

tion was provided in the supplement to the statutes (the 14<sup>th</sup> – the first half of the 15<sup>th</sup> 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)*

Krzysztof Kwiatkowski, *Zakon niemiecki jako „corporatio militaris”, Cz. 1: Korporacja i krąg przynależących do niej: kulturowe i społeczne podstawy działalności militarnej zakonu w Prusach (do początku XV wieku)* [*The Teutonic Order as “corporatio militaris”, Part One: Corporation and its Entourage: Cultural and Social Basis of the Military Activity of the Teutonic Order in Prussia (up to the Beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> Century)*], Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika, 602 pp., ISBN 978-83-231-2959-2.

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

its military rights, administrative records, materials referring to military issues and church documents.

The monograph consists of three chapters preceded by an extensive introduction. The first chapter addresses the problem of the corporation's membership, factors determining their execution of military action and the basis for their military activity. The author underlines the conviction that the Teutonic Order was created to fight pagans. This constituted the main task carried out by its members and was the basis of the organization of military activity in the monastic corporation in Prussia. The author goes on to describe the formal and informal rules followed by members, including obligations resulting from monastic vows and unwritten rules connected with its hierarchy. The organization was based on obedience, respect, austerity and services performed for guests, pilgrims and the sick. This is followed by an analysis of the extent of participation of the various social groups belonging to the corporation in the Order's military activity. Both knight-brothers and sergeant-brothers enjoyed all the rights of membership, but only the former had the privilege of wearing white cloaks. The existing written regulations concerned the extent of power of the most important monastic officials, while the everyday activities of all the members were included in the *Rule Book* or arose from custom. Military power was determined by human factors as well as financial and technical conditions. Apart from privileges applying to all members, there existed a series of prohibitions, which also influenced the character of military activity. The final part of Chapter One compares source records concerning the standard system of military action and then describes army recruitment, various forms of military action from the declaration initiating a venture through meetings of the corporation's members with representatives of towns, down to the battle itself.

Chapter Two discusses those participating in monastic life as so-called 'partial' members, a term which refers to people associated with the Order who took part in its daily life and were subordinated to some norms of the corporation, but who held only a partial membership as half-brothers and half-sisters. Half-brothers took part in military life indirectly, making food for the army or participating in the defence of the Order's estates. Half-sisters were involved in the hospital service and farming. Their participation in the military life of the corporation mainly consisted in the care of the injured.

Chapter Three is devoted to those belonging to the corporation on the grounds of a particular monastic rule and connections between groups. The author includes here novices and various groups of the laity such as benefactors, friars, oblates, *diners*, *knechts*, turcoples and non-free members, underlining the considerable diversity of those groups and their participation in the military life of

the corporation. The work includes digressions connected with the subject matter, but isolated from the main topics.

The author has demonstrated the lack of a general cultural perspective on the military activity of the Teutonic Order in Prussia and its inhabitants, also pointing out the absence of analysis of how military activity was organised. His discussion is based on the assumption that monastic life created the framework for authoritative action, stressing that the Teutonic Order should be perceived as a community functioning in a certain historical-cultural context. Searching for the cultural determinants of the military activity of the Order through the communicative model allows us to understand many problems concerning those who functioned in the corporation, which can be viewed through perspectives from social and cultural anthropology, sociology and social communication.

Addressing the problem of the cultural factors of the Teutonic Order's military activity, the monograph presented here not only fills a gap in current historiography, but also combines various branches of the humanities. The abundance of sources, an impressive bibliography and reliable indexes reflect its very high quality.

*Alicja Mutrynowska (Toruń)*

*The Proceedings against the Templars in the British Isles*, vol. 1: *The Latin Edition*; vol. 2: *The Translation*, ed. and transl. by Helen J. Nicholson, Ashgate, Burlington 2011, vol. 1: xl + 432 pp., ISBN 978-1-40943-650-8; vol. 2: lx + 653 pp., ISBN 978-1-40943-652-2.

The military religious Order of the Temple was founded in the early twelfth century in the aftermath of the First Crusade. The Temple enjoyed much wealth and prestige until the arrest of most of its members in France on charges of blasphemy, idolatry and heresy in 1307, when the Order subsequently became a subject of many popular myths and legend.

In the last thirty years the scholarship on the Templars sought to redefine the understanding of the Order. It is now seen as an institution which emerged as a natural combination of the religious and military culture of its day. The brothers were religious men following a spiritual vocation who took monastic vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience; they formed a tactical military force ready to be employed in pursuit of its strategic aims and objectives – to protect pilgrims in the Holy Land.