independent analysis of the most important written sources from the period and shows an extraordinary knowledge of the literature available on the subject matter, taking into consideration all the most important and most recent scientific studies published in German, Polish and English. To sum up, Gouguenheim’s monograph may be regarded as one of the best books about the battle of Grunwald in historiography to date.

Sławomir Jóźwiak (Toruń)


The publication is the result of many years’ research by both authors on the castles of the commanders of the Teutonic Order. Some results of this have already been made available in journals („Komunikaty Mazursko-Warmińskie”, 2011, nr 2; „Kwartalnik Historii Kultury Materialnej”, t. 57, 2009, nr 3–4; „Zapiski Historyczne”, t. 72, 2007) as well as the monograph reissued two years ago which concerns the organization of life in Malbork castle in the times of grand masters (Organizacja życia na zamku krzyżackim w Malborku w czasach wielkich mistrzów (1309–1457), wyd. 2, Malbork 2011). The book discussed here is a continuation of this research, which presents findings based on source materials which had hitherto not been used. It is a particularly important stage in the research on the spatial development and the nomenclature of commanders’ castles in Prussia.

The authors survey the current state of the research on the subject in a critical and in-depth manner. In the introduction (pp. 7–18) they stress that the subject has so far been treated by art historians and archaeologists, which resulted in repeating the erroneous and obsolete statements of 19th-century German historiography. The main criticism made by the authors is the inadequate use of written sources, which are the only ones which reflect the context and understanding of individual space in castles by contemporary people. Manuscripts together with architectural analyses allow us to carry out a complete criticism of the material. Thus, the authors have included in their work a study of number of manuscripts, for example materials from the grand masters’ chancery from Malbork (Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preußischer Kulturbesitz in Berlin), documents issued by the Order’s authorities now in the Central Archive of the Teutonic Order in Vienna and doc-
uments of municipal origin – i.e. correspondence. Among printed sources the au-
authors have made use of chronicles such as the chronicle of Johann von Posilge,
the Old Chronicle of the Grand Masters and the work of Johann Lindau. A sepa-
rate chapter sums up the current state of research (Zamki konwentualne w Pru-
sach – podstawowe poglądy badawcze dotyczące genezy ich formy oraz symboliki,
pp. 19–38).

In the second chapter (pp. 39–64) the authors examine the influence of the
statutes of the Order on the spatial layout of the castles. They compare the results
of Witold Szczuczka’s analyses with the 14th- and 15th-century supplements to the
statutes (which Szczuczka did not use and which reflect the late medieval reali-
ty). Their analysis reveals that the Teutonic Knights tended to have their own bed-
rooms, which was disapproved of by the authorities of the convents. The lack of
special rooms to organize assemblies of the chapter (the so-called chapter houses)
had already been discovered before. The authors emphasize the sanitary space of
the castle, omitted by Szczuczka, the so-called Dansker, which meant, as was dis-
covered by the authors, towers, bay windows and toilet alcoves. Written sources
are used to research factors determining the size of the castle, which was influ-
enced by the number of the personnel, the infrastructure and the income of a giv-
en administrative unit.

In the third chapter the authors verify the archaeological statements concern-
ing the nomenclature and topography of commanders’ castles (pp. 65–108). Par-
ticularly in the case of the castles in Toruń and Golub the use of written sources
allows the authors to revise the opinions existing in the literature on the subject
referring to the topography of outer castles. The examination of the contexts of
the nomenclature employed in manuscripts allowed the authors to draw interest-
ing conclusions concerning some terms used to identify individual parts of castles.

The subsequent two parts of the publication develop the argumentation and
analysis from the previous chapter. These deal with issues connected with the
names and spatial layout of buildings in outer castles (pp. 109–256) as well as
rooms and exterior buildings of high castles (pp. 257–434). In chapter four, re-
ferring to outer castles, attention is focused on the following architectural spaces:
buildings of dignitaries (pp. 109–146), refectories (pp. 146–168), “summer hous-
es” (pp. 168–177), churches (chapels) (pp. 177–184), infirmaries (pp. 185–202),
servants’ apartments (pp. 203–213), baths (pp. 213–218), outbuildings (pp. 218–
227), stables (pp. 227–233) and defence walls, towers and gates (pp. 233–256).
The authors go on to examine the meaning of the term gemach in connection with
the castle of Malbork using written material describing other castles of command-
ers. They also make the question about the ori-

