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The Military Orders in Times
of Change and Crisis



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St. John in Silesia in the Middle Ages, which he managed to do in eleven chapters of his work. Unlike many other works of this kind, Robert Heś decided to use not only printed sources, but also the sources from the Silesian and (in particular) Czech archives. This allows us to get to know the history of the Order in Silesia not only in the 12th and 13th centuries (for this period we have critical editions of documents), but also in the 14th, 15th and even the beginning of the 15th centuries. Undoubtedly, it is one of the most important virtues of the work. The skillful organization of discussed subjects is another valuable feature of the work as it presents various aspects of the history of the Order in Silesia (e.g. the location of the Silesian commandries in the Order's structure in the Middle Ages, the remuneration of individual monasteries, the pastoral, hospital, educational and cultural activities of the Knights of St. John). The author attempts to show the place of the Knights Hospitaller in Silesian society, which is not an easy task.

Like every academic work, the one of Robert Heś also includes controversial elements, which only increases its value, such as conclusions concerning mutual relations between individual centres of the Order in Silesia at the beginning of their existence. Possibly, the value of the work would be increased if we selected one fragment devoted to the 14th century relations of the heads of the Order in the Czech province (the Knights from Silesia belonged to this group) with Luxembourgiens. Particularly interesting seem to be deliberations concerning the priors' offices held by Michael of Tynec (1325–1337), Havel of Lemberk (1337–1366), John of Zvířetic (1366–1372) and the Silesian duke, Siemowit of Cieszyn (1372–1390). The research done by Czech historians (e.g. Ivan Hlaváček and Jiří Mitáček) indicate that the Knights Hospitaller enjoyed considerable influence in the courts of John I of Luxembourg and Charles IV. The question that arises is how the Czech monarchs affected the situation of the Silesian monasteries if at least two of the above-mentioned priors of the Order came from this area.

Marek Smoliński (Gdańsk)

Sławomir Józwiak, Krzysztof Kwiatkowski, Adam Szweda & Sobiesław Szybkowski, *Wojna Polski i Litwy z zakonem krzyżackim w latach 1409–1411* [*The war between the Teutonic Order and Poland-Lithuania in the years 1409–1411*], Muzeum Zamkowe w Malborku, Malbork 2009, 820 pp., 1 map, 1 CD, ISBN 978-83-60518-33-5.

The book was inspired by the 600th anniversary of the Battle of Grunwald (German: *Tannenberg*) but it does not have a jubilee character. It is the first study of

the war between the Teutonic Order and Poland-Lithuania to be based on all preserved sources, and written from a strictly academic perspective free from national ideology. In the first chapter, *Ku wojnie*, Sławomir Józwiak, Sobiesław Szybkowski and Adam Szweda present the diplomatic and political relations between both sides prior to the outbreak of war, and the wider political situation in East-Central Europe in 1408/09. In the second chapter the same authors discuss the first stage of the war from 6 August to 8 October 1409, and in the third they present the diplomatic activity and military preparations of both the Teutonic Order and Poland-Lithuania to resume the war after the armistice from autumn 1409 to spring 1410. The most comprehensive part of the book is its fourth chapter concerning the summer campaign of 1410 where Krzysztof Kwiatkowski analyzes the expedition of the Polish-Lithuanian army into the Teutonic Order state from June to September 1410. The Battle of Grunwald and the siege of Malbork are given most attention. In the fifth chapter Kwiatkowski and Szweda discuss the last stage of the war – the so-called autumn-winter campaign of 1410/11 – while in the last Szybkowski, Szweda and Kwiatkowski examine the political and social conditions which led to the signing of the Peace Treaty of Toruń (on 1 January 1411). A substantial part of the chapter is devoted to an analysis of the clauses of the treaty and their enforcement. It should be stressed that the authors have started a polemic against the negative assessment of the treaty dominant in Polish historiography. At the end of this valuable book a name index, a geographical index and a very extensive list of sources and academic literature is found. Regrettably, the book does not contain either English or German summaries.

Roman Czaja (Toruń)

Borys Paszkiewicz, *Brakteaty – pieniądz średniowiecznych Prus* [*Bracteates – the coin of medieval Prussia*] (Golden Series of the University of Wrocław, vol. 3), Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Wrocławskiego, Wrocław 2009, 487 pp., 5 maps, 13 pictures, ISBN 978-83-229-3022-9.

Coinage and monetary relations in the Teutonic State in Prussia have aroused great interest among scholars for over 150 years and in the last twenty five years three valuable studies (apart from the one reviewed here) have appeared devoted to this issue (M. Dygo; T. Kubiak; O. Volckart). The main aim of this, the most recent book about Prussian *bracteates*, is to examine the preserved numismatic material in reference to its origin, which means ‘distinguishing Teutonic coins from non-Teutonic ones, and Prussian coins from non-Prussian ones’ as well as classifying