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of Change and Crisis



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*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 14<sup>th</sup> c.; the second, the early part of the 14<sup>th</sup> 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-14<sup>th</sup> 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

National Archives the British Library, and printed materials, he analyzes how and when the priors acted as treasurers or financial source, took over military duties, engaged in international politics, and played their part in the king's council and parliament. A last chapter is dedicated to the pre-history of the Order's secularization, based on the lease books of the last three priors. The main conclusion, not completely surprising, is that the priors were increasingly involved in the matters of the realm. The author tries to justify his approach by stating that the relationship between kings and priors has before only been viewed „as one of friction” (S. 162), also deliberately excluding the use of Maltese sources for the Order's history in England. This approach is questionable because it leads back to the national perspective of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, like the concentration only on works available in English. Military orders can only be analyzed properly in an international context. Nevertheless, the work gives interesting and useful insights into the actual performance of the English priors.

*Jürgen Sarnowsky (Hamburg)*

**Magdalena Satora, *Spoleczny odbiór procesu i upadku zakonu templariuszy we Francji w pierwszej połowie XIV wieku* [Social reception of the trial and collapse of Knights Templar in France in the first half of the 14th century], Muzeum Zamkowe w Malborku, Malbork 2008, 169 pp., ISBN 978-83-60518-17-5.**

Research on the course of the trial of the Order of the Temple in 1307–1314, and its collapse, has been one of the most frequently undertaken in European medieval historiography since the 19<sup>th</sup> c. Nevertheless, there are still many issues to be uncovered. Magdalena Satora deals with one such, carrying out a thorough analysis of the numerous sources of the period, and undertaking to find answers to two important questions: how the French court presented the issue of the Order of the Temple (generated by the court itself in 1307) to French society; and how it was responded to, commented on, viewed and judged by French society - not only during the events but also several decades after they finished. As the preserved sources were produced by those who could write – the elites – it is possible to analyze the issue with reference to the court, the clergy, university representatives, the knighthood, and to a limited extent to burghers. Generally speaking, in all the French social strata, the Knights Templar were perceived negatively, and this was not only or exclusively the effect of propaganda by the monarch and his entourage against the Knights Templar. It is worth noticing that substantial differences in opinion concerning the guilt of knights existed in the circles of lower clergy,