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Wolverton's "Cosmas of Prague: Narrative, Classicism, Politics" (Book Review)

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The book concludes with a list of Dockery's professional achievements from 1984 to 2014, including publications, presentations, research and leadership activities.

These essays will have particular appeal for leaders in Christian higher education for whom Dockery's leadership provides a model for Christian cultural engagement. This book is recommended for seminary and academic libraries.

Cosmas of Prague: Narrative, Classicism, Politics,

by Lisa Wolverton. Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press,
2015. 328 pp. \$65.00. ISBN 9780813226910

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Since I had been to Prague a couple of times, *Cosmas of Prague* caught my eye. What I did not realize, however, is that it is a detailed analysis of a medieval book, *Chronica Boemorum* (*The Chronicle of the Czechs*). Written in Latin by Cosmas, an elderly Czech secular canon in the Prague cathedral chapter, it is actually three books that detail Czech history from its first inhabitants, to their conversion to Christianity, to events contemporary with the author in 1125. This is the only account of the eleventh and twelfth century Czech history that has been found.

The author performed her research and wrote her book while on sabbatical from the University of Oregon. One of the main reasons for her tackling this project was that until then no book in the English language had been written to analyze Cosmas' work. Some of the areas that she tackled were Cosmas' treatment of politics, power, and the role of women in the church. Included in some of the stories that she examines are quotes from the books that she translated from the original Latin.

This is a very specialized book that would not fit in every library. A large academic library that had a copy of Cosmas' books would definitely benefit by having a copy of Ms. Wolverton's analysis. She appears to have done her research very well, but without Cosmas' books it is not of much value except to pique a person's interest in the original.