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Spáčilová, Libuše, Spáčil, Vladimír, eds. Jindřicha Polana olomoucký Soudní řád z roku 1550. Příspěvek k poznání sasko-magdeburského práva na severní Moravě. 2 vols. Olomouc: Univerzita Palackého v Olomouci, 2024 (536 + 392 pp., ISBN 978-80-244-6519-7)

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The new critical edition by Olomouc historians Libuše Spáčilová and Vladimír Spáčil introduces an important source on the history of town law in the Czech lands. This edition of Jindřich Polan's Judicial Order for the town of Olomouc (1550) concludes more than two decades of work by both historians in making available legal sources of the royal town of Olomouc, which belonged to the Saxon-Magdeburg legal circle (Magdeburg Law). The series began in 2004 with the publication of the Town Book (*Liber memorialis*) by the scribe Václav of Jihlava (1430–1492, 1528), followed by the publication of the German and then the Czech text of the so-called Meissen Law Book (*Das Meißner Rechtsbuch*) in 2010 and 2018.¹

The so-called Meissen Law Book served as the basic source of town law in Olomouc until the early 18th century. Other towns and villages in northern Moravia were also governed by Olomouc town law, and the Olomouc town court was therefore a court of appeal for them. This Olomouc town law was continuously supplemented by various legal texts. One of them was the Judicial Order of 1550 (*Zusammengetragene artickel in*

¹ Spáčilová, Spáčil, *Památná kniha olomoucká*; Spáčil, Spáčilová, *Míšeňská právní kniha*; Spáčil, Spáčilová, *České překlady Míšeňské právní knihy*.

(Polan's autograph of 1550 and later copies). Attention is also paid to a comparison of the German and Czech versions of the Olomouc Judicial Order. Finally, the Olomouc and Opava Judicial Orders are compared. The introductory study also contains the necessary philological clarifications (e.g., an explanation of the editorial principles). The use of the entire edition, including the introductory study, by foreign scholars is facilitated by a comprehensive German summary of the entire introductory study.

The edition of the Olomouc Judicial Order of 1550 is published in the form of a transcription and respects the layout of the text in the original manuscript. Numerous Latin marginal notes on individual articles have been published as footnotes. The erudition of both editors is fully reflected in the selective glossary. The glossary contains words that appear repeatedly in the manuscript, but each time with a slightly different meaning. The included facsimile of the manuscript of 1550 is very interesting and useful. Apart from the fact that it is always gratifying for any historian to see the original text, facsimiles can be used for various purposes, including paleographical research and the study of written text structure and abbreviations. For researchers (whether beginners or advanced), the ability to compare the original with the transcribed form is very useful. The range of words used in legal manuscripts is limited, and a precise philological edition can therefore be of great help in preparing editions of similar texts.

The second volume contains a Czech translation of Polan's Judicial Order of 1642. Again, the superior philological skills of both authors are evident. This text has also been published in the form of a transcription, although Czech legal texts from the middle of the 17th century are not easy to transcribe. In footnotes, the authors draw attention to important textual variants in other surviving Czech manuscripts. An appended glossary explains some difficult terms from the text. In the next part of the volume, the two basic texts of the Judicial Order are published side-by-side (the German text in the form of a transliteration, the Czech text in the form of a transcription), so that any differences in content are clearly visible. Another part is also in the form of parallel texts – the editors compare the original German text of 1550 with other surviving German manuscripts (the parallel texts are not published in full, but contain only important passages that are different in content, style or contain regional variants of some terms). The last published text is the full text of Polan's Judicial Order of 1568 for the town of Opava. This text has been published in the form of a transcription and does not contain any additional notes.

The reviewed work was published in a well-designed graphic form – the book has a large format and a reader-friendly font size, including numerous footnotes.

Libuše Spáčilová and Vladimír Spáčil's voluminous edition is very successful. In many ways it is an exemplary work. Editions of legal history texts are not usually thought of as philological editions, but in this case it is certainly a philological edition of a very high standard. The text is therefore well suited to a variety of disciplines. Thanks to both editors, a basic corpus of legal texts on the history of the royal town of Olomouc has been made available, and their work has also made a significant contribution to the knowledge of Saxon-Magdeburg law.

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