

## ***The Medieval Chronicle 12 (2019) – Abstracts***

### ***Robert Antonín – Chronica Aulae regiae – An Unsuccessful Attempt to Establish an Official Memory of the Last Přemyslids and the Zbraslav Monastery***

The present article aims to introduce new approaches to the work of the Zbraslav Cistercians, involving two interrelated levels: (1) it characterizes the *Zbraslav Chronicle* (*Chronica Aulae regiae*) as the result of efforts to create a place of memory for the last Přemyslid kings, especially Wenceslas II (1283–1305), and focuses on forms of fixation of collective memory used by the Zbraslav chroniclers; (2) it attempts to find out if these efforts of the Zbraslav chroniclers were successful. Methodologically, the analysis is based on the concept of collective memory expounded by Maurice Halbwachs. Other methodological impulses are drawn from the theories of Otto Gerhard Oexle, Jan Assmann and Pierre Nora; especially the latter's concept of 'realms of memory' is developed. As 'realms of memory' one can consider also books or texts that – as great moments – stabilize historical (i.e. non-viable) memory. In the present study, the *Zbraslav Chronicle* is perceived as a work created with the ambition to establish an authoritative interpretation of Central European history at the turn of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.

(*MedChron 12 (2019)*: 1-23)

### ***Zofia Anuszkiewicz – The Sounds of the City in the Nuova cronica of Giovanni Villani***

This paper examines the realm of sounds in the *Nuova cronica* of Giovanni Villani. The sounds mentioned in the text serve either as a piece of information, or as a rhetoric ornament. In the descriptions of riots and battles cries and the chime of bells are referred to as mere signals for a particular type of reactions. On the other hand, the account of silence in the crucial moment of the urban history or the noises during the great flood in Florence, witnessed by the chronicler, are aimed to impress the readers. When seen together, these cases reveal that Villani mentioned sounds mainly when associated with danger; in spite of his awe of ostentation, he did not write about the beauty of music, which relegates him to a position of a traditionalist in the literary world of Florence, already entering into the Renaissance.

(*MedChron 12 (2019)*: 24-37)

### ***Jane Beal – The Idea of Music in the Latin Polychronicon of Ranulf Higden and the English Translation of John Trevisa***

This essay examines the treatment of music as a theme in the fourteenth-century Latin *Polychronicon* of Ranulf Higden and the English translation of the universal history by John Trevisa. Both compiler and translator were preachers, with special interests in encouraging monastic and priestly preachers, and it appears that they received and transmitted stories concerning music that could serve as moral *exempla*. This becomes clear through an analysis of stories in five categories: the origins of music, famous musicians as moral *exempla*, music and sexuality morality, music and national identity, and music and wisdom. Key figures examined include Tubalcain and Pythagoras, Socrates, King David, Emperor Nero, Caedmon, Saint Dunstan, Syringa and John, the Cardinal of Rome, while key people groups considered include the Cretans, the Irish, the English and the Normans. The essay concludes with reflections on the connection between music and wisdom evident in stories retold about Socrates and Pope Sergius I.

(*MedChron 12 (2019)*: 38-58)

### ***Nicholas Coureas – Chequered Fortunes: Foreign Soldiers on Cyprus under King James ii (1460–1473) and their portrayal in the Cypriot Chronicles***

This paper examines the presence, activity and fortunes of foreign soldiers, chiefly mercenaries, on Lusignan Cyprus under King James II. Their participation on the Cypriot side during the Genoese and Mamluk invasions of 1373 and 1426 is discussed in the introduction. Under King James II, however, the foreign soldiers constituted a social class forming the bedrock of the king's support. The reasons for this are outlined and explained. The fate of the foreign soldiers after the king's death and the Venetian annexation of Cyprus are examined in the concluding section. Why certain foreign soldiers

and ethnic groups of such soldiers continued to serve under Venice while other individuals or groups were punished or exiled is also analysed.

The chronicles used are the Chronicle of 'Amadi' written in Italian, the Chronicle of Leontios Makhairas written in Cypriot Greek, with historical narratives reaching the second quarter of the fifteenth century, the Chronicle of George Boustronios, written in Cypriot Greek probably in the early sixteenth century, and the Chronicle of Florio Bustron, written in Italian later in the sixteenth century. The two chronicles written by Stephen de Lusignan in the late sixteenth century are also used but to a lesser extent.

(*MedChron* 12 (2019): 59-74)

### ***Hannah Kilpatrick – Edward I's Temper: Anger and its Misrepresentations in the Chronicle of Walter of Guisborough and the Fineshade Chronicle***

In one infamous incident near the end of Edward I's reign the king is said to have assaulted his heir upon being asked to ennoble the young man's favourite, Piers Gaveston. The two chronicles which are our only source for the incident describe the ageing king as tearing out his son's hair, flinging him to the ground and kicking him in a fit of violent temper. Or do they?

I use this incident to interrogate our modern reception of medieval emotion, reconsidering both witnesses in the light of medieval tropes of anger across a variety of genres. Firstly, I argue that there has been a basic misreading of the Latin in both instances, resulting in a misinterpretation of Edward I's behaviour as more violent than the chroniclers intended. Secondly, I contend that modern perception of medieval emotion as excessive and uncontrollable has coloured our understanding of the scene, even contributing to that initial misreading. Far from functioning as purely literal report of savage passion, these and similar chronicle scenes employ a rich tradition of cultural discourses to deliberate and discrete purposes in their depiction of royal anger.

