

Abstract

This thesis examines the medieval text known as *The Letter of Prester John*, a fictional correspondence from a powerful Christian ruler in India addressed to the Byzantine emperor. The letter not only seeks to establish contact but also pledges military support in liberating the Holy Land, followed by an extensive description of an empire filled with miraculous occurrences, where human monsters and fantastical animals dwell. During the Middle Ages, the existence of Prester John and his potential aid in the Crusades was widely accepted without question. The primary aim of this work is to compile and analyze a corpus of all known copies of *The Letter of Prester John* that have originated from or been found in the Czech lands. This corpus is critically examined to understand its dissemination and reception within this specific region. The research presented here highlights the unique prominence of redaction D within the Czech context and explores its relationship with the *Historia de preliis* in the Bohemian intellectual environment.

Keywords

Prester John | manuscripts | Czech lands | Middle Ages | intertextuality

