

prisoner of the Church council is presented here by several polemical writings (e.g. against a preacher from Pilsen) as well as some shorter texts he wrote in the Constance prison. This publication includes a tractate ‘against the French singing’, that is, a criticism of polyphony in singing during Church services, where Hus’s authorship is not certain. These texts are accompanied by translations of several poems written in Hus’s honour in the sixteenth century, which in the supplement appear also in their original version. This booklet follows up on a similar publication dedicated to Hus’s teaching activities and polemics he engaged in during his tenure at the Prague university.³

Both of the reviewed volumes, that is, both the critical edition and translations which aim at reaching a broader public, within their intended sphere of readership constitute an important contribution to Hus historiography.

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doi: 10.14712/23365730.2020.34

Mlada Holá, *Studentské koleje pražské univerzity v pozdním středověku a raném novověku. Dějiny – správa – úřední písemnosti (do roku 1622)*

[*Student Colleges of the Prague University in Late Medieval and Early Modern Era. History – Administration – Official Documents (up to 1622)*], Karolinum, Praha 2017, 432 pp., ISBN 978-80-246-3109-7.

In the medieval and Early Modern Era, colleges were within universities a basic type of establishment which provided both accommodation and teaching space. Funding for material provision for teachers and student stipend holders was likewise attached to colleges, which is why a number of scholars studied colleges in detail. In connection with the Prague university, we should note at least the contribution of Rostislav Nový,¹ František Šmahel, Karel Beránek, and Michal Svatoš. Even so, Mlada Holá chose a large subject and dealt with it successfully.² She carefully reviewed many often cited sources and drew from them new information. For instance, she added further details to digests from various documents (e.g. in note no. 659). She drew mainly on source materials: secondary literature forms but a small part of the book’s bibliography. Nevertheless, reports regarding student colleges are for the medieval era so incomplete that even her careful revision did not manage to remove some doubts and lacunae, as in the case on houses in the Fruit Market (p. 72–74). For more recent times, sources are more plentiful and reliable, and the author brings to light many new facts.

³ Jana NECHUTOVÁ and Jana FUKSOVÁ (eds.), *Mistr Jan Hus v polemice a za katedrou. Překlady, komentáře a poznámky...* [Master John Hus in Polemics and Behind the Lectern. Translations, Commentaries, and Notes...], Brno 2015 (Opera Facultatis philosophicae Universitatis Masarykianae 431).

¹ Rostislav Nový, *Koleje mistrů pražské univerzity do roku 1409* [Colleges of Masters of the Prague University Until 1409], AUC-PhH 2, 1959, p. 83–90 (the title is not cited in the book).

² The author had previously published partial studies on the subject; cf. Mlada HOLÁ, *Studentské koleje pražské univerzity a staroměstský měšťan Kříž* [Student Colleges of the Prague University and Kříž, Burgher of the Old Town of Prague], *Mediaevalia Historica Bohemica* 18/2, 2015, p. 95–132; EADEM, *Nazaretská kolej pražské univerzity v pozdním středověku* [The Nazareth College of the Prague University in Late Middle Ages], in: Eva Doležalová and Petr Sommer (eds.), *Středověký kaleidoskop pro muže s hůlkou: věnováno Františku Šmahelovi k životnímu jubileu*, Praha 2016, p. 511–521; EADEM, *Alumni koleje Českého národa na pražské univerzitě v letech 1542–1611* [Alumni of the College of the Bohemian Nation in 1542–1611], AUC-HUCP 53/2, 2013 [publ. 2015], p. 41–80.

In the introduction, Holá describes the situation regarding primary sources and circumstances of keeping and preservation of university documents which were handed down to the Prague school. Their fate in the nineteenth century led to a fragmentation of the original corpus. For current researchers, it is thus difficult to find all the documents and manuscripts that ended in a piecemeal fashion in several archives with some being lost in the process. Holá therefore also offers a brief outline of the history of documents belonging to the Prague university.

The first chapter is dedicated to colleges attached to European universities in general. It features an overview of research into this subject and an outline of the development of colleges in western and central Europe.

The second and third chapter (p. 54–160) investigate two periods within the medieval history of university in Prague. The author deals only with colleges intended for students. After a brief overview of all Prague colleges, she focuses on the College of the Bohemian Nation, Queen Hedwig's College, and the Nazareth College. After the Hussite Wars, these were joined by Reček's and Lauda's college. In addition to colleges, the text also covers student bursas, on which very few records survive. Some information is found for instance in the visit protocol by Pavel of Janovice but otherwise, sources take mostly the form of property lists.

As far as sources permit, the author traces for each college its origins, its buildings, various foundations and gifts, and where possible also the composition of their population. In connection with the College of the Bohemian Nation, she also speaks of the Corpus Christi Chapel. The book brings some further detail and re-evaluation of functioning of the Bethlehem Chapel. A fresh and detailed reading of sources brought to light both new facts and some new questions. In places, an explicit comparison with existing research would make the text easier to appreciate since without it, some new discoveries can be overlooked. The author studied in special detail the work and influence of Kříž, a Prague merchant to whom she previously dedicated a separate study. In the light of new facts, his support of the Bohemian nation but also his enterprising spirit seem even more important and noteworthy.

For the post-Hussite era, this book brings the most detailed history of the fate of Prague colleges published so far. Holá traces the state and gradual restoration of colleges that had been affected by the wars, their new foundations, but also for instance purchases of rents. College dwellers appear especially in colophons of manuscripts completed at those colleges. Rules of operation of the two new colleges, Reček's and Lauda's, which had been studied before (by Svatoš and Šmahel), are described in depth.

