



Jerome of Prague and the Foundations of the Hussite Movement

By Thomas A. Fudge

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The life and work of Jerome of Prague have been overlooked outside Czech historiography, but represent an important chapter in the understanding of late medieval European history. Thomas A. Fudge makes a case for the central importance of Jerome, peer of Jan Hus, by reconstructing his biography using the original Latin and Czech sources and drawing significantly upon German, French, English, and Czech scholarship.

The book traces the development of Jerome's life, paying special attention to the controversies he caused at the universities of Paris, Cologne, Heidelberg, Vienna, and Prague. Of particular note are the two heresy trials in which he was a defendant (Vienna 1410-12 and Constance 1415-16). Fudge situates Jerome within the philosophical conflicts of the late fourteenth and early fifteenth centuries. He argues that Jerome is not only an important component in the intellectual history of the Middle Ages, and a leading personality in the church's war on heresy, but is also an essential influence on the development of the Hussite movement in Bohemia. As the Italian humanist Poggio Bracciolini remarked, after hearing Jerome speak at the Council of Constance in 1416, "this was a man to remember."

Jerome of Prague and the Foundations of the Hussite Movement brings to life a little known but indisputably significant figure of the late Middle Ages.

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Review

"Recommended."--*CHOICE*

"*Jerome of Prague* has long been mentioned as one of Jan Hus's theological colleagues, both as a powerful preacher and a martyr for the Hussite cause, but until Thomas Fudge's study, there has been little about him available in English. This biographical study remedies this, introducing the reader to someone who was, in many ways, as responsible for the Bohemian reformation as was Hus. Fudge incorporates both contemporary Czech research and his own close reading of Jerome's works into a narrative that restores its subject to his deserved place as one of the leading lights of the Hussite movement."--Stephen Lahey, University of Nebraska, Lincoln

"Thomas Fudge, one of the very best experts on the late medieval Bohemian reformation, has produced an arresting and lively biography. *Jerome of Prague*, a wandering intellectual who scandalized established university men throughout Europe, a fierce and arrogant polemist in matters of philosophy and church reform, ended his days at the stake in May 1416. Fudge's book reconstructs Jerome's personality in all his complexity, human failings, and ultimately, his constancy."--Philippe Buc, University of Vienna

"Drawing on his deep knowledge of Czech literature and scholarship, Thomas Fudge has produced a definitive account of Jerome of Prague that bring out the achievements of a remarkable reformer, who for too long has remained under the shadow of Jan Hus. He shows how Jerome, a committed follower of Wycliffe, challenged the dominant orthodoxy of the late medieval church, ushering in themes subsequently taken up in the Protestant Reformation."-- Constant J. Mews, Monash University

About the Author

Thomas A. Fudge is Professor of Medieval History at the University of New England in Australia. Internationally recognized as an authority on Hussite history, he is the author of twelve books including *The Trial of Jan Hus* (OUP 2013).

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