In the autumn of 1228, Přemysl Otakar I was approached by Abbot of Velehrad Albert with a request that he confirm earlier freedoms. On 27 November, the royal office actually sealed the appropriate privilege. In one line, the notary wrote that the Cistercian estates reached to the stone called the ‘King’s Table’ (*lapis, qui dicitur kralow stol*).\(^1\) Inadvertently, he thus drew attention to a place that was referred to as the king’s at the time when Moravia was slowly becoming accustomed to a margrave. What was then the legacy of the ducal age when the local tradition rather turned to a kind of mythical heritage of the ‘kings of Moravia’?

If we lend an ear to Cosmas and his Chronicle of the Bohemians, ducal Moravia originated from the last will of Duke Bretislaus.\(^2\) At the end of his days, he allegedly expressed his wish that the supreme power and the throne (*summum ius et solium*) be always held by the oldest of his descendants and that all of the ducal family and blood be subordinated to him. In order for our reporter to emphasise the seriousness of the moment, he brought the land leaders to the death-bed and made them swear a sacred oath, which became inviolable through Bretislaus’ death on 10 January 1055.\(^3\) The succession order did not lack quite a substantial Moravian import, because the younger, and hence not ruling, Přemyslids were to wait for their opportunity in Brno or Olomouc. Unfortunately, patience was never among the family virtues. That the ruler constantly had to remind his relatives of who had the primacy of power is implied by the captivity of Otto of Olomouc in 1110, which prompted Cosmas to reflect on the relationship between the senior and the younger members of the family. Therefore, he put a moralising speech in the mouth of Duke Vladislau, saying that the land of Moravia (*terra Moravia*) and its rules (*eius dominatores*) have been and always will be subjected to the authority of the Prague court (*semper Boemorum principis sint sub potestate*), because that was the wish of Duke Bretislaus I, of blessed memory.\(^4\) In another place, Cosmas also described the division of Moravia among Bretislaus’ heirs. He explained to the readers that Vratislaus had settled in Olomouc and that Brno

\(^1\) *CDB* II, 319–324, No. 321.


\(^3\) *Cosmae Pragensis Chronica Boemorum* II.13, MGH SRG NS II, 101–102.

\(^4\) *Cosmae Pragensis Chronica Boemorum* III.34, MGH SRG NS II, 205.
had fallen to Conrad and Otto. In 1061, when the sceptre was, according to the will, assumed by Vratislaus, his domains were inherited by Otto; the province entrusted to him was suitable for hunting and was rich in fish. At the same time, since Conrad allegedly spoke German, he was given the flatter part of Moravia which neighboured Germany and was fertile in grain.5

Cosmas’ notes are separated from Bretislaus’ death by more than seven decades. One can therefore only speculate on where reliable memories end and what belongs to the chronicler’s present, that is, the first quarter of the 12th century. Furthermore, it is hard not to notice slight discrepancies. The account of the years 1055 and 1061 emphasises that the provinces in Moravia were assigned by the duke of Bohemia; in another place, however, the author wrote without hesitation that Conrad governed a territory that fell to him by lot and through the line of inheritance (sorte ac funiculo hereditatis).6 An interesting commentary has been left by the Prague canon Vincentius as well. In 1142 the Bohemians who were of more noble origin allegedly committed injustice when they fled Moravia and asked Duke of Znojmo Conrad to set out on a campaign to Bohemia. This was followed by the warning of the ducal court that the malcontents should adhere to their oaths of allegiance and that the rebellious Přemyslids should rule exclusively in the lands entrusted to them by the duke.7 What was then decisive in Moravia? The will of the Prague duke or silently shared inheritance rights?

Both seem to be the case. From time to time, the ruling duke (senior) was able to enforce perfect obedience, from which it was only a small step to the idea to exclude the pretenders from the succession. This necessarily affected the lives of the Moravian governors, because both presumed and real injustice began to shape the special relationship of the Přemyslid dukes with Brno (Znojmo) or Olomouc. That Moravia slowly became the home of younger dukes is proved by the foundation of two rich monasteries, which were established with the intention of building a family vault in them. The foundations of the older of the two were laid by Duke of Olomouc Otto with the support of his wife Euphemia in 1077, when he brought a colony of Benedictines to Hradisko near Olomouc. The beginnings of the second institution reach to 1101, when Ulrich and Luitpold agreed jointly to build a monastery in Třebíč, on the border between Brno and Znojmo Moravia, whose construction they entrusted to Bishop of Prague Hermann three years later.

5 Cosmae Pragensis Chronica Boemorum II.18, MGH SRG NS II, 110–111.
6 Cosmae Pragensis Chronica Boemorum II.43, MGH SRG NS II, 149.
7 Vincentii canonici Pragensis Annales, FRB II, 410–411; Kernbach 2010, 94–118.