



D'Orient en Occident. Les Templiers des origines à la fin du XIIe siècle. Actes du colloque international Troyes-Abbaye de Clairvaux, 3–5 novembre 2021. Edited by Arnaud Baudin and Philippe Josserand. Gent: Snoeck, 2023. 415 pp., ill. ISBN: 978-9-461-61753-8.

The second Troyes Templar conference (following that on the Order's economy in 2012), convened under the auspices of the Templar Route European Federation, focused on the origins of this institution in the twelfth century. The first part of the respective volume is dedicated to the narrative sources, beginning with a paper by Pierre-Vincent Claverie (pp. 20–26) on the description of the Order's foundation in the chronicle of William of Tyre, which is a critical narrative and not a panegyric like the one by Jacques de Vitry. Thierry Leroy (pp. 27–39) observes the representations of Master Hugues de Payns in literature and images until the twenty-first century. Pierre Mollier (pp. 40–55) presents a paper on the use of Templar imaginary in modern-era masonry. Finally, Philippe Josserand (pp. 56–67) offers a study on the perception of the Order's foundation in the historiography. The volume's second part addresses the foundation in the strict sense, beginning with a paper on this specific topic and related issues by Simonetta Cerrini (pp. 70–86). Sonia Merli (pp. 87–104) comments on pilgrimages in the Holy Land during the eleventh and twelfth centuries. Arnaud Baudin (pp. 105–121) presents a biography of Hugues de Blois, a captivating story of a nobleman from Champagne who became a member of the Templar community (but perhaps not a fully professed one) in its beginnings. The paper by Bruno Lemesle (pp. 122–134) deals with Count Foulques V of Anjou, his network of relations, and their activities in the Latin East. The *status quaestions* regarding the perception of the figure of St. Bernard of Clairvaux and his interaction with the Templars is examined by Annie Noblesse-Rocher (pp. 135–146). Florian Besson (pp. 147–159) analyzes the conflict between the Templars and King Amalric I of Jerusalem in 1172, such as it is described by William of Tyre, with a strong connection to the history of the Assassins. Finally, Marie-Adélaïde Nielen (pp. 160–177) examines the seals of the barons of the Holy Land. The volume's third part is dedicated to the institutional and religious aspects as well as originalities of the Templar Order. Wolf Zöller (pp. 180–193) makes a comparison between the Templars and the smaller communities of regular

Augustinian canons in the crusader states. Florent Cygler (pp. 194–203) proceeds with a semantic analysis of the term *ordo* (“order”) in the twelfth century, representing the Templars as members of a “new form of religion.” Jochen Schenk (pp. 204–219) considers the processes of institutionalisation in the Order of the Temple (general chapter, visitations, legislation, literacy, and symbolic communication). Helen Nicholson (pp. 220–233) examines the attitude of the Christian (and Muslim) authors towards the Templars between 1120 and 1150, all with few notable exceptions favourable to the Order. Marie-Anna Chevalier (pp. 234–251) offers a similar analysis regarding Eastern Christians’ attitudes towards the Temple, often considered a synonym for all the military orders. Karl Borchardt (pp. 252–269) presents an overview of the Templars’ history and administration in Central Europe during the twelfth century. Luís Filipe Oliveira (pp. 270–283) does the same for the Kingdom of Portugal in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. The volume’s fourth part is dedicated to “material traces” of the Templars’ presence. Jean Mesqui (pp. 286–307) presents the *status quaestionis* of the research on twelfth-century Templar castles in the Middle East and the Iberian Peninsula, where a lot of gaps remain to be filled. François Gilet’s paper (pp. 308–327) focuses on La Tour de Détroit, the location (between Haifa and Caesarea) of the first mission of the knights of Hugues de Payns in the Holy Land, and on several other sites of the Order in the East where remains of their presence are still to be seen. Vardit R. Shotten-Hallel (pp. 328–342) examines Château-Pèlerin, the respective state of research, and the current situation of the castle’s ruins. Vincent Marchaisseau, Cédric Moulis, Cédric Roms, and Pierre Testard (pp. 343–371) offer a thorough and very useful paper on the first commanderies of the Templar Order in the North-East of France. In the conclusion (pp. 372–379), Julien Théry emphasises the accessibility of this volume to the audience of non-specialists in the framework of “public history.” He then notes the importance of the lapse of time between 1050 and 1150 in the history of medieval institutions, the evolution of studies on the military orders during the last decades, and the multiplicity of aspects that this field of research in general and the present book in particular are examining, and he focuses on the definition, self-awareness, perception, and institutionalisation of the Templars and of their Order. Some aspects treated in the volume, such as the Templars’ links to the Western aristocracy, deserve further research: for Théry, those links could partially explain the attack of Philip IV of France against the Order. The volume also features the abstracts of the papers presented (pp. 382–401) as well as indexes of places and names (pp. 402–414).

The Troyes conferences have now been transformed in regular meetings on Templar history, held every four years, and we have to be thankful to the organisers of these events. The Templar Route European Federation as a sponsoring host offers commendable opportunities for scholarly progress as evidenced by the credibility and seriousness of the scientific institutions that are joining it: at Troyes, this is obviously the case. As noted by Théry, this volume, more than the one of the first Troyes conference, is also geared towards history buffs. There is a community of people interested in the Templars, who conduct research on this topic without belonging to the scientific community but who, for example in the case of France, can sometimes offer valuable insights. This book, composed of high-level short papers written by specialists in a comprehensible style, is certainly a winning solution. Not all papers are of same level of interest, but most of them offer new data and ideas about a specific and very original phenomenon: the foundation and beginnings of the Templar Order.

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