

THOMAS A. FUDGE

Waking the Dead: Discovering Jerome of Prague ... and his Beard!

Abstract

This paper examines the historiography of Jerome of Prague (c. 1378–1416), a late medieval itinerant Czech intellectual who wore an infamous great beard, and discovers that outside Czech-language scholarship there has been little serious study of Jerome. This can be partially explained to the extent that Jerome's historical identity was lost in the memory of his better-known colleague Jan Hus. A brief analysis is offered of Jerome's contribution to the history of ideas and the world of late medieval philosophy. This is best seen in two separate heresy trials. An important contemporary letter by Poggio Bracciolini underscores why Jerome was a man worthy of being remembered.