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Buchpräsentation: Bishop John Vitez and Early Renaissance Central Europe – A Humanist Kingmaker

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266. Institutsseminar des Instituts für Österreichische Geschichtsforschung

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The subject of this study is the life, career, and public activities of John Vitez of Sredna (early 1400s–1472)—a politician, prelate, diplomat and one of the most influential personages in the history of Renaissance humanism in the medieval Kingdom of Hungary. Vitez was a nobleman from medieval Slavonia, who had spent a large portion of his lifetime as the bishop of Oradea (1445–1465), and finished his career and his life as the archbishop of Esztergom and primate of Hungary (1465–1472). He is also the author of the only extant complete collection of letters from the late medieval Kingdom of Hungary. His life is relevant to the history of Hungary, Croatia, Bohemia, Poland, and the wider Central European area. This work studies the existing literature on John Vitez, presents new sources on his life and career, and attempts to create a complete image of him within the context of the tumultuous history of early Renaissance Central Europe. It was awarded the first Future Perfect New Voices Award by the publisher. The book is available in hybrid Open Access format and it can be downloaded freely on several digital platforms including OAPEN, Project MUSE and JSTOR, as well as in hardback.

Tomislav Matić graduated history and philosophy from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Zagreb in 2009, and in 2017 obtained a doctorate from the same institution. He was awarded several scholarships and grants, including the Fulbright Grant and participated in several Croatian and international projects, including one at the University of Oxford, he currently works at the Croatian Institute of History. Further he edited one collection of papers and published several dozen scientific papers, as well as two popular-scientific monographs and a series of popular-scientific articles. He also participated in the organization of six scientific conferences and headed one popular-scientific project.

Moderation: Christian Lackner