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cognita sowohl für Studierende als auch für Lehrende. Umso mehr ist dieses handliche und konzise Einführungswerk zu begrüßen. Der Vf. setzt die politische und die Kirchengeschichte der böhmischen Länder ebenso wie die Geschichte ihrer Regenten durchweg in Beziehung zu den Entwicklungen in den angrenzenden Ländern. Daher ist das Buch geeignet, um sowohl im Rahmen einer Überblicksvorlesung als auch in einem einschlägigen Seminar Grundlagen der mittelalterlichen Geschichte nicht nur Böhmens, sondern ganz Mitteleuropas zu vermitteln. Explizit positiv hervorgehoben sei in diesem Zusammenhang H.s Entscheidung, jedes Großkapitel mit einem Überblick über die einschlägigen Quellen zu beginnen, den sowohl Studierende als auch Forschende für eine erste Information gern konsultieren werden. Dem Entstehungszeitpunkt des Buches ist es wahrscheinlich geschuldet, dass die Ende 2022 veröffentlichte MGH-Edition der Königsauer Chronik dabei keine Berücksichtigung mehr fand.¹ Hinzuweisen wäre auch auf die 2020 erschienene, kommentierte lateinisch-englische Parallelübersetzung der Chronik des Cosmas von Prag.²

Wer Studierende zum epochenübergreifend vernetzten Denken anregen möchte, könnte bei H.s Ausführungen zur mittelalterlichen Kolonisationsbewegung oder zu den sprachlich-ethnischen Verhältnissen in den böhmischen Ländern einhaken (S. 137–139 sowie S. 150–153, 164, 231–234; zu erwähnen wären in diesem Zusammenhang auch die bei H. unberücksichtigt gebliebenen rezenten Arbeiten Éloise Addes zur sog. Dalimil-Chronik³ sowie Martin Nodls Monografie zum Kutenberger Dekret⁴), um Ausblicke auf die Geschichte des 19. und 20. Jh. zu geben. Vertieftes eigenständiges Arbeiten zu einzelnen Aspekten wird erleichtert durch die Auswahlbibliografie im Anhang, die jedoch mit den in den Anmerkungen nur einmalig zitierten Werken kombiniert werden muss. Hilfreich für mit der Materie weniger vertraute Lesende sind auch die übersichtlich gestalteten Stammtafeln. Gerade angesichts des erkennbaren Bestrebens des Vf., trotz des Schwerpunktes auf Herzögen/Königen, Bischöfen und der „hohen Politik“ auch der weiblichen Hälfte der mittelalterlichen Bevölkerung Böhmens Raum zu geben, würde man sich wünschen, dass Ehefrauen und Töchter als entscheidende Trägerinnen der zu Recht so stark betonten europäischen Dimension der böhmischen Geschichte in diesen Stammtafeln noch stärker sichtbar wären. Zusätzliche Karten (die einzige Karte auf S. 304 f. zeigt die böhmischen Länder im Jahr 1378) hätten den Nutzen des Buches für die universitäre Lehre weiter erhöht. Diesen Mankos sollte in einer eventuellen Neuauflage abgeholfen werden, um das Buch zu einem noch wertvolleren Einführungswerk in die mittelalterliche böhmische, aber auch mitteleuropäische Geschichte zu machen.

Wien

Alexandra Kaar

- 1 ANNA PUMPROVÁ, LIBOR JAN (Hrsg.), ROBERT ANTONÍN, DEMETER MALATÁK u. a. (Mitarb.): *Cronica Aule regie. Die Königsauer Chronik*, Wiesbaden 2022 (*Monumenta Germaniae Historica. Scriptores*, 40).
- 2 JÁNOS M. BAK, PAVLÍNA RYCHTEROVÁ (Hrsg.), PETRA MUTLOVA, MARTYN RADY u. a. (Mitarb.): *Cosmae Pragensis Chronica Bohemorum / Cosmas of Prague, The Chronicle of the Czechs*, Budapest 2020.
- 3 Vgl. z. B.: ÉLOISE ADDE-VOMÁČKA: *La Chronique de Dalimil et les débuts de l'historiographie nationale tchèque en langue vulgaire au XIV^e siècle*, Paris 2016.
- 4 MARTIN NODL: *Das Kutenberger Dekret von 1409. Von der Eintracht zum Konflikt der Prager Universitätsnationen*, Köln u. a. 2017.

Monarchie und Diplomatie. Handlungsoptionen und Netzwerke am Hof Sigismunds III. Wasa. Hrsg. von Oliver Hegedüs und Kolja Lichy. (FOKUS: Neue Studien zur Geschichte Polens und Osteuropas, Bd. 13.) Brill. Schöningh 2023. XLII, 333 S. ISBN 978-3-506-70588-4. (€ 99,—)

This collective work, edited by Kolja Lichy and Oliver Hegedüs, was published as volume 13 of the *FOKUS: Neue Studien zur Geschichte Polens und Osteuropas* series, and

is the only one in the series that deals with an era earlier than the nineteenth century. The work consists of an introduction, four thematic sections of three chapters each, and a personal and geographical index. The main language of the publication is German, while three articles are written in English.

