

Abstract

The Bachelor thesis focuses on the beginnings of the Cistercian monastery in Zbraslav, its boom and its importance right after the monastery was founded by the Czech and Polish king Wenceslas II until the plundering by the Hussites. Author of the thesis starts with a brief history of the place in the context of the time before the founding of the monastery. The first written reference to Zbraslav is in the founding charter of the Kladruba monastery from 1115. In this year prince Vladislav I gave a place called Zbraslav to the Benedictine monastery in Western Bohemia, together with other estates on the confluence of the Vltava and Mže rivers.

It is quite possible that this decision signalled later choice of Zbraslav of the king Wenceslas II for establishing one of the most powerful and eminent Cistercian monasteries in the Czech lands in the time of the last kings from the House of Přemysl. Zbraslav's abbot and the well-known chronicler Petr Žitavský calls it a disposition of God. The king chose Zbraslav as a burial place for the whole royal family and for this purpose a magnificent convent Virgin Mary church was built on the grounds of the monastery, the most monumental sacral structure of its time in the Czech lands. The thesis engages in the development of this significant Marian sanctuary and its primary role.

There was created a very extraordinary written document in the Zbraslav monastery, concerning political and social events in the medieval Bohemia, too. It was the Zbraslav Chronicle, which represents the main source of author's thesis. All of that happened in a relatively short time, during the reign of last rulers from the House of Přemysl and first rulers from the House of Luxembourg on the Czech throne. The boom of the monastery was stopped by the Hussite hordes in 1420. Both the monastery and the church were burnt down and the royal tomb was devastated, too. The Royal Hall or *Aula Regia* as it was called by its founder, did not gain its original fame and importance never again, even though the monastery was not shut down until the rule of Joseph II.