The meaning of the term gemach in connection with
castles of convents subordinated to them. Such a building appeared in the sources as early as in the 1380s in Toruń. They provide new hints concerning the situation of the buildings in Świecie, Toruń, Grudziądz, Rogóźno, Nieszawa, and prove that there is no evidence for the existence of such buildings in Elbląg and Königsberg before 1309. The authors provide evidence for the existence of two refectories within the walls of the castles of Toruń and Elbląg. The sources from the 1360s demonstrate that there was a distinction between churches and chapels in the castles. The results of the research show that chapels in commanders’ castles were situated in outer castles – within buildings of dignitaries or in infirmaries. Infirmaries were to be found in all the castles, some of the castles having several infirmaries, whose use was determined by the social background of patients. For example, in the castle in Königsberg there were three separate infirmaries for servants, priests and knights. The authors maintain that infirmary buildings were usually situated in outer castles, like servants’ rooms. They define the latter group as persons of noble origin who played a diplomatic and military-knightly service in the processions of grand masters. Thus, they narrow down the understanding of the term as established by B. Jähnig. They extend the terminology employed to define the refectory, demonstrating that the term “summer refectory” used in literature was the creation of some 19th century historians. The authors question the meaning of the term *Bergfried* to refer to the main towers situated within high castles. The analysis of manuscripts shows that the term was applied in reference to other towers located on the exterior line of fortifications of outer castles.

Chapter five, devoted to the examination of the space and nomenclature of high castles, deals with cellars (pp. 257–267), utility rooms (pp. 267–283), cloisters (pp. 283–294), churches (pp. 294–309), refectories (pp. 310–343), bedrooms (pp. 343–355), dignitaries’ rooms (pp. 356–365), residential rooms and utility rooms (pp. 366–375), sanitary rooms and buildings (pp. 375–392), treasuries (pp. 392–398), chanceries and archives (pp. 398–409), armouries (pp. 410–415), attics, granaries and storehouses (pp. 415–420) as well as elements of fortifications: towers, gates and defence walls (pp. 421–434). The authors also show that the terms “cloister” and “gallery” refer to different forms of passages in high castles. Comparing the authors’ research results with the findings based on architectural examination leads to the conclusion that in the castles in Ragneta, Starogród and Grudziądz there was no cloister around the whole castle, but only galleries running around selected parts of the castle.

Summary remarks are presented in the conclusion (pp. 435–440). The authors show that the content of the Statutes of the Order written in the 13th century affected the appearance and the spatial layout of the convents in a very general way, but did not entail any concrete architectural guidelines. Much more informa-
tion was provided in the supplement to the statutes (the 14th – the first half of the 15th century). These were based on an already existing situation, so it was the late medieval castles that affected the content of the statutes. The authors discredit the opinion that outer castles were used exclusively as utility buildings. It was there that buildings of dignitaries were located, next to which chapels, refectories, servants’ houses, summer houses, infirmaries and baths were erected. They also prove that there were no “chapter houses” in high castles and that the refectory was the place of chapter assemblies, while the refectories were heated by “hypocaustum” stoves. The publication ends with an extensive bibliography (pp. 441–460).

Julia Możdżeń (Toruń)


The work presented here is the first part of a study whose aim is to present the military dimension of the activities of the Teutonic Order in Prussia up to the mid-15th century, including the social foundations and the circumstances of military activity, as well as the analysis and presentation of relations creating a socio-communicative framework for the organization of military activity. Each part of the research deals with factors connected with participation of different social groups in the military activity of the territorial ruler: the Teutonic Order. The first part, discussed in this review, concerns the Order’s corporation and those belonging to it. The geographical scope of the work is the area governed by the Prussian branch of the Order, while the period covered reaches from the time of the Order’s arrival at the Lower Vistula River to the conclusion of the First Treaty of Toruń (1411).

The source base of the book includes most of the available sources originating within the Order in Prussia as well as numerous Prussian records emanating from outside of the corporation itself. The analysis makes use of narrative and documentary sources as well the abundant correspondence exchanged mainly between members of the corporation. Other significant sources include confirmations of acts issued by the Order for its subordinates, materials concerning the relationship between its Prussian branch and other authorities confirming legal aspects of