Summary

THE LECTIONARY OF JAN AUGUSTA AND ITS ROLE IN THE DISPUTE OVER PERICOPES IN THE UNITY OF CZECH BRETHREN

The study explores the lectionary from the mid-16th century which is preserved in a single copy kept in the National library in Prague (signature 54 B 81, Knihopis, No. 14 768), without the title and impressum. This old print has not been object of scientific research until now. After providing a description of the lectionary, the study tries to trace its author, the circumstances of its origin, the place and date of its printing, and finally the origin of the translation of the biblical texts. It defends the thesis that the lectionary was written by the bishop of the Unity of Czech Brethren Jan Augusta, and reworked by another bishop Jan Černý. The lectionary is identical with a not preserved work Register božských slov (Knihopis, No. 851). It was probably printed in 1563 in a secret printing factory of the Unity in the Moravian town Ivančice. The Czech biblical translations used in the lectionary come from the Melantrich’s Bible (1st edition 1549), and were modified by the bishops Jan Blahoslav and Matěj Červenka. The study also deals with the homiletic and hermeneutical characteristics of the lectionary and with its role in the dispute over the use of pericopes in the Unity. Finally, it sketches the reception of Augusta’s lectionary in other registers of pericopes in this church at the turn of the 16th and 17th century.

Keywords: Lectionary; Pericopes; Jan Augusta; Unity of Czech Brethren; 16th century; old prints

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