

**Jan Gancewski, *Folwarki państwa zakonu krzyżackiego w Prusach w latach 1466–1525. Struktura – produkcja – przemiany – reformy – znaczenie*, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Warmińsko-Mazurskiego, Olsztyn 2012, 354 pp., illustration appendix, one map, ISBN 978-83-63040-06-2.**

This book constitutes the continuation of the author's research on the economy of the Monastic State of the Teutonic Order during the second half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, particularly on the role played by the Teutonic outlying estates. The aim of the study was to identify individual outlying estates and to characterise their economic activity, production and stock possibilities as well as the changes which they went through (pp. 5–6). The author focuses predominantly on outlying estates belonging to the Order as well as manors granted to private owners (p. 8). Readdressing this issue in a correct way provides a chance of uncovering new findings which would complement the research results gleaned so far by Lothar Dralle.

The book under review consists of the introduction, six chapters as well as lists of outlying estates, including manors adjacent to castles and state owned manors which operated in the Teutonic State in the years 1466–1525, lists of tables and diagrams, lists of abbreviations, bibliography, appendix of illustrations, a colour map showing outlying estates belonging to the Teutonic Order in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries which includes a list of eponyms on its reverse side (a map is attached between p. 334 and 335) and indexes of geographical names, administrative units and personal names. The final part of the book is the table of contents.

The first problematic issue can be found in the introduction as the author uses the term “outlying estates” (Polish: “folwark”) in reference to Teutonic manors adjacent to castles and state manors, including the ones which were granted to private owners after 1466, as well as all other private estates within which manors operated (p. 7), and even inns together with their economic resources. Such a broad definition creates problems and the adverse effects are reflected in the whole book.

Chapter I, *Zamki, przedzamcza i folwarki jako ośrodki gospodarki krzyżackiej* (*Castles, districts adjacent to the castle and manors as centers of Teutonic Order's economy*) (pp. 28–99) consists of 11 sub-chapters. In sub-chapter 1.2 the author includes a table entitled *Struktura własnościowa folwarków i obiektów gospodarczych zakonu krzyżackiego w Prusach* (*Proprietary structure of manors and economic areas of the Teutonic Order in Prussia*) (p. 320). He includes here not only outlying estates situated in the vicinity of the castle and state manors, but also the category referred to as a “private/rented” manors. This includes 883 sites in total, which constituted 88.2% of all the manors in the realm. The work fails to include a list of settlement points which belong in this category. Furthermore the list provided at

the end of the book consists of only 320 items. This means that according to the author almost all of the centres which were not leased villages under Chełmno law or Prussian law could be referred to as private outlying estates. However, in the later sections of the book, the author does not deal with such a broad category but instead limits himself only to Teutonic Order's manors, including the ones which were granted to private owners after 1466 by the Order. He estimates that there were 118 such holdings.

Chapter II, *Zmiany funkcjonalne i własnościowo-prawne w obrębie folwarków* (*Functional and proprietary-legal changes concerning manors*) (pp. 100–117), discusses the phenomenon of pledging Teutonic Order's outlying estates after 1466 in order to pay off liabilities to mercenaries participating in the 'Thirteen Years' War. The author does not go beyond the findings of Lothar Dralle and limits himself only to repeating Dralle's global estimates (p. 104).

Chapter III, *Struktura folwarczej gospodarki krzyżackiej pod względem jakościowym i kwantytatywnym. Działalność gospodarcza w folwarkach* (*The structure of Teutonic manorial economy in terms of quality and quantity: economic activity in manors*) (pp. 118–146), attempts to define the structure of production in manors adjacent to Teutonic Order's castles. The author presents the condition of these outlying estates in the years 1476–1523 on the basis of inventories and inspection documents (table 5, pp. 119–122). The author emphasizes the fact that grain (particularly rye) is frequently mentioned in these sources although he does not associate this with the fact that grain was used as a form of payment from local peasants who wanted to use Teutonic Order's mills. In subsequent subchapters, the author attempts to define the dynamics of animal breeding and grain production in manors situated near castles and state manors. The interpretation of the presented data is problematic however, as it was loosely compiled by the author from the records from the first half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

In Chapter IV, entitled *Areal uprawny folwarków oraz wartość i dochodowość produkcji folwarczej* (*Agricultural areas of manors and the value and profitability of manorial production*) (pp. 147–184), the author attempts to estimate the sowing area, the structure of animal breeding, the economic function of outlying estates, and the profitability of their production. The presented data however cannot be verified by any means as it is presented as "the author's calculations" without providing the actual sources that were used by Gancewski. Thus the basis of these calculations is unknown. The provided estimates indicate that the breeding of horses and to some extent also the breeding of cattle was to play an important role in the manorial economy, while crop production was less significant because grain was provided by local people in the form of a milling fee (p. 184).

