

Mgr. Vojtèch Pelc

(Charles University, Prague)

Bohemia multilinguis: Latin and the Vernaculars in literature from the Czech lands (c. 1570-1620)



The period around 1570-1620 in the Czech lands was marked by a dynamic interaction between Latin and vernacular languages, especially Czech and German. After the relocation of the imperial court to Prague in 1583, a new, international readership was established, while at the same time production for the domestic, mainly burgher audience continued to grow.

In addition to translations from Latin into vernacular languages and vice versa, more multilingual authors began to appear, oscillating between the prestigious Latin and the increasingly popular vernaculars. On the

other hand, there were also those who were quite conservative regarding linguistic boundaries.

The talk will present specific examples of multilingual practice and various methodological approaches that can be applied in order to interpret linguistic choices.