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***CODEX DIPLOMATICUS ET EPISTOLARIS
REGNI BOHEMIAE***

Reflections on the methods of processing part VII
of the CDB in the digital age¹

Abstract:

The aim of presented paper is to outline the concept of the issuing of the seventh volume of the source edition “Codex diplomaticus et epistolaris regni Bohemiae” and its digital version. As a reaction to the changes in the diplomatic material at the end of the 13th century (in connection with the changes of stylization e.g. because of the permeation of the principles of Canon and Roman law into the charters or an influence of professional notaries educated in the domestic notary school in Vyšehrad, or with regard to the emergence of the official books, especially formularies), the editors decided to change a concept of issuing of CDB. In the first phase there will be processed and finished the second part of “Katalog listin a listů k VII. dílu Českého diplomatáře” and its on-line publishing in a form of database on website. The second phase will be connected with the preparation of the critical edition in a traditional printed as well as a digital form.

Keywords:

Codex diplomaticus et epistolaris regni Bohemiae, textual tradition, digital edition, Canon and Roman law, charter, official books, database, digital humanities, diplomatic, prosopography

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The source edition *Codex diplomaticus et epistolaris regni Bohemiae* (hereafter *CDB*, *Český diplomatář*) is a scientific and critical edition which aims to make available the entire corpus of Bohemical diplomatic material from the Přemyslid era, that is, until the ascension of the Luxembourg dynasty to the Bohemian throne in 1310. To date, five parts of the *CDB* have been issued in full, including both the diplomatic volumes themselves and their respective indexes;² the sixth part, for the period of so-called first interregnum, has been released in a diplomatic volume, while its index is as yet unpublished.³ Currently, for the section *Codex diplomaticus et epistolaris regni Bohemiae* in the *Department of Auxiliary Historical Sciences and Archive Studies* on Masaryk University in Brno, the seventh part encompassing 1283–1306 is under preparation. Recently, two volumes of the seventh part of the *CDB* were issued; the fifth volume was dedicated to scribes,⁴ while the sixth volume was devoted to the seals of the above-mentioned period.⁵

The publication of the source edition *Český diplomatář* was initiated at the beginning of the twentieth century by Professor Gustav Friedrich, who based his editing rules for processing of the oldest Bohemical official sources on principles established by Theodor Sickel for the series *Diplomata* as a component of the editing project *Monumenta Germaniae Historica* (*MGH DD*). The fundamental methodology for processing this official material was therefore a thorough analysis of the internal and external attributes of every charter (known as *Sickel's method*). The results of this analysis were crucial in determining the environment of the charters' origins, that is, by which diplomatic means the charter was made (by the chancery of the issuer, or the scriptorium of the recipient). Although Jindřich Šebánek, Friedrich's student and successor in the publication of the *CDB*, introduced new elements into the process method of charters, the basic premise stayed the same – the evaluation of the charters' origin environment using *Sickel's method*, under the assumption that charters were created either by their issuers, or

² *Codex diplomaticus et epistolaris regni Bohemiae* (=CDB) I. Ed. G. Friedrich, Prague 1904–1907; II. Ed. G. Friedrich, Prague 1912; III-1. Ed. G. Friedrich, Prague 1943; III-2. Eds. G. Friedrich – Z. Kristen, Prague 1962; III-3. Eds. G. Friedrich – Z. Kristen – J. Bistrický, Olomucii 2000; III-4 (indices). Ed. J. Bistrický, Olomucii 2002; IV-1. Eds. J. Šebánek – S. Dušková, Prague 1962; IV-2 (indices). Eds. J. Šebánek – S. Dušková, Prague 1965; V-1. Eds. J. Šebánek – S. Dušková, Prague 1974; V-2. Eds. J. Šebánek – S. Dušková, Prague 1981; V-3. Eds. J. Šebánek – S. Dušková, Prague 1982; V-4 (indices). Eds. S. Dušková – V. Vašků, Prague 1993.

³ CDB VI-1. Eds. Z. Sviták – H. Krmíčková – J. Krejčíková – J. Nechutová, Prague 2006.

