

Zitierhinweis

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Enikő Csukovits, *Hungary and the Hungarians. Western Europe's View in the Middle Ages*, Roma (Viella) 2018 (Viella historical research 11), 233 pp., ISBN 978-88-3313-010-1, € 55.

This monograph engages with the image of the kingdom of Hungary among Western European authors, drawing on a wide array of source-material, across the entire medieval period. There is a very good guide to the existing sources up to 1301, the painstaking collection by A. F. Gombos, „*Catalogus Fontium Historiae Hungariae*“ (1937–1938), which served as the basis of selection for works to be covered in this book. Enikő Csukovits also added other works for the later medieval period; yet some authors who wrote about Hungary, but do not appear in Gombos, such as Thomas of Cantimpré, do not feature in this book. The material is divided into six chapters and a conclusion. The first chapter treats the knowledge about Hungary from its beginnings to the late medieval period, among neighbours and travellers, as well as those situated farther away from the country. Csukovits links western Europe's interest in Hungary to interest in the East, first to the issue of the Hungarians' eastern origins, which was then overwritten by the country's conversion to Christianity; then the pilgrimage and crusade route through Hungary to the Levant, which generated both positive and negative descriptions; and finally to the Ottoman question, which prompted a renewed interest in Hungary. The second chapter, through descriptions and maps charts Hungary's place in medieval Europe. Already in the eleventh and twelfth centuries several maps include *Ungaria/Hungaria*. In addition to knowledge acquired by westerners in Hungary, piecemeal information through travellers from Hungary also reached western Europe, but seems to have been confined to a few authors, and did not enter the general stream of knowledge accumulated about the country. The third chapter focuses on the theme of how Hungarian kings were depicted, often in fictionalized manner. These stories built on the widespread idea about the kingdom as possessing extreme richness, where great power was concentrated in the king's hands. The fourth chapter engages with depictions of Hungarians as enemies, in wars against Venice, Naples, the Ottomans and Austria. References to eastern ways of fighting characterize the earlier sources, but by the later medieval period, Hungarian armies were more in line with western ones; their obedience to commands and their combat value were emphasized. The fifth chapter describes how narrative accounts depicted the peoples of Hungary. Sources often did not distinguish between different groups who lived in the kingdom. No set adjective came to be associated to the Hungarians, unlike some ethnic stereotyping, but the warrior qualities attributed to the Hungarians played a significant role in many descriptions. The sixth chapter investigates two libraries, one at the Burgundian court, and the second, Hans Dernschwam's library, and their holdings of Hungarian-related material, in order to show how fifteenth- and sixteenth-century authors could find information on Hungary in books. A final short concluding chapter summarizes the author's findings, emphasizing that, apart from the earliest descriptions, most descriptive texts on Hungary omit wild exaggerations and inven-

tions. Throughout, the author firmly rejects the use of social sciences and theoretical works, and insists on enumerating results from a close reading of the primary sources. The bibliography is extensive, citing works in many languages, with a few incongruous entries, when French or German works are cited in a Hungarian translation (for example Reinhart Koselleck or Jean Delumeau). In addition, some Hungarian works that had been translated into English (such as Géza Pálffy's book) are nonetheless cited in the Hungarian original. Useful appendices close the book: one is a list of *mappae mundi*-manuscripts that contain a reference to *Hungaria*, and the second is a list of Hans Dernschwam's books containing geographical knowledge. The book is generally readable, although it is not always in idiomatic English. Nora Berend

Von der Ostsee zum Mittelmeer. Forschungen zur mittelalterlichen Geschichte für Wolfgang Huschner = Dal Mar Baltico al Mediterraneo. Ricerche di storia medievale per Wolfgang Huschner, hg. von Sebastian Roebert, Antonella Ghignoli, Cornelia Neustadt, Sebastian Kolditz, Leipzig (Eudora-Verlag) 2019 (Italia Regia. Fonti e ricerche per la storia medievale 4), 542 S., Abb., ISBN 978-3-938533-61-1, € 99.

„Von der Ostsee zum Mittelmeer“ – der Titel umreißt die zentralen Lebensstationen und Forschungsinteressen des Leipziger Mediävisten Wolfgang Huschner, dem an seinem 65. Geburtstag die vorliegende Festschrift gewidmet wurde. In Wismar geboren, forschte er zunächst an der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin zur Struktur des mittelalterlichen Reiches. Nach dem Umbruch von 1989/1990 richtete Huschner seinen Blick auf Italien. Als einer der ersten Historiker der ehemaligen DDR forschte er in Rom und in Norditalien. Nach seiner bahnbrechenden Habilitation zu den Wechselwirkungen zwischen den nord- und südalen Reichsteilen bekleidete er schließlich 2004 die Professur für Mittelalterliche Geschichte an der Universität Leipzig, wo er inhaltlich und räumlich vielfältige Schwerpunkte setzte, das Fach weiter profilierte sowie als inspirierender und fördernder akademischer Lehrer wirkte. Dies wird in der vorliegenden Festschrift überdeutlich, in die breit gestreute Forschungsthemen der Kolleginnen und Kollegen sowie Schülerinnen und Schüler des Jubilars Eingang fanden. Von den 37 Beiträgen sollen an dieser Stelle nur einige aus den fünf inhaltlichen Themenfeldern „Im Spiegel der Urkunden“, „Herrschaftssymbolik und Herrschaftspräsenz“, „Transalpine und andere Kommunikationen“, „Klöster im europäischen Kontext“ und „Mecklenburgica“ exemplarisch vorgestellt werden. Eine Auswahl, die aufgrund der allesamt erkenntnisreichen und vorzüglich recherchierten Beiträge sehr schwer fällt. Aus dem ersten Themenblock „Im Spiegel der Urkunden“ sei der Beiträge von Reinhard Härtel zu den hochmittelalterlichen Diplomen des Domkapitels von Aquileia genannt, die schon im Mittelalter durch hohe Verluste gekennzeichnet waren. Antonella Ghignoli widmet sich dem Gründungstext aus dem Jahr 1086 für die erste Frauengemeinschaft des Kamaldulenserordens, die auf den Generalprior Rudolf I. zurückgeht. Eine Kontextualisierung des erst kürzlich verbessert edierten Diploms von Kaiser Friedrich I.