

REVIEWS AND ANNOTATIONS

Kolda, Jindřich – Hrdina, Antonín Ignác. Historical library of the Kuks hospital and its romantic-canonistic collection: historical-legal study. Červený Kostelec: Pavel Mervart, 2014. 289 p.

J. Kolda from the Czech Pharmaceutical Museum in Kuks and A. I. Hrdina from the Chair of Pastoral Studies and Legal Sciences at the Catholic Theological Faculty of the Charles University wrote a book about the Kuks hospital library, about its origins and right collections containing romanticistic and canonistic works.

The outcome of their work documents their deep understanding of the development of romanistic and canonistic studies in the Czech lands, as well as within a broader area, in practical and theoretical perspectives. The publication is one of the publications that deal with libraries in the Czech history. We refer mainly to the outputs of prof. J. Pešek with his long-standing interest in town libraries.

The book from both authors interested in Špork topics contributes to our understanding of the contents of the baroque hospital library in Kuks. It is one of the contributions enabling us to compare libraries from Burgher, aristocratic and monastic backgrounds.

The book maps the individual items in the collection in terms of their origins, content and authors, with biographic information about the authors that will be interesting also for laymen. Where possible, the book also contains information about the original owner of the book or manuscript. The authors of this book also paid attention to the language aspect, which is a very good thing.

Hrdina and Kolda divided conceptually the studied material into two parts. In the first part they look primarily at earl Antonín Špork, the hospital and Špork's hospital foundation in Kukrs. Both authors have been studying A. Špork for many years. Let us recall some of their works, such as *Why earl Špork went to debtors' prison?* by A. I. Hrdina, published by the KEY Publishing Ostrava in 2013. It was a legal and historical analysis of one dispute between earl Špork and attorney Václav Xaver Neumann from Pucholz. Another such work was a book co-authored by H. Kuchařová *Heresy trial with earl Špork in legal, historical and theological context*, published in 2011 by the same publisher. For J. Kolda let us mention at least contribution titled *Topics for future Špork research*, included in the *Theatrum historiae* 9 in 2011.

In the second part the authors described library collections from legal and historical perspective, which is the true contribution of their publication. An interesting subchapter in this second part is titled Supplement: Canonist and Romanist collection in Lysá in Moravian land library, because several hundred books with legal and historical topics were temporarily relocated from Lysá nad Labem to Kuks in connection with the sale of the castle in Lysá around the middle of the 19th century. These are books by individual Romanist and Canonist authors, Czech, as well as foreign, for example Romanist Dutch professor of law who worked in the 17th century at the Utrecht universities, Leyden Joannes Voet, university professor Johann Ortwin Westenberg from the university Harderwijk, Franeker A. Leyden, professor of law at the Faculty of Law of Charles-Ferdinand university Franz Wenzel Stephan von Cronefels, also working as a board member at the Prague court of appeal. As for Canonist authors introduced, let us mention e.g. Vít Pichler, professor of philosophy, theology, canon studies and “controversistics” (theological polemics) at universities in Augsburg, Dillingen and Ingolstadt, from 1731 the prefect of Jesuit studies in Munich, or Paul Joseph Riegger, Austrian canon studies author and confessionalist, professor of natural law, international law and German law at the university in Innsbruck, who has been described as a true aristocrat among lawyers of his time, although his legal opinions did not lack controversies.

Extremely valuable is the attachment with a detailed catalogue of resources and literature stored in this collection. The book contains a name index and a list of sources and literature used, as well

as a Latin-Czech dictionary of local names. Although the book did not go through language editing, the contents and form were not affected.

We must also mention the words of goodbye used by the authors: “Feci(mus) quod potui(mus) – faciant meliora potentes” (“We did what we could; may those who can do better”). These are the same words used by consuls and senators at the end of their year-long functions.

Let us conclude by saying that very seldom is attention paid to libraries from the past, especially from legal and historical perspective. It is good that these two authors filled the gap. Let us hope that this interesting book will come again in future editions.

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