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Od anděliky po zimostráz. Latinský Herbář Křišťana z Prachatic a počátky staročeských herbářů

(From the “andělíka” [Angelica] to the “zimostráz” [English Boxwood]. The Latin Herbarium by Christian of Prachatice and the Origins of Old Czech Herbaria)

Brno: CDK, 2017.

The monograph focuses on the oldest Latin herbarium of mediaeval Bohemia (*Herbarius* or *Herbularius*) written at the end of the 14th century. Its author Cristannus (Křišťan) of Prachatice († 1439) was a well-known astronomer, mathematician and physician, master on the Faculty of Arts in Prague, friend and teacher of Johannes Hus. His herbarium is preserved in 20 manuscripts (from which 15 have recently been discovered) in two partly different redactions and has not been published yet. It contains about 350 short entries (arranged in the alphabetical order) which summarise healing powers of plants, animals and minerals. Thanks to two discovered main sources of the herbarium – the *Liber Aggregatoris in simplici medicina* by Pseudo-Serapion and the *Circa instans* by Pseudo-Platarius – it was possible to describe the *modus operandi* of Cristannus in a thorough manner and to recognise his own contribution to the newly compiled herbarium.

The second part of the monograph follows the afterlife of the herbarium (until today totally unknown) – its use in several Old Czech herbaria and also in the Czech version of the fifth book of the *Chirurgia* by Guilhelmus de Saliceto († cca 1285) and in the seventh book of the *Vocabularius dictus Lactifer* by Iohannes Aquensis, printed in 1511. Although Cristannus’s Latin herbarium had a great success within the Latin Bohemian literature, as all excerpts from the herbarium prove, his significance in the popularisation of science and in the diffusion of Czech medical and botanical terminology (emphasized in every handbook of the history of the Czech literature in the last 200 years) is thoroughly discussed and with new arguments heavily disapproved. The author of the monograph namely rejects Cristannus’s authorship of the famous collection of the book of practical medicine called *Lékařské knížky* [Medical books], which is preserved in some manuscripts, as well as his authorship of another, entirely different collection circulating under the same title and printed five times during the 16th century and recently in 1975 (again with the erroneous attribution to Cristannus of Prachatice).