Development of Bohemian provincial Arms in the Middle Ages

Summary

A coat-of-arms is an integral part of noble representation in medieval times. The beginning of using coats-of-arms is based on historical traditions, but first of all on practical needs growing up from the war experience. That's why heraldry has strict and firm rules, which are only consequences of combat experience. In terms of feudal system medieval lord becomes an owner of certain country. The coat-of-arms of certain country unites in time with the sign of ruling dynasty. That is also the way, how it happened in Bohemia.

The beginning of the use of the coats-of-arms is classified usually into 12th century, the time of second crusade. In relation to vassal oath with Roman Empire the Bohemian principality takes over these principles and perhaps its first coat-of-arms - the eagle. A lion figure with one tail as well appears in Bohemian coat-of-arms very early. In this period both figures are used by the sovereigns. Subsequently, the lion coat-of-arms, the dynastic sign of the Premyslid dynasty, came to the forse. The eagle is the sign of st. Vaclav, patron and eternal monarch of Bohemian country. We can deduce the origin of the lion's figure from the coat-of-arms of the imperial Stauf dynasty; its origin could also come from other sources. Reduplication of the lion's tail perhaps springs from complicated relationships between Premysl Otakar II and his father Vaclav I. Premysl Otakar II evidently wanted to define himself against his father and in the same time to express his political ambitions and self-confidence growing up from his new symbol. This new coat-of-arms will be used by Premysl's successors and consequently will become the coat-of-arms of Bohemian kingdom.

The form of the lion's figure is closely related to art development, as it's illustrated by the artistic relics. The form of the coat-of-arms is influenced also by the development of knight's equipment.

- Bohemian provincial Arms
- Middle Ages
- eagle
- lion
- development