⁴ CDB VII-5. Ed. D. Havel, Brunae 2011.

⁵ CDB VII-6. Eds. K. Maráz – D. Havel – L. Führer – M. Smolová – J. Nechutová – J. Kalivoda, Brunae 2013.

recipient.⁶ Other ways of issuing (in the sense of later public notaries) were not taken into consideration. The diplomatic analysis was likewise based on the assumption that until the end of the Přemyslid dynasty it is possible to distinguish a so-called *individual style* of particular notaries or proto-notaries in their charters.⁷

As might be obvious from the above overview, starting with the seventh part of the *CDB*, the editorial plan for publishing new volumes has been significantly changed. The editorial plan initiated a processing and editing of specialized volumes of the seventh part of the *CDB* (*CDB VII-5* and *CDB VII-6*): the editors' task was to research, analyse, and summarize in comprehensive form two physical aspects of the diplomatic material – the script and the seals – from the monitored period. The publication of separate volumes was not purposeless. The editorial plan reflects the modification and changes in the method of processing and issuing of the diplomatic material for the era of last members of the Přemyslid dynasty, Wenceslaus II and Wenceslaus III.⁸ Recent preliminary probes in our sources from this period have demonstrated substantial changes in the diplomatic material and therefore the editors have been confronted with a question of whether it is still possible to unreservedly employ methods which were created and defined for the previous period (especially for the 12th and the first half of

⁶ Jindřich Šebánek in addition to the above-mentioned thesis, defined as a method the so-called “Verhältnis zur Urkunde”, cf. Š e b á n e k , Jindřich.: *Das Verhältnis zur Urkunde als methodischer Faktor der diplomatischen Arbeit*. Sborník prací filozofické fakulty brněnské univerzity (=SPFFBU) C 8, 1959, no. C 6, pp. 5–19.

⁷ For the end of 13th century cf. e.g. the work of Šebánek's disciple V a š k ů , Vladimír: *K otázce individuálního stylu v listinách Václava II. a Václava III.* [On the question of individual style in the charters of Wenceslaus II and III]. SPFFBU C 9, 1960, no. C 7, pp. 75–94, who actually raised doubts about the validity of the *individual style* for the end of 13th century. Cf. also (from a methodological point of view) P o j s l , Miloslav – Ř e h o l k a , Ivan – S u l i t k o v á , Ludmila: *Panovnická kancelář posledních Přemyslovců Václava II. a Václava III.* [The royal chancery of the last Přemyslids Wenceslaus II and III]. Sborník archivních prací (=SAP) 24, 1974, no. 2, pp. 261–365. Later some questions and doubts regarding the *individual style* (especially in the period of so-called first interregnum, 1278–1283) were raised by S v i t á k , Zbyněk: *Lze vznik listin ve 13. století omezit jen na vydavatelské a přijemské prostředí?* [Can the origin of charters in the 13th century be limited only to the issuer and recipient's milieu?] Časopis Matice moravské 117, 1998, no. 2, pp. 311–322.

⁸ The new editorial plan was outlined by Dalibor Havel in M a r á z , Karel – H a v e l , Dalibor: *K edici Codex diplomaticus et epistolaris regni Bohemiae, její minulosti a současnosti* [On the edition of the *CDB*, its past and present]. In: *Almanach medevisty – editora*. Ed. P. Krafl. Praha 2011, pp. 19–29.

the 13th centuries) by Gustav Friedrich and Jindřich Šebánek.⁹ The fundamental premise of all scholarly work and editing techniques, as well as processing of sources in particular, must unconditionally consist of adaptations of methods according to the nature and character of the sources themselves, and not vice versa. Considering the fundamental changes of diplomatic material at the end of the 13th century, it is vital to consider whether it is necessary to reconsider some of methodological starting-points for the processing and publication of the final volumes of the *CDB* edition.

