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Summary

THE FEAST OF THE VISITATION AND ITS *HISTORIA*: STUDY AND CRITICAL EDITION

The study investigates a text which previous scholarship most frequently referred to under the titles *Historia institutionis festi Visitationis gloriose Virginis Marie* or *Tractatus / Modus / Historia de institutione festi Visitationis beate Marie Virginis*, or alternatively using a simplified version of the title, the “Legend of the Feast of the Visitation”. This previously unpublished work, whose authorship was erroneously attributed to Nicholas Rakovník († 1390), was evidently compiled at the beginning of the 15th century. It has been preserved in seven manuscripts from the 15th and 16th centuries as well as in two extracts translated into Old Czech. The text describes the circumstances surrounding the introduction of the feast of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary within the Prague Diocese by Archbishop John of Jenstein (1386), followed by the introduction of a new feast throughout the Church by Pope Urban VI (1389). The study presents this short text in its entirety for the first time and situates it in its original context. Drawing on the manuscript tradition and a comparative textual analysis, it identifies the source material on which the text is based and traces its subsequent development over time. The study is accompanied by the first critical edition of the text.

Keywords: John of Jenstein; feast of the Visitation; *Historia institutionis festi Visitacionis*; legend; critical edition; Medieval Latin literature

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