

HIERONYMUS ŠROL
CONJECTURES ABOUT A HUSSITE'S FATE

Jaroslav Mezník

Jaroslav Mezník presents three possible ways of interpreting the personality of Hieronymus Šrol, a citizen of Prague. Having started out as a radical Hussite, who sympathized with the supporters of Jan Želivský in Prague's New City, Šrol later became a moderate council member of the Old City, who sought to coerce Želivský's people into relinquishing their political clout. Possible motivations, according to the author, might be greed, thirst for power, cowardice, anxiety, or a gradual change of orientation. Again and again, Mezník contrasts his suppositions with the classification of Šrol as a traitor by his contemporaries. The elegant way of combining factual explanations with historical philosophy and even ethical considerations about individual and collective guilt, makes this a masterpiece of Czech essayistic writing. The study was written in the 1970s, but only recently has it been made available to the Czech public. In German, it is published for the first time.