

C. 1. Popularised Scientific Summary of the Research Project

As part of the project's execution I would like to show the form in which the memory of the event that took place in the Middle Ages, in the 12th century, has been preserved for centuries in the consciousness of the community in which it had occurred. The problem is very interesting because sometimes, in particular political circumstances, i.e. in the times of national captivity, some of the elements of the past tend to be mythologised and their components are set in such a manner as to fulfil the self-identification needs of the community or to build a sense of togetherness and national pride in a given community. The Czechs' participation in the victorious siege of Milan by the Holy Roman Emperor, Frederick Barbarossa, in 1158 is the historical event concerning the perspective of the Czech national history, the tradition of which I will be particularly interested in.

I will begin the project from thorough studies on the reign of the second king of Bohemia, Vladislaus I, who ruled between 1140 and 1172. It was during his reign and under his leadership that the Czechs set off to Milan in 1158 in order to support the Holy Roman Emperor, Frederick Barbarossa, in the fighting against this north Italian city. For his help in fighting against Milan, Vladislaus was rewarded by Barbarossa with the royal dignity. The person of King Vladislaus of Bohemia triggers interest if only for the fact that he was the second of the representatives of the Přemyslids who received a royal crown. His predecessor, the first king of Bohemia, Vratislaus, was crowned nearly seventy years earlier and just as in the case of Vladislaus, the attainment of the royal dignity was linked to providing military assistance to the German ruler in his campaigns in Italy. Studies on the issues of King Vladislaus' reign are interesting and necessary in so far as there is no monograph dedicated to the rule of this Přemyslid.

Even though it was thanks to Vladislaus that the Bohemian bravery was made famous in medieval Europe, already in this period the popularity of the king became questioned by the Czechs. In the chronicle written in Czech language in the first decade of the 14th century, *Rymowana Kronika (Rhymed Chronicle)* or the Chronicle of the so-called Dalimil, the author assesses the reign of Vladislaus very critically, accusing the ruler of being a puppet in the hands of the German king. At the same time, in his commentary on the history of the fatherland he preserves the memory of battles and a great victory of the Czechs against Milan, but the entire war campaign is linked to the reign of another ruler – one who, in his opinion, is worthy of such a great triumph. It should be emphasised that the Chronicle of the so-called Dalimil, the first work written in Czech language, was made at a very particular time for the Czechs. After over four centuries of the domination of the native Přemyslid dynasty, the power over the kingdom of Bohemia was in 1310 transferred to the son of the German king – John of Luxembourg. Therefore, the author's dislike for the king, who in his opinion sold himself to the Germans, together with the simultaneous pursuit of preserving the memory of the glory won over by the Czechs, is understandable in this context. Thus, we can see that the Czechs' victory over Milan becomes an important element of the collective memory of the community and it starts to function as a myth, sometimes in isolation from historical reality.

In the following part of the project I wish to examine whether in other works created in Bohemia in the Late Middle Ages it is possible to observe the deprecation of King Vladislaus with a simultaneous nurturing and developing of the memory about the Milanese triumph of the Czechs. I would like to expand the studies on the phenomenon of the functioning of the myth about the victory against Milan in the Czech collective memory all the way until the beginning of the 20th century, i.e. the period when the country restored its independence after the First World War. I would like to find and characterise the reoccurring motives of the Milanese victory of the Czechs also in media other than Czech historiography. We know the artworks of Jan Goth, Josef Mathauser and Věnceslav Černý from the turn of the 19th and 20th century depicting the Czechs' fights against Milan.

After finishing the research it will be possible to answer the questions of when and due to what reasons the glory of the Milanese victory of the Czechs was invoked in the Czech historical tradition and whether there was a narrative necessity to separate the person of King Vladislaus from this event. The results of my research will present the means in which the mythologised tradition about the past becomes a component of national identity. Through the example of the remembrance of the Czechs' achievements during the reign of King Vladislaus, a universal issue of a selective and intentional interpreting of the past, depending on current political or social needs, will be presented.