

Prameň – jeho funkcia, význam, interpretácia a limity v historickom výskume.

Latin Epigraphs in the Early Middle Ages and Possibilities of their Interpretation

The article deals with key characteristics of Latin Epigraphy in the time of Later Roman Empire. Latin inscriptions from this period are attested in every part of the Mediterranean world and also beyond the Limes Romanus. They have considerable potential as a historical source, because they can say much about religious, economic, political affairs and also about daily life of common people. The richest deposit of Late antique inscriptions is – aside from Ephesos in Asia Minor, Aphrodisias in Caria.

Panegyrics from the 3rd and 4th Century Turn as Important Historical Source

Group of celebrating speeches – panegyrics, addressed by various occasions to honour several emperors are dated approximately into the same period. Panegyrics are preserved in collection XII panegyrici latini. Eight of these speeches belong into the period followed in our contribution, covering years 289 – 321 A.D. It is necessary to approach this source carefully; the panegyrics were often propaganda instrument. If these sources are studied deeply it can be concluded that they represent primary historical source and it is possible to find out many interesting circumstances.

Written Sources Concerning Saint Constantine-Cyril and Methodius Life and Work in Slovak and South European Historiography

Slovak history and the history of South Slavonic nations are in their diversity recognized by some common features. One of the key moments connected with the history of the Slavonic world is the numerous work of Constantine and Methodius brothers, as well as their apprentices. About the life and work of Constantine and Methodius we learn from multiple sources. According to the languages in which they were written they are divided into three groups: Slavonic (*Life of Constantine and Life of Methodius, Praise to Cyril, Complimentary Word on Cyril and Methodius, St. Cyril's Death.*), Latin (*Vita Constantini cum-Cyrille translatione S. Cleonensis, De Conversione Bagoarionim et Carantanorum* and papal documents) and Greek (*Kliment's Life - Bulgarian Legend and Ohrid Legend*). In Slovak translation the works referred to were published by Ján Stanislav and Peter Ratkoš and the works have recently been published in the second volume of the publication *Sources of the History of Slovakia and the Slovaks*. The first volume of the work *Codex Diplomaticus et Epistolaris Slovaciae* contains the Latin documents in full. In the Balkan countries the sources of the Thessalonian brothers were published in much greater numbers. Major editors were Bonjo Angelov, Josip Bratulič, Fran Grivec, Vatroslav Jagič, Hristo Kodov, Fran Tomšič, Jordan Ivanov and Rada Ugrinova - Skalovska. Also the literature dealing with analysis of those sources is more extensive there.

Foundation Charter of Vyšehrad Canonry CDB I, 387

The foundation charter of Vyšehrad canonry is the most problematical document in bohemian diplomatics. For this kind of charter holds generally a nickname “labyrinth of diplomatics”. Four preserved exemplars i.e. A, B1, B2 and C of this letter informs us about foundation of canonry. Number of donations were achieved by the first bohemian king Vratislav II. (1061-1092) and the others by private persons. The original deperded (or destroyed) foundation charter of Vyšehrad canonry is dated 1088, but a few indicias contradict it. All of these donations had been probably issued like separate act records. These recordes were collected and rewritten into the form of one charter during the first half of 12th century. It happened between 1140/42-1178. We know datation post quam and ante quam thanks secondary diplomatics and narrative sources. Paleography, diplomatics, sphragistics or stylistics of this charter is still very contradictory and it’s practicaly impossible to indentify concrete date of issue. The intitulation and some notices informs us about Vratislav king’s title in one hand and Vratislav’s princely title on the other hand. Although we can maintain, that existed the original charter issued by Vratislav II. Each exemplar conserves an order in extraneous and also in intraneous signs, for example diplomatic character of littera elongata in verbal invocation or stabile order of formular. On this basis is possible to reconstruct probable form of Vratislav’s charter from the end of 11th century. However we must always emphasize that charter in its present extant form is a recipient copy renovating and preserving affect the rights in property of canonry. According the terminology created by W. Huschner we can consider about some kind of imitative copy. It has to do with primary archive administration, conserving the text of documents and memory what is no doubt the huge space for a new research about this problematics.

