

Iconography of the Czech written Utraquist graduals

Abstract: My doctoral thesis is devoted to the iconographic problems of painting decorations of a specific type of liturgical manuscripts. The subject of my doctoral thesis are illuminated chant books (graduals) with Czech texts of Gregorian chant, which originated in the 16th century for the needs of utraquist Confraternities of Litterati. The iconography of illuminations is interpreted with regards to their liturgical and codicological context within single part of the gradual. In the text, I especially accentuate the topics and motives from the whole complex of the themes which deserve attention and which newly appear in the structure of painting decorations or it is possible to interpret them in connection with the haecceity of the (utraquist) iconography and confessional identity. Heuristic compilation of illuminated utraquist chant books, which is the part of the structured catalogue, and interpretation of their iconography, represents the first elaboration which is fundamental to successive study dealing with iconography of single subjects, illustrations of particular saints and patron saints of places and specificity of the utraquist and catholic iconography in the epoch before the battle of White Mountain in Bohemia. My thesis, with regards to extent of excerpted manuscripts and multi-layerness of iconography, has a character of a prologema to the issue of iconographic specificity of art artefacts of utraquist provenance (music manuscripts of Confraternities of Litterati).