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Summary

CONCEPTUALIZING HISTORY IN PAVEL SKÁLA'S "CHURCH CHRONOLOGY": ENCYCLOPAEDIC APPROACH AND ESCHATOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

This article deals with a manuscript of the *Chronologie církevní* ("Church Chronology") written by Pavel Skála of Zhoř (1583 – after 1640) between 1628 and 1630. Skála is well known as the author of *Historie církevní* ("Church History"), one of the most extensive early modern historiographical treatises by a Czech author. The *Chronologie* has always lain in the shadow of the much more comprehensive *Historie církevní*. After an introductory summary of Skála's life and a brief discussion of the literature devoted to his life and work, this article provides an overview of the *Chronologie's* structure and contents. The 47 thematic chronologies/

chapters have very little to do with the work of the founder of modern chronology, Joseph Justus Scaliger. Instead, approximately three quarters of Skála's chapters are thematically identical to its main source, the extensive *Thesaurus chronologiae* (1624) by Johann Heinrich Alsted (1588–1638). While many chapters and passages are literal translations from Alsted, comparison of some of them show that Skála added much new material, sometimes using Czech sources, such as Veleoslavín's *Kalendář historický* (1590, "Historical Calendar"). His textual strategies include adding explanatory passages that were intended for a broad audience reading in Czech, supplementing the material and data related to Bohemian history, and including recent topical events that related his chronology to his period and the dramatic developments in which he and his potential readers lived. As regards his broad encyclopaedic approach to historical chronology, it was derivative of Alsted but not unusual for that time.

One of the most interesting features of Skála's *Chronologie* are the passages and chapters which deal with eschatology, apocalyptic schemes and millenarian speculation. The analysis shows that Skála translated from Alsted several key passages based on the exegesis of Daniel and Revelation and created in such a way an important conceptual framework for his chronological and historical enterprise. A real key to understanding the encyclopaedic and eschatological concept of the *Chronologie* is a synoptic table entitled *Zrcadlo světa aneb srovnání trojí knihy veliké* ("The Mirror of the World, or the Comparison of the Three Great Books") which Skála translated from Alsted's *Speculum mundi* diagram, printed in his *Thesaurus chronologiae*. This table and its commentary identified the fourth monarchy with the north and mentioned the role of the Lion of the North in a historical scenario which opened up possibilities for various speculations and political propaganda closely related to developments in the Thirty Years' War. This context is also important for understanding why Skála copied from Alsted the calculation of the beginning of the millennium. The analysis shows that Skála's conceptual approach to history and chronology has been underestimated. It is the task of future research to re-evaluate to what extent Skála's conceptual chronological framework played a role in the voluminous historical narrative of his *Historie církevní*.

Keywords: Pavel Skála of Zhoř; Johann Heinrich Alsted; Church chronology; textual strategy; comparison of Latin and vernacular; encyclopaedism; eschatology; millenarianism

VLADIMÍR URBÁNEK

Institute of Philosophy, Czech Academy of Sciences

Jilská 1, 110 00 Praha 1, Czech Republic

urbanek@flu.cas.cz