

Peter Wiegand, Markgraf Heinrich von Meißen und das Erbe der Babenberger. Wettiner, Henneberger und Přemysliden während des österreichischen Interregnums (1246–1253)

Abstract: Margrave Henry III of Meissen and the Babenberg Inheritance. Wettins, Hennebergs and Přemyslids during the Austrian Interregnum (1246–1253)

The contract on the partition of the inheritance that Henry of Meissen (1221–1288) concluded between July 1246 and February 1247 with Margarethe, sister of the late Duke Frederick II of Austria and widow of Emperor Frederick II's son King Henry (VII), demonstrates the Wettins' interest in the allodial property of the Babenbergs to which they could lay claim through Henry's marriage to Constance of Austria († 1243). The Margrave's efforts to obtain a share of the Babenberg inheritance were accompanied by an attempt to marry Margarethe to his half-brother Count Hermann I of Henneberg with the help of the Pope – probably not, as is often assumed, in order to establish Hermann as a Roman counter-king, but to help him obtain the Austrian dukedom. Henry's involvement in the south east of the Empire between 1247 and 1253 with the backing of his father-in-law, Wenceslas I of Bohemia, can be understood as an element of a dynastically orientated policy that indirectly aimed to secure the Wettins' expansion in central Germany.

Keywords: Wettin dynasty – Babenberg dynasty – partition of inheritance – Austria – Meissen – Bohemia – Interregnum

Schlagworte: Wettiner – Babenberger – Erbteilung – Österreich – Meißen – Böhmen – Interregnum