

SUMMARIES

“HONOUR AND PRAISE TO GOD”

BOURGEOIS PIETY IN NORTHWESTERN BOHEMIAN TOWNS UP TO THE BATTLE OF THE WHITE MOUNTAIN

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This contribution examines bourgeois wills from selected towns in northwest Bohemia directly subordinated to the king (Louny, Litoměřice, Žatec, Ústí nad Labem) as to their religious significance. A close look is taken at legacies addressed to ecclesiastical institutions, religious brotherhoods and literate societies as well as at charitable legacies. The author thus seeks to solve the question of religious orientation in general and in particular of the importance of religion in the everyday life of urban dwellers. 20 to 30 percent of the testators left estates for the good of their religion. They represented all social strata, with the financially better off, however, proving the least generous. There is a distinct predominance of the female gender among those leaving an estate toward a religious end, which might suggest that the will was a way of making up for the women's marginal social status in this life.