



***Zwischen Mittelmeer und Baltikum. Festschrift für Hubert Houben zum 70. Geburtstag.*** Edited by Udo Arnold, Roman Czaja, and Jürgen Sarnowsky. **Quellen und Studien zur Geschichte des Deutschen Ordens 90, Veröffentlichungen der Internationalen Historischen Kommission zur Erforschung des Deutschen Ordens 21.** Weimar: VDG Verlag, 2023. 451 pp. ISBN: 978-3-89739-978-5.

The collection of articles under review here is the 90th publication in the distinguished series “*Quellen und Studien zur Geschichte des Deutschen Ordens*” and was assembled to honour Prof. Hubert Houben’s 70th birthday. To mark this occasion, the editors begin the volume with a brief scholarly biography of the honoree.

The collection features 22 articles contributed by an international group of scholars. It opens with a piece by Udo Arnold, who explores the 800-year history of the Teutonic Order’s presence in Rome, focusing particularly on the position of the Procurators General, whose role consisted of managing the Order’s relationship with the Holy See. Following this, Barbara Bombi examines medieval Prussian-English relations through the lens of Teutonic diplomatic activity, with a special emphasis on the towns and trade networks involved. Her analysis is based on five documents from the late 14th and early 15th centuries, housed in The National Archives in London. One of these documents is included as an appendix to her article. In the subsequent article, Renger E. de Bruin investigates the phenomenon of Dutch “Order dynasties” in the modern era, using the example of four members of the van Reede family. Roman Czaja then shifts the focus to the Teutonic Order’s urban investments in Prussia, highlighting its contributions to the establishment of trading posts and the construction of town walls. Wiesław Długokęcki, in turn, examines the offices of cantor and prior at Marienburg Castle in the first half of the 15th century. Maciej Dorna follows with an investigation into the origins of the Order in Prussia, tracing its early history alongside the short-lived “Order of Dobrzyń” (*milites Christi de Dobrin*). Michalina Duda and Sławomir Józwiak then explore a different subject, focusing on the topography of the Paris headquarters of the Templar Order in the late 13th and early 14th centuries. Their study is based on written sources, particularly the trial records of the Templars. In the subsequent article, Helmut Flachenecker analyzes the relationships between the



secretaries of the chancelleries of the Teutonic Order in Holy Roman Empire and Livonia, highlighting the evolving nature of clerical staff in the first half of the 16th century. A piece by Johannes Götz follows, in which he meticulously investigates what appears to be a forged document attributed to pseudo-Great Master Wilhelm von Urenbach, concerning the 13th-century division of Courland. Götz, too, provides an edition of the suspect document in an appendix. The next two articles are also dedicated to the publication of primary sources. Dieter Heckmann presents a 1492 visitation record of the Teutonic Order's house in Metz, while Christoffer Herrmann publishes an accounting ledger detailing the construction of a castle in Riga in 1504. Bernhart Jähnig, on the other hand, offers a comparative study on the origins of the three great military orders: the Knights Templar, the Knights of St. John, and the Teutonic Knights. Libor Jan contributes an article on the seal of the Teutonic Order's Bohemian-Moravian bailiwick commander during the Middle Ages. Rafał Kubicki shifts the focus to the relationship between the Teutonic Order and the Cistercian abbey in Pelplin during the first half of the 14th century. Anette Löffler, in her detailed study, examines the construction and contents of a Teutonic Order missal from the Wiener Neustadt. Arno Mentzel-Reuters, in turn, explores the Teutonic Order's connections with Emperor Henry VI in the 12th century, using four imperial documents as a foundation to place this relationship into a broader historical and source-based context. Jozef Mertens analyses a 1787 watercolour by English artist Charles Gore in the context of studying the Teutonic Order's seat at Alden Biesen, which was one of the Order's major bailiwicks. Klaus Militzer, in one of his final contributions before his passing, recounts Archbishop Dietrich von Moers's journey to Prussia in the early 1420s. Johannes A. Mol then presents a detailed investigation of a notorious 1428 incident, in which the Teutonic Order's Vogt Goswin von Ascheberg was involved in the murder of envoys from the Livonian Church to Rome. Mol contextualizes this event within the broader framework of the Teutonic Order's strained relations with the Archbishopric of Riga, while also tracing the subsequent career of the perpetrator, von Ascheberg. Werner Paravicini profiles Jacob de Paravesino, a diplomat in Polish service during the first half of the 15th century. László Pószán, in his article, recounts five armed expeditions led by Hungarian King Louis I to Lithuania in the 14th century. The volume concludes with Jürgen Sarnowsky's study of the Teutonic Order's relations with the Holy Roman Empire at the onset of the Thirteen Years' War, accompanied by a valuable appendix containing an open letter from the Grand Master to the dukes and states of the Reich, dated February 1454.

The collection is rounded out by a list of illustrations and an index of persons and places. This publication stands out for its thematic diversity, showcasing the richness of contemporary research on the Teutonic Order at various stages of its history. The articles address a wide range of subjects, including diplomacy (Arnold, Bombi, Flachenecker, Paravicini), economic issues (Bombi, Czaja), familial and ancestral dynamics (de Bruin), biographical studies (Flachenecker, Militzer, Mol, Paravicini), and comparative analyses of the Teutonic Order's relationships with other orders (Dorna, Jähnig, Kubicki). Additionally, several articles delve into source studies and document analysis (Bombi, Götz, Jan, Löffler). Of particular note are the source editions included in the volume (Bombi, Götz, Heckmann, Herrmann, Sarnowsky), which provide direct access to valuable primary materials. This makes the volume an essential addition to the growing bibliography of the Teutonic Order as well as other military orders. Moreover, the breadth of topics covered aligns well with the wide-ranging scholarly interests of Hubert Houben, to whom the volume is dedicated, making it a fitting homage to his academic contributions.

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