

in the context of war with Poland and Lithuania during which the Teutonic Order is presented as the shield of Christianity and its location on the frontiers of the Christian world is emphasized. The Order's struggle is described as a continuation of the war with pagans that was started by the Teutonic knights in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century. In the face of the opposition from the Prussian Federation, the Order once again attempted to present itself as the defender of Christianity. The study demonstrates how Teutonic knights selected elements of their past to make a better impression on the recipients of their letters. For instance, in the correspondence with the city of Lübeck, the Teutonic Order recalls the merchants from Bremen who are said to have been involved in the establishment of the Order.

The volume ends with a conclusion by Mathieu Olivier entitled "Mémoire commune des origines ou mémoire des origines communes? Quelques remarques finales sur le discours des origines dans les ordres religieux-militaires au Moyen Âge". The text summarises the achievements of the conference and identifies the areas which require further research.

*Piotr Oliński (Toruń)*

***Actas do I Colóquio Internacional: Cister, os Templários e a Ordem de Cristo*, eds. José Albuquerque Carreiras, Giulia Rossi Vairo, Instituto Politécnico de Tomar, Tomar 2012, 341 pp., ISBN 978-972-9473-59-3.**

Knights Templar and other medieval military orders considered the Cistercian tradition to be the basis of their spirituality. The Templar and Cistercian communities shared a number of characteristics and links that were expressed in various aspects of their activities throughout the period of their existence. The nature of their relation was the main subject of the conference held at the turn of September and October 2011 in Tomar – the headquarters of the Portuguese Knights Templar and later, the Order of Christ. The meeting coincided with the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the rule of Denis of Portugal (1279–1325) and most of the presented papers focused on the period of his rule during which the Order of Knights Templar was dissolved and the Order of Christ was established in its place. The speakers recalled some of the most important research problems concerning the relationship between the Cistercians and the military orders and discussed their various aspects in the context of the Kingdom of Portugal. The presented studies included researches from the fields of history, archeology and history of art. The conference resulted in the publication of a collected papers volume presenting articles written in a broad range of languages including Portuguese, Spanish, French and Italian.

The first paper, written by Bernardo Bonovitz, analyses the most important work which connected the Cistercians with the Knights Templar, *De laude novae militiae* by Saint Bernard of Clairvaux. The author discusses its importance as a text promoting the holy war against non-believers and justifying the existence of military orders.

Carlos de Ayala Martínez points out other connections between the Cistercians and monastic communities of knights. In the second article in the volume, he focuses on the role played by St. Bernard and his co-brothers in the establishment of military orders, with particular emphasis on the Knights Templar and the Order of Calatrava. He also emphasizes the disciplinary nature of the relationship between the Cistercians and Iberian military orders.

In the third paper, Pierre Vincent Claverie presents a brief history of the Order of Knights Templar from the moment of its establishment in Jerusalem until the tragic death of the last grand master Jacques de Molay. The study also outlines the most important elements of the order's organisation. The next article, by Joseph M. Sans I Travé addresses the relationship between the Cistercians and Knights Templar in the area belonging to the crown of Aragon. The author provides examples of interaction between the two orders and considers the factors which affected such interactions including territorial vicinity of their estates and the participation of members of one community in the process of solving the problems in which the other community was involved. He also addresses the issue of moving from one order to the other as well as the influence that the Cistercians exerted on the Order of Montesa.

The following article, written by Philippe Jossierand focuses on the trial of Knights Templar in Castile. The author discusses the attitude of King Ferdinand IV (1295–1312) as well as that of the public towards the Templar Order and the accusations raised against it. He argues that the Order of Knights Templar was found guilty and dissolved not because it was unpopular but because it failed to reform itself despite the fact that it was clear that it required modernization. The paper is thus an important voice in the ongoing discussion concerning the dissolution of the Templar knights.

The next study is devoted to Portuguese issues. Sául Gomes discusses the importance of the Cistercian abbey Alcobaça and its connections with the military orders in Portugal from the 13<sup>th</sup> century to the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The author emphasizes the importance of the role played by the abbey in the process of the creation of the Military Order of Christ. His article provides valuable insights and may serve as a starting point for further research on the influence of the Alcobaça abbey on Portuguese military orders in the late Middle Ages.

The study by Kristjan Toomaspoeg summarises and evaluates the legacy of Portuguese historiography devoted to the history of the Knights Templar. The

author discusses the most important works concerning this subject, starting from the 16<sup>th</sup> century until the present and indicates some current research perspectives. Next, Isabel L. Morgado Suosa Silva addresses the key issue of the conference – the process of the creation of the Military Order of Christ. She analyses it from the perspective of the aims of Portuguese monarchs who initiated the process as part of the creation of the Portuguese national identity.

The main focus of the article by Luís Filipe Oliveira is the sentence of the judgment of the Portuguese monarch from 1419 concerning the conflict between the city authorities of Tomar and the members of the Military Order of Christ. The document includes hitherto unrevealed information about the role of the Order in their struggle against non-believers in the times of the Grand Master Rodrigo Anes, when the Order was located in Castro Marim. The document includes some contradictory testimonies of inhabitants of Tomar and members of the Order.

The remaining texts concern questions of archeology, the history of art and urban planning. The article by Manuel Sílvio Alves Conde discusses the role of the Knights Templar and the Military Order of Christ in the process of establishing and developing Portuguese towns on the example of the towns of Tomar and Nisa. In his study, the author provides additional details and expands the discussion concerning some of the arguments and suggestions from the earlier literature. Guilia Rossi Vairo proposes an interpretation of the symbolism of the tomb of Denis I of Portugal in the Cistercian abbey in Odivelas which he founded. The author argues that the tomb can be associated with the monarch's attempts to create the Military Order of Christ.

Ana Carvalho Dias describes the results of archeological research conducted in the years 2009–2010 in the Templar castle and the monastery of the Military Order of Christ in Tomar. The goal of the conducted work was to investigate the communication system between the castle and the town. In the last paper Carlos Rodarte Veleso describes briefly the history of a little known church built by the Templars – the church of Santa Maria do Olival in Tomar. The study characterizes the architectural elements of the church and its interior decoration.

The volume discussed here can serve as an introduction to the issue of the relationship between the Cistercian Order and military orders with a particular emphasis on the Iberian Peninsula. The volume summarizes the current directions of research concerning this issue in the context of Portugal during the reign of king Denis I. Thanks to its interdisciplinary character it constitutes a very interesting addition to the research on the history of military orders in Europe.

*Magdalena Satora (Warszawa)*