Town Books of Bardejov as Source to the History of Town Administration in 15th Century

The author deals with the town books of the town Bardejov in the 15th century as the source in research of the town administration. The amount of the town books in Bardejov offers wide field to explore the various areas of the town life. By giving three examples from chosen town books the author wants to point out the importance of exploring town books as a relevant source for town administration searching. These examples are about the contracts between the town and the town notaries, the lists of names of the town representatives and about special books of the town jurisdiction. Therewithal the author would like to emphasize the fact, that this kind of source can not be explored separately, but in comparison with other sources (charters, letters).

To Information Value of Diplomatic and Sphragistic Sources of 15th Century on Example of Oldřich II. of Rožmberk (1403 – 1462)

Contribution in general refers to the possibility to obtain new knowledge by shifting the limits of redeemable value of historical sources. The article on three concrete examples of diplomatic and sphragistic sources from the period of important magnate of the Czech Kingdom in 15th century Oldřich II of Rožmberk (1403 – 1462) demonstrates and illustrates this effort. Thank to better understandings of monograms on the oldest seal of Oldřich II of Rožmberk, as well as generic relations, semantic and chronological classification and interpretation of the word „*test*“ is possible to reveal Oldřich's relationship to his parents and reveal his second marriage. On example of the passage of the Rosenberg's letter to scribe Matthew from Třeboň we can capture many of Oldřich's mentality.

Price Limitations of Bratislava County from Years 1668 and 1672 and their Information Value

Price limitations of Bratislava County from years 1668 and 1672 belong to less known documents that remained in the written source basis of this important self-governing unit on the territory of nowadays western Slovakia from second half of 17th century. It is period in history of Slovakia, when confessional and social situation of that time society was markedly changing as consequence of estate rebellions, wars against Turks and tensions between Habsburgs as ruling dynasty and Hungarian nobility. Limitations content shows well arranged list of products of particular craftsmen branches as tailors, blacksmiths, locksmith, potters, soapers so on, as well as prices of these products. Other important fact is that these sources written in Magyar language of 17th century are also contributory for linguistics.

Canonical Visitation – to Interpretation, Limits and Methodological Questions in Historical Research

The canonical visitations are important as singular document of life of people with all own aspects in concrete historical age and locality. Canonical visitation we define like personal examination of ecclesiastic discipline, alternatively religious life through appropriate religious representative or his delegate with intention to discover the state of clerical establishment, if is not necessary something to repair, abolish, eventually to punish negligent the member or administrator. The inscription from that visit is the memorandum of canonical visitation, or visiting protocol. The fact that the visitations have the official character attests, that the canonical visitation is the authentic historical document. It is the document with official character and high plausibility. As historical source offers to explorer enormous quantity of information about life of parish. Although the editor of the visitations was the Catholic church as institution, it affords the evidences not only to the religious history. In essence it includes important informations about all spheres of life of parishes, that means not only about religious

but about cultural, social and economic life. To achieve the intentions, is necessary to use all standard methodic courses within the frame the modern historical science (the critique of source, analyse, the method of sound, typological method, synthesis). Expecially important is the application of critique, when the critical looking at the historical source narrowly is connected by plausibility of source. Also is necessary to impose the achievements of other sciences, which are collateral to history by their character and that can contribute to acquist of information, important for the source. Their exploitation is actual for completing and authentication of information from basic sources, in our case it is the application of historical demography, historical geography and philological method (mainly thoponomastic).

Faith Declare of Greek Catholic Priests from 1726 as an Example of Latin Dominance

In 1720 was held in the Polish town Zamosc the Provincial Synod of Ruthens. The conclusions of the Synod of Zamocs decided to apply bishop of Eger in his diocese. Between 1726 – 1727 had all Greek Catholics signed consent to accept the conclusions of the foreign Synod. This marked the start of intensive latinization of Eastern Christians. In this article the author analyzes and explains the hidden information contained in the source text. The following information reveals the real background of the beginnings of latinization of the Carpathian Ruthens.

Trenčín County in Bel's Writing *Notitia Hungariae Novae Historico – Geographica*

Matej Bel, one of the most important Hungarian intellectuals (1684 – 1749), was author of several writings. The most famous is Historical-geographical knowledge about new Hungary – *Notitia Hungariae novae historico – geographica*. It was published in four volumes during 1735 – 1742. Parts dealing with Trenčín County were never published, have been kept in handwriting, although they should have been part of fourth volume. Original as well as several writing-offs of Notitions of Trenčín county are in the Archbishop's Archive in Esztergom.

