Abstract

The PhD. thesis focuses on one of the partial aspects of the reign of the Bohemian king Wenceslaus IV, namely his rule over the so-called Crown lands of the Bohemian Crown. This perspective has so far remained outside the interest of historians. This thesis aims to assess how the king was able to cope with the extensive inheritance from his ancestors, what governmental strategies he could use to do so, and what problems he had to solve in the crown lands. This perspective has made it possible to provide a comprehensive view of one of the sub-segments of Wenceslaus' reign, which may contribute significantly to its overall evaluation in the future. Several general categories emerged from the analysis (power politics, property and fief affairs, financial policy, economy and trade, ecclesiastical policy, royal administration, and monarchical representation), demonstrating the wide range of the monarch's duties and monarchical possibilities. Based on the research conducted, it is evident that Wenceslaus' policies and exercise of government in the crown lands were in line with those of his predecessors, and the king's manner of rule did not substantially deviate from established practices, which contradicts the traditional image of his reign in the Bohemian lands. The thesis also includes a catalogue of the charters issued by the king for the individual crown lands, where a total of 611 items have been collected. This is one of the first attempts to create an inventory of royal documents and letters to crown lands in a longer time frame.