

FWF-Projekt P17519-G08

After a hundred-year break, the project “Emperor Sigismund, Sovereign of the Holy Roman Empire, Hungary and Bohemia († 1437)” opened a new phase in the systematic and comprehensive research on the Sigismund Charters. Prior to this, the most recent work on the charters issued by Emperor Sigismund (Regesta Imperii XI) was completed in 1900, thus neither the methods of gathering source material nor the quality of the edition correspond to modern scientific criteria. Within the framework of the above-mentioned project, an international team consisting of scholars from Hungary, the Czech Republic and Austria studied “Sigismund-charters in Hungary”, “Sigismund-charters in the Czech Republic” and the “Chancery Practice and Diplomats under the Rule of Sigismund”. In the first field of research, six hundred abstracts of the Zsigmondkori oklevéltár (Collection of Charters from the Age of Sigismund) from the years 1410-1412 were selected, translated and revised. In addition, a number of studies on the character of Hungarian Sigismund-charters were put together. The German abstracts will be published in 2009 as an open-access publication on Regesta Imperii Online. In the second project field, the Sigismund-charters from thirteen different archives in Moravia and in the Czech part of Silesia were collected. Based on this source-material, 180 abstracts were created. In addition, one-third of the archive research planned for Bohemia has already been carried out, which task – together with the new edition of these charters – will be concluded in the next phase of the project. Several studies on related topics in Czech history have been recently published. The abstracts will be published on Regesta Imperii Online as well as in book form. Two other publications on special topics concerning Sigismund’s charters belong to the third part of the project. The project and two of its sub-projects were presented at the annual meeting of the “Bohemisten” held at the Collegium Carolinum in Munich (Germany) in 2007 and 2008, while different aspects of the research were presented at other international conferences. In close collaboration with the Department of History of the Masaryk University in Brno (CZ), an international conference with twenty participants was organised under the title “Emperor Sigismund: Ruling Practice, Charters and Ritual” (6th–8th December 2007). The findings of this meeting will be published in a supplement volume of the Regesta Imperii. Moreover, this event provided the opportunity to make a preliminary evaluation of the project and to discuss its outcomes. The four project members wrote seventeen articles, two conference proceedings and one review, they presented ten papers at eleven international conferences. The project results and scientific discussions clearly showed that the editing of, and further research on, Sigismund’s charters are of great importance and are definitely required by the scientific community; since November 2008 this work has been carried out within the framework of a new FWF-project.