Source in Modern Age Sphragistics (and Diplomatics)

If researcher decides to work up topic concerning modern age sphragistics or diplomatics, wide field of possible activities opens before him. Contrary to research of questions concerning the medieval topics, that are very popular and many articles, papers and monographies pay attention to them, modern times sphragistics (as well as diplomatics) topics are still as if on the periphery of researchers' interest. Possible reason can be difficult work with sources. At the beginning of research focused on modern age sphragistics is first of all necessary to get familiar with preserved and accessible material. After setting of concrete topic comes complicated task – to define defensible working methodic in order to bring valuable results and enrich our present knowledge. How to set study topic focused on modern

age sphragistics? How to handle huge amount of preserved sources? The article will focus on answer this and other related questions.

Work *Sacra Concilia Ecclesiae Romano-Catholicae in Regno Hungariae...* from the Heraldic and Sphragistic Point of View

In the 18th and 19th century were published several works paying attention to church history. In couple of cases were their part also copper engravings of seals from Hungarian environment. One of the vastest seals and coat of arms image collection can be found in the C. Péterfi work *Sacra concilia...* (1741 – 1742). Together are here published 46 copper engravings. These contain heraldic and sphragistic components. Found can be heraldic compositions, separate copper engravings and seals of personal and institutional character, mainly related to church environment. The largest group is built by seals of Hungarian *loca credibilia*. These sources are viewy amendments of written word but they are also historical source. Their information value is not equal. That is the reason why is necessary to analyse individual images and do critique evaluation to find out extent in that these images correspondent with original sources and are authentically. Presumably several from these published sources never existed or were considerable modified. Consequently are they rather proof of phantasm and ambitions of 18th century authors than source of auxiliary historical sciences.

Maps in Historical Research: Meaning, Interpretation and Limits

Among the wealth of historic sources, maps play an important role. They generate more or less valuable data on land. Over the recent decades, we have seen older maps being used in the study of changes to spatial structure of a specific territory – landscape (land use/landscape use). Besides being able to get a picture of changes to specific landscape over years, comparing old and current map documentations lends itself useful also in seeing the things that have remained in the land's memory until now. Hence, the significance of maps rests in their informative potential on the impact of natural agents on landscape or on anthropologically conditioned exploitation of a given territory, which is important not only in basic research, but, in broader aspects, also in planning and decision making (applied research). Interpretation of data depicted on historical maps depends, above all, on the focus of a specific cartographic documentation, its quality, precision expressed by the map's scale, and the way of showing facts through map symbols. The phenomenon of geographic information systems (GIS) plays an important role in explanation of outcomes provided by the study of older maps. Besides the historical 3D models of territory (Figure 1), they allow for the creation of topical maps with surface relational land use analysis (Maps 1, 2). Potential of such acquired database is significant as it allows, taking into account the multi-temporal analysis, to create various constructions of socio-economic character and thus supplement

reports on the studied site or territory that are often quite limited (Table 1, Diagram 1). The use of maps in historical research also has its limits. These include the maps' accessibility from the archives, as well as their condition. In general, the use and informative value of cartographic sources are both determined also by a specific research focus, its context and objective. However, the limiting agent in the use or absence of maps in historical research is ultimately the subject (author). Positivist perception of the historical process, or rather; the absence and peripheral knowledge of the scientific community of the relevant trends in using cartographic documentation in basic research, generate among the lay public and professionals a low level of need and interest in history. This fact causes slower applied research and its little effective penetration to public social practice.

„*Palestinam Occidentalem*.“ Caricature as a Source for Research of Anti- Semitism in Austro-Hungarian Empire round 19th and 20th Century Turn

On the theoretical level we will firstly define caricature as a specific kind of historical source, think about its contextualization and – thosedays and scientific – reception. The study is based on thesis, that caricature is not only „humorist“ reflection of social and political reality but, most of all, it deforms reality and puts an ideological seal on it. „Practical“ part of contribution will be focused on anti-Semitic caricature. A short example using Hungarian and Slovak magazines will focus on visualization of anti- Semitic stereotypes in the context of political Catholicism and Slovak national movement in 90s' of 19th century.

