SUMMARY

The book presents two hitherto unedited Old Czech Utraquist works by Jakoubek of Stříbro (Iacobellus de Misa, Jacobellus of Mies, born about 1371, died after 1429), who began to discuss the administration of the Eucharist with his friends as early as in the spring of 1414. Already before Hus’ departure to Constance (October 11 of the same year) Jakoubek presented the matter at the Prague University, wrote his first theoretical pieces and together with his supporters from the circle of the reformist masters began to administer the Eucharist sub utraque specie to the laity. By the end of the year it became evident that it is the laity who badly needed more thorough instruction in this matter and for this reason he composed his large tract O Boží krvi (On God’s Blood) written in Old Czech at the beginning of March 1415 at the latest. In this text he refuted the main objections of the opponents of the lay chalice, namely that it was determined only for the priests and that such a practice indicates separation of God’s body and blood, and compiled a summary of important Utraquist and Eucharistic authorities. The selection was based on his previous Latin tract Quod non solum sacerdotes; many passages of the Old Czech tract are mere translation of the above Latin work.

In summer or early autumn of the same year Jakoubek was compelled to make a statement in the vernacular in the matter of the communion sub utraque specie once again. This time it was necessary to explain the inappropriateness of the decree Cum in nonnullis whereby the Council of Constance condemned the administration of the Eucharist in both kinds to the laity. Jakoubek’s tract Zpráva, jak Sněm konstantský o svátosti večeře Kristovy nařídil (Account on the council of Constance’s decision about Christ’s Supper) was a sharp critique of the contemporary Church acting against the rules of the gospels and Saint Paul as well as against the practice of the primitive Church.

Both tracts are edited as editio princeps, in each case based on their single extant manuscript. The edition is supplemented by a differential glossary of uncommon Old Czech expressions.