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of Change and Crisis



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envoys and Sigismund of Luxembourg in Udine in 1413 concerning Benedict's mission (pp. 169–178), three maps (pp. 179–181), photocopies of some sources connected with the conduct of the 'sub-arbitrator' (pp. 182–185), a summary in German (pp. 187–194), a bibliography of sources and literature (pp. 195–210), a list of abbreviations, maps and illustrations (pp. 211–212), and name (pp. 213–226) and geographical indexes (pp. 227–241).

The monograph cannot be given unambiguous assent. The work may present a correct description of Benedict Makrai's mission, but in some parts of his book the author forgets that the event took place in a specific political (which actually deserves the least criticism), geographical and social context. It was not even necessary to research the sources to fill this gap. In most cases it would have been sufficient to make use of the available literature on the subject. Moreover, Sieradzan seems not to have edited his book very carefully before submitting it for printing.

*Sobiesław Szybkowski (Gdańsk)*

**Marek Smoliński, *Joannicy w polityce książąt polskich i pomorskich od połowy XII do pierwszego ćwierćwiecza XIV wieku [Knights of St. John in the policy of Polish and Pomeranian dukes from the mid-12<sup>th</sup> c. to the first quarter of the 14<sup>th</sup> c.]*, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego, Gdańsk 2008, 379 pp., ISBN 978-83-7326-519-6.**

Research into the Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem has not aroused much interest in Poland until quite recently. In the last two decades the situation has changed considerably partly thanks to the author of the monograph discussed here. Along with Heś, Lange, Starnawska, Stelmach, Wybranowski and Wiegand, Marek Smoliński is one of the leading researchers dealing with the history of the military Hospitaller Order of St John in East-Central Europe. The habilitation thesis presented here constitutes a monograph devoted to the role of the members of the Order in the ruling activities of the monarchs from the House of Piast and the Pomeranian dukes in various duchies from the moment the Order appeared until the first decades of the 14<sup>th</sup> c., the period of the reconstruction of the Kingdom of Poland. The study is divided into two parts: the first of which presents the complex issues around the bringing of the Order to Polish duchies. It includes the creation of the hospital in Zagość in the Duchy of Sandomierz (and the foundation of the one in Stargard nad Iną), the issue of the arrival of the Order in Sławno in Pomerania in the middle of the 12<sup>th</sup> c. (not proved), and the political context of the foundations of houses for the Order by Polish dukes in Greater Poland, Western Pomerania, Gdańsk Pomerania and the Silesian duchies starting from the 1180s. Smoliński de-

fines the system of factors determining the appearance of the Order in East-Central Europe, including Poland, around the mid-12<sup>th</sup> c., and showed the changes in the form of management of the hospitals within the constantly changing structures of the Order in East-Central Europe in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> c. The second part presents the issues referring to the contribution of the Polish and Pomeranian Knights of St. John to the policies of Czech priors and German preceptors in the 13<sup>th</sup> c., including a valuable analysis of the Knights' attitude (and participation) in the infighting among the Piast dukes and similar political conflicts in the House of Griffins. Equally important are prosopographical speculations devoted to members of the Order of St. John taking part in the formation of the policies of various East-Central European rulers as courtiers, advisors and secretaries in the 13<sup>th</sup> and at the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> c. It shows the considerable scope observed in southern and western Europe and beyond which consisted in their involvement in local policy through individual actions of their members. The work constitutes a valuable research contribution to the extensive literature devoted to the history of the Order of St. John.

*Krzysztof Kwiatkowski (Toruń)*

Adam Szweda, *Organizacja i technika dyplomacji polskiej w stosunkach z zakonem krzyżackim w Prusach w latach 1386–1454* [*The organization and technique of the Polish diplomacy in relations with the Teutonic Order in Prussia in the years 1386–1454*], Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika, Toruń 2009, 465 pp., ISBN 978-83-231-2379-8.

The work discussed here is the habilitation thesis of the author. It starts with the beginning of the reign of King Władysław II Jagiełło (Jogaila), when the Teutonic problem became of prime importance in Polish politics. It finishes with the outbreak of the Thirteen Years' War, the effect of which was a new phase in Polish-Teutonic relations when the Grand Master became a vassal of the Polish king. The book consists of three chapters clearly divided thematically (pp. 26–310), preceded by an introduction (*Wstęp*, pp. 11–25) discussing the subject and scope of the work (pp. 11–19), the condition of the research (*Stan badań*, pp. 19–21) and an extensive overview of the sources (*Bazę źródłową*, pp. 21–25). They are based mainly on official records (documents, correspondence, accounts), but also on narrative sources including *Rocznik franciszkanów toruńskich*, the chronicle of Johann von Redden (von Posilge), and the work of Jan Długosz. At the end of the book there is a conclusion (pp. 311–314), appendices including a catalogue of formal Polish-Teutonic assemblies and Polish diplomatic missions to the heads of the Teu-