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Myths of Origin and the Art of Etymology in Medieval Chronicles Written in Bohemia, Poland, Croatia, and Hungary

In this paper I examine myths of origin contained in Czech and Polish late medieval chronicles (with a few examples from Croatian and Hungarian sources) within the context of medieval rhetoric and grammar. Particularly, I explore the influence of Isidore of Seville's *Etymologiae* on the way linguistic material is brought into play to construct and validate historical narratives. One of the objects of my paper – relevant to the concept of the workshop – is to demonstrate that late medieval authors writing in the central and southern European lands were not strangers to what is usually perceived as “Western European” rhetoric and operated within the shared Latinate tradition.