The end of the 13th century introduced a number of crucial structural changes to society, which were naturally projected into the sources, including diplomatic material. During the 13th century, we can observe a gradual penetration of *principles of Canon and Roman law* into the fabric of society, which are evident in the quality, quantity, as well as in the form of the produced charters and documents. The *principles of Canon and Roman law* are projected into the stylization of official documents, and appear at the lexical level, as well as in formulations and principles arising from these legal spheres.¹⁰ Although the true permeation of these principles into the legal structures and administration in Bohemia at the end of Přemyslid era was essentially connected to their gradual enforcement by ecclesiastical and secular authorities, their implementation into the official material would not have been possible without the requisite familiarity, which was provided by chanceries and especially by their educated staff. Towards the end of the 13th century, it is evident that a number of persons, who are connected with the issuing of charters, boast master's degrees.¹¹ It is possible to presume

⁹ Some of these aspects were already introduced to the scholarly community by Dalibor Havel, see H a v e l , Dalibor: *Vývoj ediční techniky Českého diplomatáře* [Development of the editorial techniques of the CDB]. In: Editorství a edice středověkých pramenů diplomatické povahy na úsvitu 21. století. Směry – tendence – proměny. Ed. P. O. Krafl a kolektiv. Praha 2016 or H a v e l , Dalibor: *Český diplomatář – současný stav a perspektivy* [CDB – current state and prospects]. In: Pomocné vědy historické v současné historiografii a archivnictví. In: Acta universitatis Carolinae (in print), or in the form of conference contribution by Lukáš Führer: *Codex diplomaticus et epistolaris regni Bohemiae and methodological approaches concerning analysis and issuance of diplomatic material in late 13th century*, in: IX. Medievalisztikai Konferencia, Szeged 2015.

¹⁰ The fundamental overview of the permeation of principles of the Roman law into the Bohemian charters was outlined by B o h á č e k , Miroslav: *Římské právo v listinné praxi českých zemí 12.–15. století* [Roman law in the deed practice of the Czech lands of the 12th–15th centuries]. SAP 1974, roč. 24, no. 2, pp. 461–486.

¹¹ Cf. meagre publications which tried to map persons with university degree on the turn of 13th and 14th centuries: T a d r a , Ferdinand: *Kulturní styky Čech s cizinou do válek husitských* [Cultural contacts of Bohemia with abroad up to the Hussite wars]. Praha 1897; J i r e č e k , Hermenegild: *Právnícký život v Čechách* [Legal

that those who acquired their legal education at foreign universities could also have introduced elements into the domestic diplomatic material that they may have encountered abroad, as well as their knowledge of “foreign” legal milieus.

In the end of the 13th century we can also discover the first traces of a domestic *school for notaries in Vyšehrad*.¹² Although its existence is detectable primarily by palaeographic methods, we may still consider that collective schooling of future notaries in one milieu did not necessarily have to result only in a graphic affinity in their script; in other words, we may consider to the extent to which we are able, within this context, to rely in this period on the presence of an *individual style* of particular authors of charters, as introduced above.

These questions become more urgent if we appreciate that at the end of the 13th century there appeared a new phenomenon – *official books* and especially *formularies*. These are sources whose content has a diplomatic character, but whose form has changed. Since the very beginning of its existence, the official material had gradually recorded in its profiling elements not only with regard to its content, but also in formal terms. Over the course of time, the official documents developed from earlier *notitiae* (which had a somewhat narrative character), and produced a characteristic style of speech and vocabulary, or stylistic and rhetorical patterns. These official documents also gained their own specific external form and thus also formally differentiated themselves from the non-official sources of that period; the non-diplomatic texts became a domain of manuscripts, while official documents (selected charters) took the form of parchment charters with their own specific attendant features: seals, which over time became authenticating features, and diplomatic scripts typical of official material that gradually differentiated them from non-diplomatic texts.

