

ETHNIC DISCOURSE IN THE BOHEMIAN LANDS

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This study represents a philological contribution to the analysis of the pre-1848 “German-Czech conflict community”. Proceeding from the question how communication about other ethnic groups takes place or how alien ethnic groups are constituted and constructed in the process of communication, it examines a concrete example, the “Laube-Kaufmann controversy” which took place in 1843 in the “Zeitung für die elegante Welt” and in the “Komet” (both Leipzig-based), in an attempt to sketch the communicative process of creating, stabilizing, and altering national and ethnic categories. How do social groups create and change specific dispositions of recognition (what people know), of emotion (what people feel), of intention (what people want), and of prescription (what people ought to) – this is the main question.