To some Problems of Russian and Soviet History of 20th Century

After 1989, problem of Soviet history is not in the focus of specialist and laics anymore. Return to this theme is important for various reasons. After 1990 were found many documents as an evidence of inhumanity of Soviet regime. Processing of these documents and materials from the period after 1917 by several Russian and foreign historians brought – and is still bringing – new revelations to this „terra incognita“. Even Bolshevik incoming to power is still interpreted as the „October Revolution“, although it is very difficult to consider this event to be a real revolution. It is also very complicated to consider the period after German assault to be a Great patriotic war. Many current trends in Russia attempt to put less „red color“ on the history after 1917 that should help to „mend“ this tragic part of Russian (and especially Soviet) history. Many aspects accompanying these attempts show high level of influence of Russian government that is more than evident, and is similar to „capturing“ of history before 1989. These aspects make it more than necessary to return to Soviet history after 1917 and try to suggest and name at least some of the most important problems of this period and their connections with the present time.

Document Editions on Czechoslovak Foreign Policy in Interwar Period Current Situation and Future Perspectives

Utilization of the published (archival) sources constitutes the necessary part of a historian's scholarly work. The Czechoslovak foreign policy, as a possible research field, is not an exception in this context. However, the research of the Czechoslovak interwar diplomacy was negatively influenced by prevalent Marxist paradigm for a long time. A character of editions of unpublished sources was at that time limited by the political respects, some of the archival materials were kept back from public, another were inventoried. Thus, the modern editions (have) originated since the fall of the communist regime, namely after 1989. Firstly, the author of a paper focuses on evaluation of the editions of documents related to the Czechoslovak interwar foreign policy which were published after 1989. He analyses their content, structure, prevalent methodological base, as well as their merits and deficiencies. The author particularly refers to an in-process book series entitled *Dokumenty k československé zahraniční politice* (Documents of Czechoslovak foreign policy). In the second part, the paper analyses the prepared collection of documents related to the Czechoslovak-Austrian relations. This collection takes into account a methodological discussion around so-called new political history. In the comparison with the hitherto published editions emphasizing exclusively the political history the prepared edition should include information about home politics, economy and social policy referred-to states as well. These should allow a user to receive a more complex view of foreign policy on the whole, as well as to understand the partial problems of bilateral relations.

Women and British Diplomacy

Women have acted at British Foreign Office since his creation in 1782. First as housekeepers later also as typists. Only since 1946 was allowed to women to enter the diplomatic service and represent country abroad. Nevertheless first British woman was nominated as leader of diplomatic mission only in 1973. Male colleagues had been refusing equal position for women in diplomatic service. It was claimed, that women were not able to keep secret or authority. Although after removing and abolition of some legal arrangements, for example so called matrimonial arrangement, conditions improved, women remain minority in leading diplomatic positions. Article offers overview of women activities and positions in British diplomacy in 20th century.

Gustav Stresemann's letter to former crown prince – interpretation opportunities

Gustav Stresemann was one of the most influential German politicians in the period of Weimar Germany. Nowadays there are still numerous open questions concerning this personality. Evaluation of his policy is mainly controversial. Stresemann had been active politician several years and his activities, statements and expressions were interpreted

immediately by those day journalists and politicians, as well as by nowadays historians. The article is focused on the letter to former crown prince Wilhelm, dated September 1925. Stresemann's expressions in this document were surprising and it was believed, this document revealed secret intention of German foreign policy. Analysis showed that circumstances under that the letter was written as well as circumstances under that this document has been published were specific. We may assume that above mentioned factors had considerable contribution on the fact how this document is evaluated. Stresemann was experienced politician and he considered possible consequences of his statements. He possessed skills of spoken word. His audience could have won conviction, that Stresemann had the same opinion as his listeners. This applies often to various groups of political spectrum. Phrases used in the letter to former crown prince don't have revealing character. Stresemann expressed ideas about necessity of Versailles treaty revision, about protection of German minorities in neighbouring states as well as desire that Germany must get again to the club of great powers. This ideas were not new, only the way of expression was direct, open and without metaphor. Article shows ventures of overestimating of historical source and necessity to consider circumstances under that document was prepared and circumstances under that have been published.