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N. E. Morton's book constitutes the first comprehensive presentation of the Palestinian aspect of the Teutonic Order. Irrespective of some controversial theses, the book is a valuable publication which may serve as a starting point for further research.

Krzysztof Kwiatkowski (Toruń)

Anat Peled, *Sugar in the Kingdom of Jerusalem. A Crusader Technology between East and West*, Yad Ben-Zvi Institute, Jerusalem 2009, 287 pp., ISBN 978-9-65217-292-1 (in Hebrew, Table of contents also in English).

Historical research in the later 20th century often attributed colonial intentions and practice to the Latin kingdom of Jerusalem, on the grounds that most crusaders settled in the coastal cities, making no contribution to the region and keeping themselves separate from the local population. This claim has been challenged in a number of studies, for example by Ronnie Ellenblum, who maintains that the spread of rural settlements demonstrates that the crusaders were actually involved in local economic activities in various parts of the Latin Kingdom, such as the environs of Jerusalem or the Galilee mountains. Anat Peled's research describes such an involvement through her account of the development of sugar growing, production and sales by crusaders in the Latin East and in Muslim territories. Dr. Peled, a researcher and lecturer at the Avshalom Institute in Tel Aviv, Israel, presents a new approach to examining the degree of crusader involvement in the eastern basin of the Mediterranean through her study of this essential industry which developed during their rule in the Latin East between 1099 and 1291. This study is based on analysis of historical sources, including documents from the archives of military orders and monastic institutions as well as written descriptions by pilgrims who visited the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem. Analysis of these sources is substantiated by Peled's thorough examination of archaeological evidence and familiarity with the various stages of sugar production.

One of the main goals of Peled's study was to examine whether the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem had incorporated manufacturing technologies imported from the West, or whether its sugar industry was based solely on oriental features anchored in local traditions. By evaluating the historical role played by the Frankish settlers in the development of this industry, which originated in the Muslim period, she intends to determine the extent to which it was embedded in Frankish economy. In the final chapter of the book, Peled concludes that crusader deve-

lopment of the sugar industry in the Latin East indeed constituted a significant contribution to the local economy, becoming one of its main elements. In the first half of the 12th century the crusaders learnt the essence of sugar production from the local population and discovered its potential, allowing it to replace some other traditional forms of agriculture, such as grain and dates. This resulted in the development of a professional, industrial system of sugar production based on the use of hydraulic technology, i.e. the use of water for extracting sugar from the canes. This also made possible the development of a trading network, particularly in coastal cities with commercial ports such as Acre and Tyre.

Peled emphasises that the growth of the sugar industry was made possible by changes in land ownership in the Latin Kingdom. During the 13th century land was almost exclusively owned by institutions able to accommodate full scale sugar production in terms of both investment capacity and transportation of finished goods overseas. The most important of these institutions were the military orders – the Templars, Hospitallers and the Teutonic Knights, who made a crucial contribution to the development of the sugar industry. Their medical activities highlighted the importance of sugar as a valuable medical resource in their institutions in Jerusalem, Acre and other towns in the Latin Kingdom as well as overseas. Sugar was transferred from “sugar villages” to the medical institutions (hospitals and infirmaries) and to command centers in Europe. This is clearly demonstrated by the archaeological findings uncovered at the orders’ headquarters in Acre.

Peled’s research offers significant evidence that the sugar industry also benefited the local population. In discussing the importance of sugar and its production techniques, it describes the establishment of several sugar factories in the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem close to rivers and large water basins, which indicates direct involvement of the Frankish settlers in the local economy, thus invalidating the assertion that they had deliberately separated themselves from the local population. In fact, Peled shows a mutual influence between East and West, manifested, at its peak, in crusader sugar production.

Anat Peled’s research is a unique example of how historical study can be successfully integrated with archaeological excavations in the eastern Mediterranean region. It joins other works discussing the role of sugar in the crusader economy, such as that of Borchardt and Solomidou-Leronymidou for Cyprus, and of Toomaspoeg in Sicily. The book constitutes yet another chapter in the contribution of Israeli researchers to this field, combining history and archaeology in offering a better understanding of the various forces present in the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem.

Shlomo Lotan (Ramat-Gan)