The sealed charter as an official document entered into the 13th century as a complete product of a long-term evolution. Its form is fixed throughout this period in terms of its internal and external features. This essentially

life in Bohemia]. Praha – Brno 1903; Z e m e k , Metoděj: *Vzdělání a kulturní snahy olomoucké kapituly v době předhusitské* [Education and cultural efforts of the Olomouc chapter in the pre-Hussite period]. In: Sborník k nedožitým padesátinám PhDr. Jiřího Radimského. Brno 1969; B l á h o v á , Marie: *Studenten aus den böhmischen Ländern in Italien im Mittelalter*. Die Přemyslidsche Zeit. In: Civis, Studi e testi, Anno XVII, N. 51, 1993, pp. 153–178.

¹² For the characteristics of the notary school in Vyšehrad in terms of paleographical features, cf. H a v e l , Dalibor: *Listinné písmo v českých zemích na přelomu 13. a 14. století* [The documentary script in the Czech lands at the turn of the 14th century]. Brno 2008, pp. 118–142, or CDB VII-5, pp. 13–14, 97.

‘black-and-white’ separation of the worlds of diplomatic and non-diplomatic sources began to coalesce at the end of the 13th century. As discussed above, towards the end of the 13th century new types of diplomatic sources – *official books* – were slowly appearing which joined diplomatic content and codicological form in one whole. This outlined change in official material could nevertheless also indicate a change of practice in chanceries, as well as a change in the needs and values of people for whom those books were produced or who used them.

Form collections were a unique phenomenon of the end of the 13th century. Although their function has not yet been sufficiently clarified, their existence itself could indicate that the stylization of diplomatic material does not have to depend only on the individuality of the notaries within a chancery. Whether the form collections were used for schooling purposes, or served as a form for the stylization of charters, it is obvious that preserving the thesis of *individual styles* of notaries is, for the end of the 13th century, hardly maintainable.

* * *

All our considerations and reflexions about the changes in the diplomatic material at the end of 13th century lead us to one fundamental question: is it still possible for this time period to rely on the methodology based on *Sickel's method* and *individual style*? The answer is apparently obvious.

The above-mentioned changes in the methodological approach related to the analysis of the diplomatic material at the end of 13th century bring therefore a number of new challenges and questions, which are need to be solved before the new volumes of the *CDB* can be prepared and edited – especially if the edition is still to be a critical edition with a rich scientific apparatus. The mentioned necessity of keeping also for this time period the editing principles and scientific apparatus characteristic for the *CDB* edition is apparently indisputable and it becomes even more crucial for the diplomatic sources reflecting the period of significant changes in Bohemian society. All the foregoing considerations, questions that arise and the attempts to answer them could at the same time mean a postponement in the editing of the current volume of *Český diplomatář*. As editors, we are aware of these circumstances and therefore it was necessary to change the concept of the issuance of the new diplomatic volumes of the *CDB*.

The current trend in humanities is the use of digital technologies in work with sources and their subsequent publication as digital editions or databases. The final outcome of the project *Český diplomatář* will traditionally be a printed source edition, it will be, however, followed by its digital version.

At present we are standing at the very beginning of the path, which will eventually lead us to a fully digital *CDB edition*. The presented paper attempts to outline the concept of preparation and editing the seventh volume of the *CDB*, unfortunately without any demands on its technical solution. The aim is primarily to acquaint scholars with the concept and model of the publication of the new volumes, so the editors will be able to react on possible future requirements and demands of scholars.

The preparation and processing of the digital *CDB* will be divided into two phases. The first phase will consist in the building of the database of diplomatic material included in the discourse of the new volumes of *Český diplomatář* and its subsequent on-line publication. Although the database is not considered as a replacement of the *CDB* and it is obvious that it cannot fully substitute the critical edition, we believe that it is necessary to present partial, yet coherent results of the current works on the new volume. The most appropriate form seems to be the publication of the outcomes in the form of a web-based database, which allows relatively fast and at the same time high-quality publication of the results of the work on the new volumes.

The structure of the database will basically correspond to the structure used in already published first volume of printed *Katalog listin a listů k VII dílu Českého diplomatáře*, where every charter is described by so called *textual tradition*, short abstract of the content, information about old source editions and additional data such as information about writers and seals.¹³ Probably the most important asset of the new database will lie in the thorough analysis of the *textual tradition* of every charter, it means in the verification of forms of preservation of all textual variants of every single source included in the new volume of the *CDB edition*. A certain problem of older, especially 19th century editions, which are, however, still to be used, is an insufficient differentiation between the forms of preservation of charters and other diplomatic material. As various forms of preservation of charters could have different levels of reliability, the uncritical editing of diplomatic sources could possibly lead to even incorrect interpretation of some elements or aspects of charters. Also the place of preservation of charters, recorded in older editions – if there is any – could represent an issue for researchers, starting with an obsolete or not very clear designation of archives or places of preservation, ending with a different deposition of archival documents thanks to their relocation in the past in domestic and foreign archives and libraries. Therefore, it is essential to verify and update the form, place of preservation and status of every single document.

¹³ Cf. *Katalog listin a listů k VII. dílu Českého diplomatáře* [Catalogue of the charters and letters of the VIIth volume of *CDB*] I. (Zpracování diplomatického materiálu pro období květen 1283–květen 1297). Ed. D. Havel. Brno 2011.

All of the above-mentioned problematic aspects of older editions, which could somehow hinder the work with the sources, could be relatively easily removed by the elemental evaluation of the *textual tradition* of charters, and thus earlier than the new volumes of critical edition will be published. This particular way of actualisation was chosen by the first volume of *Katalog*; at this moment – as the primal goal of preparation of the new volumes of *CDB* – it remains to finish the work on the second volume and simultaneously publish the results on-line on the web pages.

In several aspects and details, however, the database will differ from the printed *Katalog*. Unlike the printed *Katalog* the database will contain also fully transcribed texts of every charter; nevertheless, in the first phase we don't count with textually-critical or factual notes in transcribed texts, as they naturally have to follow after the comprehensive historical and diplomatic analysis and are dependent on the methodology, as mentioned hereinbefore. The new database will be gradually expanded by additional information, which will be available as a result of consecutive processing of analysed diplomatic material. One of the considerable disadvantage of already published *Katalog* is the absence of the index, which will be partly substituted by the new database. It was not possible to include into the *Katalog* every personal or topographical information occurring in the material, especially not in those cases, where persons and places are mentioned in testes formulas. The database counts on the one hand with sophisticated full-text searching in transcribed texts, on the other hand with the processing of a "preliminary" index. The compilation of a final index in the sense of a prosopographic interpretation of individuals or personal bonds, is naturally possible only on the basis of consistent and thorough historical and diplomatic analysis of the studied material. The index of the new database could, however, offer at least a basic register of persons and places without any demand on their critical interpretation. In other words, it is possible even in this phase to create a standard list of personal and local names occurred in charters.

Besides above-mentioned preliminary index, one of the strand of the processing of the digital database will be a project, which will be focused on a detailed prosopographic analysis of individuals connected with ecclesiastical career, in particular with members of chapters, archdeacons, deans and parishes. Many of those priests and clergymen worked as writers or notaries in chanceries or services of issuers of charters and as the research has recently showed, the thorough prosopographic analysis of the individuals connected with the chanceries seems to be necessary for a better understanding of the mechanism of the work of chanceries as well as the issuing of charters.¹⁴

¹⁴ Although there are several thorough registers of clergymen and canons of chapters

At the same time, we count with the processing of several other aspects of documents, which can also help with the interpretation of some diplomatic questions – for instance the processing of incipits of arengas.

The web-based database of diplomatic material for *CDB edition* together with the printed volumes of *Katalog* presents the first phase of publishing of the corpus of charters from the era of last members of the Přemyslid dynasty, Wenceslaus II and Wenceslaus III. The aim of this phase is to publish the processed diplomatic material to update existing, mostly 19th century source editions, which are nowadays – in some aspects – hardly reliable for historical work, to analyse and verify the *textual tradition* of every charter and to add and introduce newly discovered or “re-discovered” Bohemical sources into the discourse of Czech medieval studies.

