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Master Jan Hus, teacher and colleague : recommendation speeches of M. Jan Hus : summary

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SUMMARY

Master Jan Hus, teacher and colleague Recommendation speeches of M. Jan Hus

M. Jan Hus učitel a kolega (Master Jan Hus, teacher and colleague) follows up on two earlier volumes, *M. Jan Hus v polemice a za katedrou* (2015) and *M. Jan Hus v polemice a v žaláři* (2019). Whereas these previous volumes contain texts from different genres, this book includes one type of text, recommendation speeches, or graduation speeches. It contains fourteen such speeches that were delivered in 1398 at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Prague. This volume certainly does not include all the graduation speeches that Hus ever delivered. Here, though, the reader will find texts that have been preserved under Hus's name in the manuscript tradition and which modern scholars have with greater or lesser certainty attributed to Hus. Currently, however, historians doubt Hus's authorship of the two final speeches contained in this volume. All these speeches have been published, some by Konstantin Höfler in 1865. Others, newly discovered texts, were published based on modern textual criticism by Professor Bohumil Ryba in 1947 and 1948. A new complete edition of all Hus's recommendation speeches was published by Anežka Schmidtová (Vidmanová) in 1958. They were first translated into Czech by M. Svoboda and E. Stein (as well as B. Ryba). Other translations were included in the 2015 volume.

The structure, style, and features of graduation speeches followed rules that differed from those of other genres of medieval Latin literature and rhetoric. In Hus's recommendation speeches we encounter a different Hus than the one we know as a medieval theologian, preacher, and moralist. They reflect a teacher's amiable relationships with his students and their world. These texts provide us with interesting information about day-to-day life at the university, are rife with

humor, and contain dialogical elements and perhaps even hints of dramatic performance. These speeches are written in good academic medieval Latin, but in translating them it was necessary to overcome the problems stemming from the specific nature of religion, learning, everyday life and medieval academic environment. The speaker's choice of 'authorities' is remarkable: whereas in medieval literature the most frequent reference texts and sources of citations are the Bible, theological treatises by early and medieval Church writers, and Canon law, in graduation speeches we rarely encounter Scripture citations. Hus, like other graduation speakers, turns with surprising frequency to the classics of Ancient Rome and secular literature of the Middle Ages. And of course, Aristotle could not be missing from an academic environment. This is most prominent when it comes to the choice of *thema*, that is, the short text upon which the graduation speech is based. We do not find a single *thema* from the Bible, but we do encounter moral statements by classic and medieval secular authors. One of them is even about a bird, the cuckoo. Some of Hus's recommendation speeches bear witness to his relationships with figures who we know from other literary and historical contexts of the early Bohemian Reformation: Petr of Mladoňovice, Jan of Příbram, Matěj of Knín, Martin Kunšův of Prague, Mikuláš of Miličín, and Zdislav of Zvřetice. The texts contained in this volume present them as Hus's students and as slightly younger colleagues. The translations are preceded by four studies on various topics connected to the graduation speeches: the manuscript transmission of the speeches, their structure and the motives used in them, as well as how they reflect the university curriculum with a special focus on Latin grammar and Aristotle's natural philosophy.

The translations are based on Anežka Schmidtová's edition *M. Iohannis Hus Positiones, Recommendationes, Sermones – M. Jan Hus, Universitní promluvy*, Prague 1958, and in some cases have been modified based on Bohumil Ryba's edition *Nový Hus (Nepoznané universitní promluvy Mistra Jana)*, Jednota českých filologů, Prague 1948 (also published in *Listy filologické* 1947, 1948). Problematic passages in the texts have been collated with the original manuscripts. The translations of six recommendation speeches contained in the 2015 volume (*M. Jan Hus v polemice a za katedrou*) underwent thorough revision and in places were modified and corrected.

The texts are annotated, primarily with information about citations and allusions. The heading of each speech contains information about manuscript preservation, when it was written, the addressees, and existing editions and translations. Footnotes are used mainly to indicate citations. In some places they contain explanations and references.