

## **Erudition and Credibility in Seventeenth-Century Bohemian Catholic Historiography**

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Following the widespread political and religious changes which took place in Bohemia during the Thirty Years' War, the kingdom of Bohemia experienced a flourishing production of historical scholarship in the second half of the seventeenth century. The publication of new, Latin histories of Bohemia by the Catholic clergy was part of the Recatholicisation of Bohemia, as Bohemia's Catholic historians aimed to replace Protestant and Utraquist histories with their own updated and erudite works. These new works emphasised the traditional role of Catholicism in the Bohemian kingdom and Moravian margraviate, and they highlighted the long history of Catholic piety in these polities. To this end, Bohemian historians utilised various methodologies of early modern scholarship to assert their status as credible scholars and to bolster the credibility of their arguments. This talk will examine the ways in which Bohemian historians represented their histories as erudite works of scholarship, focusing on the output of three Bohemian Catholic historians in the second half of the seventeenth century: Bohuslav Balbín (1621-1688), Jiří Kruger (1608-1671), and Tomáš Pešina z Čechorodu (1629-1680).

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