

a short example of their work in czech language that documents the high literary qualities of the language of the renaissance. The coats of arms of each of these humanist members of the nobility completes each short biography.

This book is therefore also an anthology of its kind that aims to introduce to the reader, at least partially, the contribution of these jurists to the high legal culture of the Czech lands.

Petra Skřejpková*

Adamová, Karolina, Sýkora, Antonín. Dědické zemské právo v české historii. Ostrava: KEY Publishing, 2013, 128 s. [Inheritance Law within Landrecht in Czech history. Ostrava: KEY Publishing, 2013, 128 pp.]

Karolina Adamová and Antonín Sýkora enriched the book market, after many years, by publication in the field of medieval legal history. The book was published by the reputable Ostrava - Brno publisher KEY Publishing in co-edition with The European Society for History of Law.

History of the Inheritance law belongs to the branch of private law which is not understood well. For this reason any step in this direction is very welcome. Therefore the authors tried to fill this gap and using all the historical sources they show the picture of the Inheritance law in changes from the beginning of its legislation until 17th century or more precisely until amendments of Landesordnung in the middle of the 17th century.

The authors focused their research only towards the nobility Landrecht. They deliberately neglected the City rights and justified it by excessive thematic range. It goes to the detriment of the book. This publication is only so comprehensive view of the development of the Czech Landrecht Inheritance law from the 12th century or Statutes of Konrád until the release of Amendments and Deklaratoria to the Landesordnung.

The book is divided into ten chapters in which in addition to an introduction and overview of sources and literature, the authors deal gradually with each epoch. First they analyze sources until 1497 it continues with the interpretation until 1627. The authors set aside the issue of the rights of Testament in practice of 16th and 17th century. It is followed by a detailed analysis of inheritance rights established in Landesordnung. Very interesting is even just the interpretation of the special Inheritance rights for women.

The book is based on a critical study of legal sources and the authors search for answers according to the scheme: the testator, the manifestation of the will, the object of succession, the limitation of the will by the testator (compulsory part) and finally the testamentary order.

If we look into the content of the work we find that the authors gradually paying attention to the Privilege of Vladislav II. Jagelonsky, to the reflection of testamentary practice before the establishment of Vladislavsche Landesordnung in the work of Všehrd and finally also to the establishment of Verneuerte Landesordnung as Amendments and Deklaratoria that bring elements of Roman Law and thus represent a major milestone in the development of this branch of the law. Finally an Epilogue is attached to the text that pays attention to adjustment of Inheritance rights by the Austrian General Civil Code (ABGB) in 1811 and subsequent regulations. In fact they tried to outline the development up to now in abbreviated form. They also pointed to the fact that there is complete lack of a more comprehensive view of the development of Inheritance law not only in the Middle Ages but even after the ABGB. The filling of this gap would be needed due to the new Civil Code which is in many ways returning to modify the 1811.

Unfortunately the authors limited their research not only in terms of the medieval legal particularism to the law of nobility - thus completely ignoring the City rights but the book is fundamentally

* JUDr. Petra Skřejpková, Ph.D., Faculty of Law, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic

oriented just towards the substantive law. They do not pay any attention to the procedural law which remains not recognized.

It is necessary to appreciate the style of the book which is elaborated by the authors in a way to bring the issue to the widest possible range of readers. They try to achieve that by intercuts into the text with extracts from the sources. Also the additional complements are very positive such as the image attachment and graphical representations of succession in various stages of development.

As we have mentioned above it is the extraordinary work of highly educated authors. It is shown by an extensive amount of literature sources that are constantly cited as well as incorporated into a comprehensive list of bibliography at the end of the publication. But especially the ability of the authors to work with sources.

This is a very interesting legal and historical work that attracts not only the legal historians who are interested in the older history. For this reason it is necessary to recommend the book to all those who have an interest in legal history.

Karel Schelle*

* Associate Professor, JUDr. Karel Schelle, CSc., Faculty of Law, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic