

## THE FIRST DECADES OF PRAGUE UNIVERSITY: TRANSFORMING INTELLECTUAL SPACE IN 14th CENTURY CENTRAL EUROPE

ACADEMIC CONFERENCE CENTER, JILSKÁ 1, PRAGUE, NOVEMBER 6–7, 2014

Since the 19th century, the main tendencies in historiography of the University of Prague were focused on the first two decades of the 15th century. This era was usually viewed within the perspective of the rise of pre-national consciousness and the development of the prereformation Hussite movement. And although the early history of Prague University was far from ignored, it has been often viewed as a prelude to these upcoming events. Almost two years ago, we tried to shift the focus on to the period of the first fifty years of Prague's *alma mater*. Our main aim was to raise the questions concerning the changes within the cultural and intellectual space in Central Europe which followed the founding of Prague's University in 1348.

The two-day international conference, devoted to the early history of Prague University, was held in the Academic Conference Center, Jilská 1, Prague on November 6–7, 2014. Sixteen papers were divided into six sessions. The first day's papers were focused on intellectuals of Prague University, i.e. Henry Totting of Oyta, Conrad of Ebrach and Jan of Mýto. The majority of presentations addressed Totting's philosophical and theological works, his preachings, as well his attitudes towards the Jewish people.

The second day offered various historical aspects. The opening session paid close attention to international contexts of Prague University, e.g. the founding Charter of the Prague *alma mater* and University of Naples, and connecting lines of the emperor Charles IV with intellectuals from Italy. The second session dealt generally with various aspects of transmission of knowledge, such as instructions for lay women by Henry of Bitterfeld, vernacular poetry from the court of Charles IV and the relation between learned magic, alchemy and some university members. The last session of the second day concluded with prosopographical aspects (exchanges between Prague university and the university of Vienna, as well as Hungarian students in Prague).

The conference was organized by Jan Odstrčilík (Charles University in Prague and the Austrian Academy of Sciences), Francesca Battista (Charles University in Prague) and Riccardo Burgazzi (Charles University in Prague) and was sponsored by Institute for Medieval Research of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, the Charles University Grant Agency<sup>1</sup> and the Centre for Medieval Studies of the Czech Academy of Sciences, to all of whom we are immensely grateful.

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The journal *Acta Universitatis Carolinae – Historia Universitatis Carolinae Pragensis* kindly provided this issue covering the papers from our conference. More than half of them are presented here, all of which were peer-reviewed. The issue was edited by cooperation between the internal redactors of the journal and the organizers of the conference.

*Jan Odstrčilík, Francesca Battista, Riccardo Burgazzi*

## Programme of the Conference

### Thursday, 6th November 2014

#### Session I: Henry Totting of Oyta as a philosopher and a theologian

William Duba (University of Nijmegen): *Henry Totting of Oyta's Prague Lectures on the Sentences*  
Martin Dekarli (Prague): *Henry Totting of Oyta and the Emergence of the Nominalistic Tradition in Central Europe between ca. 1370 and 1409*

Iris Palenik (Universität Wien): *Henry Totting of Oyta and his Disputatio catholica contra Iudaeos – Scholars and the Fight against Jews, Heretics and Disbelievers*

#### Session II: Henry Totting of Oyta's preaching

Jan Odstrčilík (Charles University in Prague and Austrian Academy of Sciences): *Sermo de Nativitate Iohannis Baptistae: Quis putas puer iste erit? (Luc 1,66)*

Francesca Battista (Charles University in Prague): *Sermo de Assumpcione Virginis Marie: In Ierusalem potestas mea (Eccli 24,15)*

Riccardo Burgazzi (Charles University in Prague): *Sermo de Passione Domini: Erit vita tua quasi pendens ante te (Deut 28,66)*

#### Session III: Masters of Prague University

Chris Schabel (University of Cyprus): *The Cistercian Conrad of Ebrach's Prague Lectures on the Sentences*

Dušan Coufal (Centre for Medieval Studies in Prague): *Master Jan of Mýto and His Commentary on the Psalms (ca. 1400)*

### Friday, 7th November 2014

#### Session IV: Prague University viewed by foreigners

Fulvio Delle Donne (Università della Basilicata): *The Charters of Foundation of Prague and Naples: The Models and their Reuse*

Daniela Pagliara (Università degli studi 'G. d'Annunzio'): *Uberto Decembrio: A Humanist in Prague at the End of the Fourteenth Century*

Irene Malfatto (International Society for the Study of Medieval Latin Culture /SISMEL/ in Florence): *John of Marignolli and the Historiographical Project of Charles IV*

#### Session V: Transmission of Knowledge

Jakub Šimek (Universität Heidelberg): *Instructing Lay Women: The German 'Regimen vitae cum confessionali' by Heinrich von Bitterfeld*

Lena Oetjens (Universität Zürich): *Charles IV and learned order: the discourse of knowledge in Heinrich of Mügeln as a mirror of Prague's new University*

Zdenko Vozár (Charles University in Prague – Université Paris-Est): *Learned Magic and Alchemy between and betwixt the University and the Courts: Interaction of Seats of Power, Wisdom and the Seats of Knowledge*

**Session VI: Historical aspects**

Andrea Bottanová (Universität Wien): *Places of Learning, Places of Exchange. Universities of Vienna and Prague in their Early Years*

Péter Haraszti Szabó (Hungarian Academy of Sciences): *The Effect of the University of Prague to the Hungarian Society in the 14th century*

**Concluding remarks** (Jan Odstrčilík), **discussion**