

Královský Vyšehrad IV., sborník příspěvků ze semináře 940 – let Královské kolegiální kapituly sv. Petra a Pavla na Vyšehradě, Praha: Královská kolegiální kapitula sv. Petra a Pavla na Vyšehradě, 2012, 474 s. [Royal Vyšehrad IV., a collection of contributions from seminar “940 years of the Royal Collegiate Chapter of St. Peter and Paul in Vyšehrad”, Prague: Královská kolegiální kapitula sv. Petra a Pavla na Vyšehradě, 2012, 474 pp.]

In our hands we have already fourth Královský Vyšehrad - a collection of contributions from a seminar with subtitle “940 years of Royal Collegiate Chapter of St. Peter and Paul in Vyšehrad”, which was organized in 2010 by the Royal Collegiate Chapter of St. Peter and Paul in Vyšehrad.

The collection includes contributions from twenty-nine authors, it contains a foreword by cardinal Dominik Duka, OP, Archbishop of Prague and Primate of Bohemia. In his foreword cardinal Duka introduces Czech King Vratislav II. as the founder of Vyšehrad Chapter and points out the fact that Vyšehrad Chapter played an important role in the political, religious and cultural history of the Czech state.

After the foreword follows a brief word from cardinal Miloslav Vlk, Archbishop Emeritus of Prague and Primate of Bohemia, about the current situation in chapters and their current legal position within the church structure.

In the contributions that follow after cardinal's word authors look more closely at the Vyšehrad Chapter and Vyšehrad itself. Due to my personal professional interest I was particularly attentive to articles with historical-legal topics.

The historical and legal development of the Vyšehrad Chapter is the topic of an article by Jan Kotous. In the beginning he visits the founding of the Vyšehrad Chapter and then outlines the development and the individual milestones that had an impact on its position in the Czech state. He points out the significant contribution of the Chapter to the restoration of Vyšehrad in the 19th century. In conclusion he notes that after 1989 the Chapter modified its relationships in terms of the ecclesial law. Especially here he refers to the creation of new statutes approved in 1992. Full wording of the statutes was, after being complemented and extended, approved in 2001.

The next author, Zdeňka Hledíková submitted an article, in which she analyses Vyšehrad statutes of 1317. She points them out as a valuable historical resource of information about the internal development of the Vyšehrad Chapter until the end of the Přemyslid period and about the development and stabilization of all large chapters in our lands.

Another interesting article was written by Karolina Adamová and Antonín Lojek. The authors in their article look at the role of Vyšehrad provosts in the medieval legal and political culture of the Czech Kingdom. This is very important because the Vyšehrad Provost was until 1462 the Chancellor of the Czech ruler and his top official. The authors point out that clergymen were very educated and proficient in Latin - the language of diplomacy at that time. In their article they focus on provosts who lived until the mid 15th century – Petr of Prague, Petr of Aspelt, Jan Volk, Václav Králík of Buřenice and Jan of Rabštejn.

The collection contains a number of articles focusing on contemporary provosts and canons, such as Michael Soukup, Aleš Opatrný, Bořivoj Nechvátal, Milena Borská-Urbánková. Borská-Urbánková is also the author of the article Provost Václav Štulc and the Cyril and Methodius pilgrimage to Rome in 1881. Provost Václav Štulc is here presented as one of the most important figures of the Royal Vyšehrad Chapter of the 19th century.

This collection brings many top quality articles. As an example let us mention an article by Ladislav Varadzin about the residences of early medieval rulers. The author points out here that the residency in Vyšehrad only offered all the amenities necessary for the representation of the ruler and his court since the second half of the 11th century.

In his article he offers also the finding that the existence of this residency is captured by archeological findings from the last decades of the 11th century, at the latest, which corresponds with information from written sources. According to the author this means that some of the chapter buildings, but also the Basilica of St. Lawrence, were outside of the palace compound.

Another interesting article about the geological surveys in Vyšehrad and its immediate surroundings is presented by Jan Zavřel. He describes the Vyšehrad rock also as an important morphologic structure on Prague's right bank formed by the erosion of the Vltava and Botič rivers. This rock is a formation of the Paleozoic marine sediments.

Investigation of the geologic situation in Vyšehrad and its near surroundings lead to new geological understanding, which the author presents in his work. The author also documents a widespread occurrence of loose river sediments on the south-west of the promontory.

We must at least briefly mention the article by Drahomíra Kolmanová. The author here looks at the restoration of parks around the national cultural monument Vyšehrad between 2001 and 2011, which included planting of trees, building of an irrigation system, new public and festive lights.

Articles contain English and German resumes and most of them also high quality illustrations. The Royal Vyšehrad deserves the attention of both professional and lay public.

Vendulka Valentová*

* JUDr. et Mgr. Vendulka Valentová, Faculty of Law, University of West Bohemia, Pilsen, Czech Republic