

Adam Bachelor: Connections between the urban administration and the liturgical practice of the Unity of the Brethren in Litomyšl in 1525–1548

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An inconspicuous figure that perfectly embodies the situation of the Unity of the Brethren before the renewal of the St. James's mandate in 1547 is Adam Bachelor (c.1500–1565), known since the 1550s with the surname Šturm and the predicate „from Hranice“. He was one of the most educated and active representatives of Jan Augusta's generation of the Unity and worked not only in the literary and editorial areas, but also became one of the most prolific writers of liturgical and songs texts in the history of the Unity. Modern understanding of the life and work of this figure is complicated by the repeated mistake that two different persons with the same name and title operated in Litomyšl at the same time. This factor also caused that the awareness of the close personal connection between Lower Town administration and the life of the Brethren's congregation in Litomyšl was lost. However, this connection was one of the significant features of the existence of the Unity in this town. In addition to the effort to correct and refine the biographical data, the paper will focus on the character of Adam's hymnographic work, a part of which probably originated in connection with Augusta's liturgical reform. New overview of Adam's administrative, editorial, translating, hymnographic, pedagogical and preaching activities shows that the link between the urban administration and the liturgical practice – which is otherwise known among Utraquists – is also found in Litomyšl in relation to the Unity of the Brethren.