

A UNIQUE TESTAMENT OF BOHEMIAN UTRAQUISM:
PAVEL BYDŽOVSKÝ'S 1554 TREATISE ON
THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

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In his Latin treatise *Historiae aliquot Anglorum martyrum, quibus Deus suam ecclesiam exornare sicut syderibus coelum dignatus est* (Several Stories of English Martyrs with Whom God Deigned to Decorate His Church Just Like the Heaven with Stars) (Prague: J. Cantor, 1554), Pavel Bydžovský deals with the execution of Bishop John Fisher, Thomas More, Richard Reynolds (a Bridgettine monk) and six Carthusian monks for refusing to endorse the religious reforms of Henry VIII in 1535. A copy of the book can be found in the Library of the National Museum in Prague (signa-

ture 45 D 29). Bydžovský's work, which has not yet been analysed in modern times, offers a remarkable opportunity as an illustration of the scarcely studied or understood Utraquist theological and ecclesiological position. This is evident in Bydžovský's sponsorship (especially that of Jan III, Popel z Lobkovic), his relationship to Catholicism and Lutheranism, and his use of sources (especially Venerable Bede, Reginald Pole, the *Guildhall Report*). Bydžovský's treatise thus not only sheds light on the religious relationships between Bohemia and England in the mid-sixteenth century, it also provides a solid testimony to the Utraquist theological and ecclesiastical *via media* between the Scylla of Rome and the Charybdis of Wittenberg (and Geneva), and especially to Bydžovský's allegiance to the papacy.