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## Summary

### THE NEO-LATIN DIDACTIC EPIC AND DESCRIPTIVE POETRY IN THE CZECH LANDS BEFORE 1620

On the basis of an examination of the rich Bohemical (i.e., Bohemia-related) material, the study discusses the Neo-Latin didactic and descriptive poetry, which was widely cultivated in the Early Modern Czech lands until the Battle of White Mountain (1620). After it, there was an exodus of non-Catholic writers and a decline in most poetic genres. In the case of descriptive poetry, the study relies on domestic genre studies for topographies and celebrations of inventions, but other genres are treated comprehensively for the first time. Didactic epic was mainly cultivated in the Czech Lands by physicians, its most important representative being Vavřinec Špán. Teachers and clergymen also wrote minor didactic compositions. A frequent theme was the plague, which could be conceived

from a medical or theological-moralistic point of view. Versified reflections on general questions of education, art and human life were usually treated as New Year's wishes (*strenae*). A special kind of didactic texts were university theses and professors' speeches in verse. Descriptive poetry, which mixed descriptive and celebratory elements in varying proportions, had as its theme depictions of cities, buildings, roads, festivals, etc. The addressees of descriptive compositions were often rulers and the nobility, but mostly town councils. The presented outline of the types of poems based on the Bohemical material is not intended as a codification, but rather as an invitation to discuss the forms of Neo-Latin poetry in the Czech Lands.

Keywords: Neo-Latin poetry; Neo-Latin genres; didactic epic; descriptive and epideictic poetry; occasional poetry; Czech Lands

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