslas legend is that both of them established Christian's authenticity.

The legends on Adalbert were (after German studies by Mathilde Uhlirz and Richard Wenskus, after the Czech Jan Vilíkovský and the work edited in Poland by Jadwiga Karwasieńska) subject of a collection of commented translations by Rostislav Nový (1987) and the fundamental study *Počátky Přemyslovců* (The Beginnings of the Přemyslid Dynasty) by Dušan Třeštík (1997). Hagiographic research has focused both on Adalbert's clerical politics during his tenure as bishop of Prague and on the problems of dating and defining the origin of the text *Versus de passione sancti Adalberti*.