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ABOUT THE CULT OF ST VITUS AMONG THE SLAVS

*(Summary)*

The article is mainly designed to discuss the questions of possible ways and directions of penetration of the cult of St Vitus (an early Christian saint who originated from Southern Italy and who can be designated as a Western both by his origin and also because of the extension of his cult) among the Slavs primarily from a hagiographic point of view. The analysis is based on treating questions about the dating, provenance, and interrelations of preserved Slavonic translations of St Vitus' life. In conclusion the author assumes that the cult of St Vitus was promoted at the end of the 9th century among the Western Slavs (Czechs), and the first Slavonic translation of the saint's life could be dated most likely in Great Moravian period of Slavonic literature, possibly connected with the activity of Bishop Methodius. Later, along with the cult of the saint it penetrated in the Southern Slavs' territories, where from the 10th or 11th century it spread among the Eastern Slavs, which, however, does not exclude the possibility of a double penetration of St Vitus' cult among the Eastern Slavs both from the South and the West.