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**The Newly Conserved and Determined Textiles from the Graves of Relatives of the Czech Rulers from St. Vitus Cathedral: the Romanesque Baptised Children Garment and So-called *cruseler***

1. The Czech duke Bretislav II. died in 1100. He was first buried in the grave situated near the Romanesque Basilica of St. Vitus on the burial-ground (other graves belonging to the people living at Prague Castle were also situated there). The stone chapel connected with the basilica was soon erected above the grave. The content of the grave was transferred to the newly built gothic St. Vitus Cathedral at the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century where a tomb was made for this sake according to written sources.

The tomb was opened in 2002. According to the anthropological research, the skeleton of Bretislav II. was not found there, but two small children's skeletons (just born and about two years old) were placed there and also the skeletons of two women. That means that when the grave was transferred, different skeletons were put into the duke's grave.

Small textile fragments were found among the bones belonging to the children. After the conservation of the textiles was made in 2010, we can now say that the textiles represent a very small shirt made of tender silken material and short trousers. A golden cross is embroidered on the hood of the shirt, therefore we can determine this garment as a baptism garment which was positioned in the grave after the death of the child. We suppose that the garment – because of archaeological circumstances – could have been made in Romanesque times and imported from Spain. The child who was dressed in it could have been any child from the Přemyslid ruler dynasty and probably lived in the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

2. The old crypt was built by Charles IV. around 1350 in the newly built Cathedral of St. Vitus. The emperor himself, then his four wives and sons John of Görlitz and Wenceslaus IV. were buried there in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, Ladislaus Posthumous and George of Podebrady in the 15<sup>th</sup> century and Ferdinand I., his wife Anna from Jageillo and granddaughter Eleonora in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The remains of Czech rulers together with the remains of their relatives were relocated in 1580 to the new crypt situated nearby. All wives of Charles IV. were placed in one common coffin by this occasion. When the construction of the St. Vitus Cathedral was about to be finished in 1928, the crypt was adapted. Its content was then gradually taken up to the church. Packed and conserved remains were placed in the newly made sarcophagus in 1933, but without the funerary equipment, especially textiles, which took place as a member of Prague Castle collections.

The unique woman's veil, the so called *cruseler*, was conserved in 2009. It was made from a tender silken material, the selvedges were frilled at both sides. The veil was arranged from 17 layers of textile. It was worn as follows: one piece of combined textile covered the head from the top, the second, similar to the first, was connected under the chin. The veil belonged to one of the four wives of Charles IV., she used it and then the veil was used as a part of the funerary garment.

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