With the fourth chapter, we move into the sixteenth century and up to the beginning of the seventeenth century. Many more sources are available for the history of university before the 1620 Battle at the White Mountain, but their use tended to be rather unbalanced. With respect to this period, the author had again undertaken a thorough heuristics which, after all, characterises this entire monograph. She did not limit herself to the university archive: about one half of her sources are manuscripts which originated at the university but are kept in the National Library³ but also other relevant materials from other libraries and archives.

³ Accounts of the College of the Bohemian Nation, analysed and used in this monograph, were recently prepared for publication by Holá and Holý; cf. Mlada HOLÁ and Martin HOLÝ (eds.), *Das Studentenkolleg der Böhmi-schen Nation an der Prager Universität. Edition der Rechnungen aus den Jahren 1541–1611*, Berlin 2019, 438 pp.

Of the five chapters dealing with the period prior to the outbreak of the Thirty Years' War, the first is dedicated to administrative organs of student colleges and their transformations due to repeatedly planned reforms. Still, the first reform to have an actual impact on colleges' operation was that which was adopted after the university was taken over by the non-Catholic Bohemian estates in 1609: it transferred the administration of colleges and villages which belonged to them from professors taking their turn in the 'assembly of directors of the Bohemian nation' to a questor, who was responsible for economic issues of the entire university. In practice, though, the choice of a questor was often less than fortunate.

Due to sales, confiscations (1547), and legacies, the amount of immovable property belonging to the university was unstable. The number of taxed settlement units was also changing, as Holá demonstrates in a table on p. 184, which compares the situation in 1579 and 1615, when a still surviving urbarium was compiled. Let us just add that its creation was probably inspired not only by changes in university administration but also by the new general taxation system adopted by the Estates General in that year.⁴ In fact, it is the financial situation of student colleges and reconstruction of their land holdings that is the subject of the fifth chapter. Thanks to surviving accounts, the author was able to focus on the College of the Bohemian Nation, which applies also to the subsequent chapter dedicated to the daily operation of student colleges. Drawing mainly on the abovementioned source, the sixth chapter includes a prosopography of alumni of this college including their place of origin, frequency for particular years, and their participation in college administration.

The two remaining chapters analyse administrative documents of student colleges. From a diplomatic perspective, we find a separate account of individually published documents and administrative books kept in connection with the administration of colleges. This overview nicely shows that in relation to written agenda, the reform after 1609 brought important changes and one wonders what impact it would have had in a longer term than the approximately a decade until 1622 and dissolution of all colleges save for the Jesuit one.

The exposition is accompanied by supplements, which include the editions of several texts and one alumni list. The first two texts are fragments from the agenda of Reček's College relating to 1485. Both were previously published by František Šmahel.⁵ Holá's treatment of the history of Reček's College on p. 150–151 draws on both on these texts but refers to them only in footnote no. 1, while the connection between the exposition and the second edited text is not made clear. Šmahel added to his edition a rather extensive analysis and interpretation of both texts, which was perhaps not available to Holá: the two works were being written at the same time, although the article does appear in Holá's bibliography.

The following two texts are from the Modern Era. They are fragments of statutes, which were recently made available thanks to an edition prepared by František Šmahel and Gabriel Silagi. While the first fragment (sixteenth-century students' oath) was included in the

⁴ Cf. Václav PEŠÁK (ed.), *Berní rejstříky z roku 1544 a 1620* [Tax Revenue Registers from 1544 and 1620], Praha 1953, p. 9.

⁵ František ŠMAHEL, *Drobné záhady rejstříku Rečkovy koleje* [Small Mysteries of the Registry of Reček's College], AUC-HUCP 53/2, 2013, p. 11–21, in a transcribed form. Holá opted for a transliteration and does not refer to the previous edition.

collected edition of statutes,⁶ the fragment relating to directors of the Bohemian nation was not included there but figures in Karel Beránek's older edition.⁷

The fifth supplement is a list of alumni of the College of the Bohemian Nation from 1542–1611. This list first appeared in the AUC-HUCP,⁸ a fact unfortunately not mentioned in the book. In general, the supplements are not accompanied by any editorial commentary explaining the choice of texts, full wording of abbreviations,⁹ or references to relevant places in the main text of the monograph.

Black-and-white illustrations depict mainly pragmatic documents. The amount of source material the author had studied is remarkable and a large list of secondary literature and a name index are also included.

Mlada Holá's monograph is one of the most important contributions to older university history that appeared in recent years. It is to be lauded that the author followed the formation and development of the system of student colleges through the entire medieval period and Early Modern Era: historians capable of finding their footing in a period spanning over four centuries are few and far between.

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doi: 10.14712/23365730.2020.35

⁶ František ŠMAHEL and Gabriel SILAGI, *Statuta et acta rectorum universitatis Carolinae Pragensis 1360–1614* (Documenta Historica Universitatis Carolinae Pragensis I), Praha 2018, where the text no. 3 appears on p. 203; for the text no. 4 cf. p. XXVII and p. 352, where the edition ends before an afterword on directors.

⁷ Karel BERÁNEK, *Prodromos kritického vydání starých statut rektorátu pražské univerzity* [A Forerunner of a Critical Edition of Old Statutes of the Rectorate of Prague University], in: Alena Pazderová and Jan Kahuda (eds.), *Naším jubilantkám*, Praha 2000, p. 29–42, here p. 42 (Holá does not refer to Beránek's edition).

⁸ Mlada HOLÁ, *Alumni koleje Českého národa...* [Alumni of the College of Bohemian Nation], AUC-HUCP 53/2, 2013, here p. 41–80.

⁹ Reference to 'Catalogues of libraries, p. ...' cannot be found in the book. Perhaps it is the facsimile edition of Jiří BEČKA and Emma URBÁNKOVÁ, *Katalogy knihoven kolejí Karlovy university* [Catalogues of Libraries of Charles University Colleges], Praha 1948.