

JOHANNES VON IGLAU. AN INTERPRETATION OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

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The author deals with two hitherto unpublished manuscripts from the National Library in Vienna — Cod.1646, Folio 2b—5b and Cod.2956, Folio 118r—123r. Both manuscripts are copies of an original, the whereabouts of which remain unknown.

A commentary on research methods to date is followed by a description of the manuscripts. It is pointed out that while only minor variations are to be found in the content, only Cod.1646 is complete. Cod.2956 breaks off suddenly in the course of the tenth commandment. Moreover, in the case of this manuscript the name of the author is missing.

The author of the commentary on the decalogue, Johannes von Iglau, was a typical product of his age, as is shown by his mention of witchcraft. Despite his apparent familiarity with the scholarship of his epoch, there is a striking discrepancy between the strictly formal structure, following the form of the scholastic commentaries, and the actual content which is not in the least intellectually demanding.

A study of the religious situation in Bohemia at the time of Emperor Charles IV — when these manuscripts were written — reveals that Johannes was influenced in his interpretation of the decalogue by the contemporary movement to introduce the Bible in the vernacular to the laity.

The language of the two manuscripts emphasizes their individuality and at the same time indicates that the original was probably written in Middle German.

The text given as an appendix is based on Cod.1646. This apparently accords more closely with the original than Cod.2956 and is also complete. A glossary of unusual words is also given.