Chapter V, *Zarządzanie gospodarką w nowym wymiarze państwa krzyżackiego po 1466 roku. Zarząd folwarczny po 1466 roku. Zarząd folwarczny* (*The management of the economy in the new Teutonic Order's State after 1466: the management of manors*) (pp. 185–220) consists of some general remarks based on literature regarding the management of outlying estates after 1466. The lists presenting the numbers of staff in the castles during the years 1507–1508 are more analytical in nature (table 29, pp. 208–209).

Chapter VI, *Siła robocza i administracja niższego szczebla w funkcjonowaniu folwarku krzyżackiego w latach 1466–1525* (*Labour force and low-ranking administration in a Teutonic Order's manor in the years 1466–1525*) (pp. 221–225) fails to include any references to literature dealing with the discussed issues (Hans Steffen, Grisca Vercamer). The estimates concerning the surface area which was leased out and pledged to private owners after 1466 by the Teutonic Order are also incorrect. The author erroneously cites the data from the work by Wilhelm Guddat (p. 254) which constitute the basis for his calculations. In the final section of the book Gancewski includes a summary of the results of his research, the list of manors adjacent to castles, state manors, and some outlying estates which had been leased out or pledged (pp. 269–306). The list consists of 320 entries in alphabetical order. Some entries bear no reference to any source base whatsoever (in the list on pp. 271–276, 278–279, 281–282, 284, 286–293, 295–306). Throughout most of the book Gancewski mainly uses the collection from Berlin Dahlem (GStA PK) (with the exception of printed sources). When reconstructing the condition of the manors within the local administration, he could have used account books of Ragneta (German: Ragnit) (OF 124), Giżycko (German: Lötzen) (OF 176) and Nidzica (German: Neidenburg) (OF 182k). He could also have researched revenue and expense accounts from the years 1500–1525 (OF nos 193–200).

The author does not refer to the findings discussed by G. Vercamer in his book, and to the studies by Kinya Abe, Hans Steffen or the book by Peter Erlen, all of which are highly relevant to the subject matter. The author also incorrectly interprets the content of the analysed sources and makes some mistakes in the citations. Numerous stylistic, syntactic and grammatical mistakes make the whole book hard to follow.

To conclude; the work uses the Polish term “folwark” too broadly and its typology is too vague for a useful discussion of the undertaken subject. The author does not provide discussion of any new findings concerning leased out or pledged manors, not to mention private estates. Information about them is scattered throughout the book, which makes the work seem like a collection of remarks rather than a body of research into the sources. The work should have been limited only to the discussion of Teutonic Order's manors (adjacent to castles and state

manors), which should have been indicated in the title of the book. The estimates concerning Teutonic Order's manorial economy presented in the tables lack sources which makes it impossible to verify them. Furthermore, further hypotheses and estimates made by the author have no source evidence either. The book abounds in erroneous interpretations of source materials and mistakes in quotations from published works. All of these issues call into question the author's research methods. As a result, the book cannot be considered a reliable monographic study of the problem of the role and significance of outlying estates in the economy of the Teutonic Order in Prussia in the years 1466–1525. Finally, I would like to ask a question about the role of the reviewers. One of the reviewers of the book was Professor Udo Arnold. Did he familiarise himself with the content of the book before it was printed? Were his substantive remarks taken into account? In view of the abundant mistakes included in the book it seems highly unlikely.

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**Marcus Wüst, *Studien zur Selbstverständnis des Deutschen Ordens im Mittelalter* (Quellen und Studien zur Geschichte des Deutschen Ordens, Bd. 73), VDG Weimar, Weimar 2013, 333 S., ISBN 978-3-89739-771-2.**

Die Untersuchung eines derartigen Thema verlangt vom Autor Mut, kann doch die Aufgabe als undurchführbar erscheinen. Während Registrierung und Klassifizierung historischer „Tatsachen“, die in beinahe physikalischen Kategorien verstanden werden, erfolgreich verlaufen kann, stellt das Zusammenbringen von „Tatsachen“ flüchtiger Natur und vager Substanz die Methodik und die Gelehrsamkeit eines Forschers vor schwierige Aufgaben. Um das von Markus Wüst aufgenommene Thema ist eine gewaltige Menge von Forschungsliteratur entstanden, die schwer überschaubar, in methodischer und diskursiver Hinsicht ausdifferenziert und auf heterogenem Quellenmaterial basiert ist.

Unter den Historikern der Ideen und der verschiedenen Formen des geistigen Lebens herrscht keine optimistische Stimmung. So ist es seit dem Moment, als man – wie es scheint: definitiv – daran zu glauben aufhörte, dass die Quellen „sprechen“ und der in den Talar eines unfehlbaren Hermeneuten gehüllte Historiker ihre Sprache adäquat zu verstehen vermag. Indessen geht Marcus Wüst, genauso wie der Verfasser der vorliegenden Besprechung und beinahe alle Mediävisten, in der Forschungspraxis wie ein Anhänger traditioneller Vorstellungen vor.

Auf den unbeteiligten Forscher machen die Ergebnisse der Untersuchungen zu Bewusstsein und Mentalität in vergangenen Jahrhunderten einen wenig gün-