The second phase will be closely connected with the editing of the new volumes of *CDB*. Concurrently with the publishing of the printed volumes of *Český diplomatář* there will also be released its on-line version, upgraded by tools which are offered by a digital environment. Although there exist several methods and tools recently introduced or discussed on the field of digital humanities – such as the modelling of social networks, usage of historical maps and geocoding for the reflection and capturing the linkages or social networks not only structurally, but also in time and space –, in our case it is primarily necessary to create a reliable basis which should serve as a quality fundament for the future development of the digital *CDB edition*.

(e.g. for the chapter of St Vitus in Prague P o d l a h a , Antonín: *Series praepositorum, decanorum, archidiaconorum aliorumque prelatorum et canonicorum s. metropolitanae ecclesiae Pragensis a primordiis usque ad praesentia tempora*. Pragae 1912, for the chapter in Olomouc Z e m e k , Metoděj: *Posloupnost kanovníků metropolitní kapituly u sv. Václava v Olomouci* [Secession of the canons of the metropolitan chapter at St Wenceslaus in Olomouc]. *Vlastivědný věstník moravský* 4, 1949, pp. 121–136, 167–182; 5, 1950, pp. 53–64, 99–116, 141–146), or the index for the second and fourth volume of RBM (*Regesta diplomatica nec non epistolaria Bohemiae et Moraviae* II. Ed. J. Emler, Pragae 1882; IV. Ed. J. Emler, Pragae 1892), they do not take into the consideration the career in chanceries. For the recent prosopographic analysis in connection with members of chanceries, cf. e.g. S v i t á k , Zbyněk: *Kdo byl notář V II 4?* [Who was the notary V II 4?] SPFFBU C 44, 1997, pp. 33–52 (notary magister Velislaus), or F ü h r e r , Lukáš: *Datum per manus magistri Iohannis, praepositi Sadcensis et prothonotarii Moraviae... et scholastici Wissegradensis? K životní dráze a osudům jednoho duchovního na konci 13. století* [Datum per manus magistri Iohannis, praepositi Sadcensis et prothonotarii Moraviae... et scholastici Wissegradensis? On the life path and fates of one clergyman at the end of the 13th century]. In: *Datum per manus. Přátelé, kolegové a žáci Zbyňku Svitákovici k 60. narozeninám*. Ed. L. Führer, I. Musilová, J. Voborný, R. Červená. Brno 2015, pp. 67–103 (notary magister Johannes of Sadská).

One of the fundamental ideas of *Český diplomatář* is, nevertheless, to have all kind of sources available for comparison and evaluation of various attributes of charters or their texts. This concept can be improved in the digital environment by the linking of all relevant data in the diplomatic volumes with indexes and information included in the already issued volumes devoted to scribes and seals (which will be digitized as well). The user will therefore have available a synoptic and illustrative overview of the diplomatic material for evaluation of the internal and external attributes of every charter. The indisputable advantage of the *CDB edition* is the tracking of the *textual tradition* of every charter. The edition does not derive the information about the aspects of charters only from the originals or the oldest copies of charters, but tracks also the later copies and other sources which could be important for a better understanding of the sources themselves. The user has the opportunity to study, how the charters and their text were treated over the course of time; in some cases the copies of charters offer us even more information than the original itself – for example if the seal hanging on the original is nowadays lost, but there exist a description of seals in later copies or notary instruments.¹⁵ The digital environment offers a possibility to digitally publish not only a text, but also images; in the ideal case it would be useful to use digital images of sources – and we mean not only original charters and seals, but also later copies, cartularies, official books and others – linked with the relevant data to even more illustrative overview of the diplomatic matter in the turn of 13th and 14th centuries.¹⁶

In conclusion we can repeat the words from the beginning of this paper that we stand now at the very beginning of a long journey, after which we intend to go. This does not mean, however, that the goal is not in sight.

¹⁵ Cf. F ü h r e r , Lukáš: *Zpřístupňování sfragistického materiálu v Českém diplomatáři. „Deperditní pečeti, notářské instrumenty a textová tradice* [Making the sphragistic material in CDB accessible: “Deperdit seals, notarial instruments and textual tradition”]. In: Editorství a edice středověkých pramenů, pp. 126–139.