(*MedChron* 12 (2019): 75-93)

### ***Dorothy Kim – Simon de Montfort, the Cantigas de Santa Maria and Acoustic Propaganda***

This article examines Cantiga 363 in Alfonso X's deluxe and illuminated miracles of the virgin collection – *the Cantigas de Santa Maria*. The article considers the context of thirteenth-century English and Iberian song cultures. In particular, how does this song culture involve Alfonso X's royal connections to the Plantagenet House of Henry III and especially the royal Anglo-Iberian links in the marriage of Edward I and Eleanor of Castile? I argue that Cantiga 363 was written as a form of royal sonic propaganda in support of Edward I and Eleanor of Castile against Simon of Montfort, Earl of Leicester, who died at the Battle of Evesham in 1265.

(*MedChron* 12 (2019): 94-115)

### ***Jakub Kujawiński – Constructing Historical Knowledge, Inventing Historical Method. The Evidence of Medieval Commentaries and Glosses on Historical Writings***

The article argues that medieval glosses and commentaries on historical writings are of significant interest for the history of historical scholarship. Four types of comments that witness elements of a critical historical approach are discussed in detail: first, comments on technical terms, which stimulated discussion of different aspects of past societies; second, comments on toponyms, which explored both continuity and change in toponymy, topography or the political affiliation of a given place; third, comments providing supporting or conflicting evidence for certain facts. The fourth group of commentaries presupposes that medieval glossators were able to deduce from the text the evidence of past phenomena that were only implicitly present in the narrative. Some cases of early modern readers of medieval glossed historical manuscripts, discussed at the end of the article, offer an invitation to consider the role that medieval commentaries might have played in the development of modern critical method of historical research.

(*MedChron* 12 (2019): 116-145)

***Anna Pumprová – Polishing a Medieval Chronicle: The Author’s Proofreading of the Second Book of the Chronica Aulae regiae***

*Chronica Aulae regiae*, the largest and most important Latin chronicle written in medieval Bohemia, is one of the few works of Bohemian medieval literature that has (at least partially) survived in the form of an autograph (Cod. Pal. Lat. 950, held at the Bibliotheca apostolica Vaticana in Rome). This manuscript contains numerous alterations made by the author of the chronicle – Peter of Zittau (†1339), the Abbot of the Zbraslav Monastery (*Aula regia*) – to the text of the second book when formulating the text and transcribing it into the codex. The article presents an analysis of these instances of authorial proofreading, exploring how the various crossings-out, insertions and other alterations to the original text of the second book provide insights into Peter of Zittau’s creative process, his literary ambitions, his critical attitude to the events described in the text and his suppressed emotions.

(*MedChron* 12 (2019): 146-163)

***Patricia Varona – Why Another Greek Chronicle? Form and Function in Middle Byzantine Historical Writing***

This paper addresses Byzantine historical writing departing from the parameters of author, work and formal genre. Thus, instead of considering it as a sum of individual enterprises, emphasis will be placed on the concept of tradition. This will lead us to approach to Byzantine historiography as a collective endeavour governed by formal and functional trends, and focused on developing an account of the past duly updated and in line with the main concerns of a given time. On the basis of relevant texts from the middle Byzantine period, the development of this historiographical tradition will be traced according to two main purposes: the construction of an organized and continuous account of the past from Creation until the present day, and the additional explanation of the events perceived as most relevant by altering their current narrative. This approach, combined with an in-depth study of the manuscript evidence, can help us to understand Byzantine historiography as a medieval literary product and to connect it with other contemporary traditions more researched as such.

(*MedChron* 12 (2019): 164-191)

***Adrienne Williams Boyarin – ‘Venit iudeus portans literas’: Jewish types in The Chronicle of Jocelin of Brakelond***

This paper argues that *The Chronicle of Jocelin of Brakelond* marshals Jewish types in its biography of Abbot Samson of Bury St Edmunds. The *Chronicle*’s opening scenes, related to the abbey’s indebtedness to Jewish moneylenders, are structurally connected to Jocelin’s later characterization of Samson as heroic. Jocelin constructs a (Christianized) Jewish identity for Samson partly by maintaining two Samsons in his text: Abbot Samson and the biblical Samson, the righteous Israelite who is the narrative counter-balance to the ‘Jew carrying documents’ that Abbot Samson opposes. As is the nature of typology, however, Samson also resembles his foil. Jocelin makes him look like the ‘real’ Bury Jews he expels; even Jocelin’s famous physical description of Samson costumes the abbot this way. Reading for such oppositions and resemblances troubles notions of Jewish presence and absence, both in the *Chronicle* and in late twelfth-century Bury St Edmunds.

(*MedChron* 12 (2019): 192-211)

**Review**

***Jacqueline Alio, Margaret Queen of Sicily (Alison Williams Lewin)***

(*MedChron* 12 (2019): 212-216)

**Review**

***Two Sicilian Chronicles, translated by Louis Mendola (Alison Williams Lewin)***

(*MedChron* 12 (2019): 217-222)

**Review**

**Ksenia Bonch Reeves, *Visions of Unity after the Visigoths. Early Iberian Latin Chronicles and the Mediterranean World* (Aengus Ward)**

*(MedChron* 12 (2019): 223-226)

**Editions**

**Clifford J. Rogers – A Note on Chandos Herald at the Battle of Nájera (1367)**

*(MedChron* 12 (2019): 227-237)

**Sarah L. Peverley – *A Tretis Compiled out of Diverse Cronicles* (1440): A Study and Edition of the Short English Prose Chronicle Extant in London, British Library, MS Additional 34,764**

*(MedChron* 12 (2019): 238-277)