



***Regesten zu den Briefregistern des Deutschen Ordens IV: der Ordensfoliant 13.* Herausgegeben und bearbeitet von Jürgen Sarnowsky. Beihefte zum Preußischen Urkundenbuch 6. Göttingen: V & R unipress, 2024. 494 pp. ISBN 978-3-8471-1687-5.**

The book under review is sixth volume of the “Beihefte zum Preußischen Urkundenbuch” series, in addition to the fourth volume of the source summaries of letter-collections composed in the Grand Master’s chancery – *Regesten zu den Briefregistern des Deutschen Ordens*.¹ The editor of this book is Jürgen Sarnowsky. In this book the editor analyzes the Ordensfoliant 13 (= der “alte Hochmeister-Registrant VI”; further cited as OF 13)² which mainly contains correspondences and documents dated from 1433–1438 also including a few sources that fall outside of this date range (1426³, 1430–1432⁴, 1439⁵). Namely, the most part of correspondences registered in the OF 13 coincide with the latter half of the reign of Grand Master Paul von Rusdorf (1422–1441).⁶

¹ The preceding three volumes of source summaries of letter-collections are following: *Regesten zu den Briefregistern des Deutschen Ordens: die Ordensfolianten 2a, 2aa und Zusatzmaterial. Mit einem Nachdruck von Kurt Lukas: Das Registerwesen der Hochmeister des Deutschen Ritterordens, maschinenschriftl. Phil. Diss. Königsberg 1921*, ed. Sebastian Kubon and Jürgen Sarnowsky, Beihefte zum Preußischen Urkundenbuch 1 (Göttingen: V & R unipress, 2012); *Regesten zu den Briefregistern des Deutschen Ordens, II: die Ordensfolianten 8, 9 und Zusatzmaterial. Mit einem Anhang: Die Abschriften aus den Briefregistern des Folianten APG 300, R/Ll,74*, ed. Sebastian Kubon, Annika Souhr-Königshaus, and Jürgen Sarnowsky, Beihefte zum Preußischen Urkundenbuch 2 (Göttingen: V & R unipress, 2014); *Regesten zu den Briefregistern des Deutschen Ordens III: die Ordensfolianten 5, 6 und Zusatzmaterial*, ed. Jürgen Sarnowsky, Beihefte zum Preußischen Urkundenbuch 4 (Göttingen: V & R unipress, 2017).

² Berlin, Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preußischer Kulturbesitz, XX. Hauptabteilung, Ordensfolianten, Nr. 13.

³ *Regesten zu den Briefregistern des Deutschen Ordens IV: der Ordensfoliant 13.*, ed. Jürgen Sarnowsky, Beihefte zum Preußischen Urkundenbuch 6 (Göttingen: V & R unipress, 2024), no. 1.

⁴ Ibid., nos. 2–10.

⁵ Ibid., nos. 597, 598.

⁶ Concerning the reign of Grand Master Paul von Rusdorf: Carl August Lückerath, *Paul von Rusdorf, Hochmeister des Deutschen Ordens 1422–1441, Quellen und Studien zur Geschichte des Deutschen Ordens 15* (Bad Godesberg: Verlag Wissenschaftliches Archiv, 1969).

The book consists of four parts: "Introduction" (pp. 7–17), "Table of Contents" (pp. 19–61), "Source Summaries" (pp. 63–472), and an index of places and people (pp. 473–494).

The introduction to the book (pp. 7–17) offers information concerning general characteristics of OF 13 and its contents. As the characteristics of the entries of OF 13, the editor points out that the contents of OF 13 are arranged in relatively chronological order, although the letters in 1437–1438 are sometimes in no particular order. In addition, most parts of OF 13 are fair copies and it contains only a few drafts of documents⁷ (pp. 8–9). The editor points out that the OF 13 was compiled in the 19th century and it consists of three parts: 1 (OF 13, pp. 1–124); 2 (OF 13, pp. 125–554); 3 (OF 13, p. 555–587), while pointing out to the reader the characteristic of the contents in each of these parts (pp. 10–11). The introduction concludes with information about the material dimensions of OF 13 (e.g., format size and water mark).

From here, the reader finds a list of abbreviations (pp. 19–23), table of primary source contents in folio order (pp. 24–59), and list of primary sources derived from the same period, which were not included in OF 13 (pp. 60–61). The table of primary source contents, which is concise but contains essential information (date, sender, recipient, short contents summary, and place), is useful to overview the whole contents of OF 13 and to detect sources that users of the book may find particularly interesting.

The editor presents in the main part of this book (pp. 63–472) the editor detailed source summaries, which amount to 598 copies (OF 13, pp. 1–587) in chronological order, accompanied with information concerning source publications and mentions in the source collections, monographs, and articles. The difference of style between the table of primary source contents presented in the second part (in folio order of OF 13) and the detailed source summaries presented in this part (in chronological order) are useful for the analysis of source structure and a reference for source investigation. A useful index of people and places (pp. 473–494) concludes this volume.

⁷ *Regesten zu den Briefregistern des Deutschen Ordens IV*, ed. Sarnowsky, nos. 125, 126, 130, 133, 139.

As a characteristic of the contents and topics of the preceding source summaries of letter-collections in this series,⁸ it is mostly composed of diplomatic correspondences between the Grand Master and the Emperor, foreign kings, princes, lords and towns. However, OF 13 contains not only diplomatic correspondences, but also several pieces of correspondence between the Grand Master and office-holders in the Teutonic Order. It mainly consists of correspondences sent from the Grand Master's chancery, as do the other letter-collections published in this series.

We are able to recognize that the topics of correspondences registered in OF 13 have plenty of variety, ranging from diplomacy to state governance and institutional management for the Teutonic Order. In the period of the correspondences registered in OF 13 (1433–1438), the Teutonic Order faced many problems inside and outside of its Prussian territory. From 1431–1435, the Teutonic Order engaged a war against Poland. Although the Peace Treaty of Brześć Kujawski was concluded in 1435, the diplomatic relation between foreign lands (especially Poland, Lithuania, and lords in the Holy Roman Empire) were still important, and the Teutonic Order maintained communication channels.

At the same time, the conflict with the Estates in Prussia (conflict surrounding many claims and complains against the Teutonic Order as the territorial ruler (*Landesherr*)) was gradually intensifying and, a few years later, it developed into the formation of the Prussian Confederation in 1440. This caused severe problems resonating with the conflicts within the Teutonic Order in terms of state governance and institutional management (e.g., the conflict over the Orseln "Statutes" between the Grand Master and Master in German lands; the election of a new Master in Livonia, and the rebellion of commanderies of Königsberg, Balga, and Brandenburg).

The correspondences and documents registered in the OF 13 do not entirely covers this transitional period, namely the dawning of the great disorder in the dominion of the Teutonic Order. However, it covers large part of it. The contents of OF 13 itself are the prism formed by sources which relate to the urgent need at that time from the viewpoint of the Teutonic Order. Therefore, the publication of its contents allow us to view many aspects of late medieval society in Prussia.

⁸ Three volumes of preceding *Regesten zu den Briefregistern des Deutschen Ordens* are referred in footnote 1.

Overall, throughout the whole part of this book, readers see the general outlook of source contents and materiality of OF 13, and the volume is a very useful tool for the investigation of sources. Additionally, when we read correspondences registered in OF 13, the detailed source summaries and footnotes in this volume are of great help and play a great role as an essential manual for OF 13.

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