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The Military Orders in Times
of Change and Crisis



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the war between the Teutonic Order and Poland-Lithuania to be based on all preserved sources, and written from a strictly academic perspective free from national ideology. In the first chapter, *Ku wojnie*, Sławomir Józwiak, Sobiesław Szybkowski and Adam Szweda present the diplomatic and political relations between both sides prior to the outbreak of war, and the wider political situation in East-Central Europe in 1408/09. In the second chapter the same authors discuss the first stage of the war from 6 August to 8 October 1409, and in the third they present the diplomatic activity and military preparations of both the Teutonic Order and Poland-Lithuania to resume the war after the armistice from autumn 1409 to spring 1410. The most comprehensive part of the book is its fourth chapter concerning the summer campaign of 1410 where Krzysztof Kwiatkowski analyzes the expedition of the Polish-Lithuanian army into the Teutonic Order state from June to September 1410. The Battle of Grunwald and the siege of Malbork are given most attention. In the fifth chapter Kwiatkowski and Szweda discuss the last stage of the war – the so-called autumn-winter campaign of 1410/11 – while in the last Szybkowski, Szweda and Kwiatkowski examine the political and social conditions which led to the signing of the Peace Treaty of Toruń (on 1 January 1411). A substantial part of the chapter is devoted to an analysis of the clauses of the treaty and their enforcement. It should be stressed that the authors have started a polemic against the negative assessment of the treaty dominant in Polish historiography. At the end of this valuable book a name index, a geographical index and a very extensive list of sources and academic literature is found. Regrettably, the book does not contain either English or German summaries.

Roman Czaja (Toruń)

Borys Paszkiewicz, *Brakteaty – pieniądz średniowiecznych Prus* [*Bracteates – the coin of medieval Prussia*] (Golden Series of the University of Wrocław, vol. 3), Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Wrocławskiego, Wrocław 2009, 487 pp., 5 maps, 13 pictures, ISBN 978-83-229-3022-9.

Coinage and monetary relations in the Teutonic State in Prussia have aroused great interest among scholars for over 150 years and in the last twenty five years three valuable studies (apart from the one reviewed here) have appeared devoted to this issue (M. Dygo; T. Kubiak; O. Volckart). The main aim of this, the most recent book about Prussian *bracteates*, is to examine the preserved numismatic material in reference to its origin, which means ‘distinguishing Teutonic coins from non-Teutonic ones, and Prussian coins from non-Prussian ones’ as well as classifying

bracteates according to their dates. The work considers the issue of the significance of *bracteates* in the monetary circulation of the Teutonic State. It consists of an extensive introduction (*Wstęp*), three chapters presented chronologically, and three appendices: the first includes a list of the recovered *bracteates* referred to in the book; the second contains descriptions of different types of the coin with regard to its weight, diameter and purity; while the third analyzes the chemical composition of the coins found in Puck. At the end of the book there are maps and pictures presenting the coins. An advantage of the book is its transparent structure. Each chapter consists of two parts – the first analyzes the monetary policy of the Teutonic State, and the second includes an examination of the different types of *bracteates* issued by Teutonic mints and those of the Prussian bishops, as well as coins incorrectly attributed to Prussia. *Bracteate* typology and crucial moments in the history of the monetary system in Prussia are the periodization criteria. The first chapter covers the period until the beginning of the 14th c.; the second, the early part of the 14th c. and the monetary reform introduced around 1354; while the third constitutes the most extensive part of the work dealing with the history of *bracteates* from the mid-14th c. to 1525. Borys Paszkiewicz's work is not only a magnificent study in the field of numismatics with fundamental importance for research on the monetary system, but it also includes much valuable information concerning the social and economic history of the Teutonic State.

Roman Czaja (Toruń)

Simon Philipps, *The Prior of the Knights Hospitaller in Late Medieval England*, Rochester, N.Y.: Boydell Press, Woodbridge 2009, xiv + 210 pp., 1 map, ISBN 978-1-843-83437-3.

The medieval military orders were „international” corporations which used their properties in the Latin West to organize the supplies of men, materials, and money for their areas of engagement. Nevertheless, the brethren always had to act in a regional context. The tension between universalism and regionalism was especially intensive where the authorities, kings, princes, or prelates, had themselves a strong position. This can be exemplified by the Hospitallers in England, where the one and only English prior had a close relationship to the crown. There have already been several studies on the English prior in the last years, by Anthony Luttrell, Helen Nicholson, and especially by Gregory O'Malley who concentrated on the English langue. Simon Philipps aims at adding a new perspective by concentrating on the role of the English priors in politics. Based on the English sources from the