¹⁶ For the results of comparison of the external elements of the charters cf. CDB VII-5 and CDB VII-6. On the example of the seals of bishops of Prague, cf. also F ü h r e r , Lukáš: *Stav a perspektivy digitální databáze sedmého dílu Českého diplomatáře na příkladu pečeti pražských biskupů z konce 13. století* [State and perspectives of the original database of the CDBVII on the example of the seals of Prague bishops from the end of the 13th century]. In: Pomocné vědy historické v současné historiografii a archivnictví. In: Acta universitatis Carolinae (in print).

CODEX DIPLOMATICUS ET EPISTOLARIS REGNI BOHEMIE **Úvahy nad metodickým zpracováním VII. dílu CDB** **v digitálním věku**

Edice *Codex diplomaticus et epistolaris regni Bohemiae* (dále *Český diplomatář*, CDB) je vědecká kritická edice, která má za úkol zpřístupnit veškerý diplomatický materiál přemyslovského období, tj. do nástupu lucemburské dynastie na český trůn v roce 1310. Doposud bylo vydáno pět kompletních dílů edice (tzn. samotných edičních svazků edice a rejstříků k jednotlivým dílům), z šestého dílu (období prvního interregna 1278–1283) je zatím k dispozici vlastní ediční svazek. V současné době se na pracovišti *Codex diplomaticus et epistolaris regni Bohemiae* při Ústavu pomocných věd historických a archivnictví na Masarykově univerzitě připravuje díl sedmý pro období 1283–1306, z něhož byl vydán pátý svazek věnující se písařům a šestý svazek zaměřující pozornost na pečeti z uvedeného období.

Vydávání edice CDB zahájil na počátku 20. století Gustav Friedrich, který zvolil jako východisko pro ediční zpracování nejstaršího bohemikálního diplomatického materiálu zásady, které pro řadu *Diplomata* edičního podniku *Monumenta Germaniae Historica* vypracoval Theodor Sickel (tzv. Sickelova metoda). Friedrichův žák a pokračovatel ve vydávání CDB Jindřich Šebánek pak vnesl do metody zpracování listin v *Českém diplomatáři* nové elementy, základní premisa však zůstala stejná – vyhodnocení prostředí vzniku listin za použití Sickelovy metody a za předpokladu, že listiny vznikají buď u vydavatele, nebo u příjemce. Jiný způsob vyhotovení (např. ve smyslu pozdějšího veřejného notariátu, tzn. třetí, nezajímavou stranou) nebyl brán v potaz. Diplomatická analýza listin současně stála na předpokladu, že až do konce přemyslovské éry je možné v jednotlivých listinách rozpoznat tzv. individuální styl notářů, resp. stylizátorů.

Předběžné sondy v pramenech zmíněného období (1283–1306) ovšem ukázaly podstatné změny v diplomatickém materiálu. Pronikání kanonického a římského práva do struktur společnosti, existence notářské školy na Vyšehradě, vznik úředních knih a především aktivní používání formulářových sbírek na konci 13. století mohou ovlivnit (a v některých případech prokazatelně ovlivňují) znění i celkový charakter diplomatického materiálu. Tyto změny tak postavily editory nového dílu CDB před otázku, zda je možné nadále bezvýhradně přijímat dosavadní metody vytvořené pro zpracování příslušných pramenů a zda nebude potřeba přehodnotit některá metodická východiska pro zpracování posledních dílů CDB.

Změna v metodickém přístupu si tak vynutila i změnu v edičním plánu vydávání CDB. Materiál z nových svazků VII. dílu bude vydán ve dvou fázích. V první fázi bude dopracován a vydán druhý díl *Katalogu listin a listů k VII. dílu Českého diplomatáře* (pro léta 1297–1306) a následně celý *Katalog* publikován on-line ve formě databáze. Druhá fáze bude již spojena s vydáním vlastního sedmého dílu CDB, a to v podobě jak tištěných svazků, tak i on-line edice.