The editors' intention was to undertake a systematic reflection on the royal court as the central place for undertaking external relations—also in the context of a broader discussion on the role of the royal court in the Polish-Lithuanian state, which in historiography is often referred to as a “republic of the nobility” (p. x). The chronological framework is set by the dates of the reign of King Sigismund III Vasa (1587–1632) in Poland-Lithuania, and this choice is justified by three considerations. Firstly, the work under discussion was written as the result of a conference organized in 2019 in Vienna at the end of a project to edit the correspondence of Ursula Meyers, court lady to two successive wives of Sigismund, Anna and Constance of Austria. Secondly, the election of Sigismund to the Polish throne created a new constellation of power both in the Polish-Lithuanian state and in this part of Europe. Thirdly, the adoption of a limited time frame was also intended to contribute to a more coherent picture of the phenomena analyzed (pp. xi–xii). This justification should be considered convincing, especially given the length of Sigismund's reign.

The work opens with an extensive introduction, in which the editors not only define its thematic scope but also outline a broader perspective on the external and internal relations of the Polish-Lithuanian state at the turn of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, which is particularly important from the point of view of a reader unfamiliar with the specifics of the Commonwealth. In this context, the editors' comments are of great importance, especially on the royal competencies in conducting the state's foreign policy, which were largely limited by the competencies of the Sejm, and the tension between the private (dynastic) and public (state) dimensions of the ruler's actions in the context of external contacts.

The main body of the work is divided into four thematic parts. Part I (“Familienbande”) deals with the external contacts of the royal family and its closest associates. It includes texts by Katrin Keller on the role of Archduchess Maria Anna of Bavaria in contacts between Graz and Cracow; by Hegedüs on contacts between the courts of Munich and Warsaw; and by Tomasz Poznański and Ryszard Skowron on the correspondence of Sigismund and his family with the Habsburg dynasty. In this section, Keller's article is of particular interest, discussing the image of Maria Anna of Bavaria as a politically insignificant but meddlesome person trying to control other members of the family, and showing her instead as an active political figure, taking advantage of the opportunities her dynastic background offered her.

Part II (“Höfische Akteure”) contains articles by Aleksandra Barwicka-Makula on the Habsburg party at the court of Sigismund; Magdalena Jakubowska on the role of courtiers in the diplomatic service of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, and Lichy on Jean La Blaque and his role in contacts between the Vasa court and France. In this section, the latter article is worth particular attention; it shows in detail the process of La Blaque's gradual formalization of his status as an informer and diplomat of the French court. This process is shown against the background of the changes in the perception and conduct of the diplomatic service at the time.

Part III (“Diplomatie im höfischen Zeremoniell”) includes articles by Christoph Augustynowicz on the practices and symbolics of the marriage ceremony of Sigismund and Archduchess Anna; Patrick Schumann on the reception ceremony of the English envoy Thomas Roe at the court in Warsaw; and Dorota Gregorowicz on the audience of apostolic nuncios at the Vasa court. Of particular interest in this section is Augustynowicz's article, which contains an in-depth methodological introduction, discusses the latest currents in the study of courts, ceremony, and diplomacy, and proposes the use of further methodological tools, such as economic analyses. He discusses the issues concerning the marriage and wedding of Sigismund and Anne in the broad context of the relations

between Poland-Lithuania, Sweden, and the Habsburgs, as well as Sigismund's efforts to strengthen the legitimacy of the young Vasa dynasty.

Part IV ("Konfessionelle Allianzen, konfessionelle Grenzen") contains articles by Henryk Litwin and Paweł Duda on the cooperation between the Warsaw and Viennese apostolic nunciature in 1629; Hans-Jürgen Bömelburg on the Vasa Catholics' contacts with Protestant Brandenburg-Prussia; and Anna Kalinowska on Andrzej Rey's mission in London. Bömelburg's and Kalinowska's articles exceed the chronological framework set by the editors, covering the entire period of the Vasa dynasty in Poland-Lithuania and the rule of Władysław IV, respectively. In this section, Bömelburg's article stands out by undertaking a discussion of the theses hitherto prevailing in historiography on the relations of the Polish-Lithuanian state with Brandenburg-Prussia and drawing attention to the benefits to each side of these contacts but also to the differences of interest between the king and his entourage and the Sejm regarding these contacts.

Within the subject proposed by the editors, the reader is provided with a very valuable and multidimensional analysis of various aspects of diplomacy, the center of which was the royal court. In addition to the very interesting factual layer, of particular value is the strong methodological component of the individual articles, particularly evident in parts I–III. As a result, this work can serve as a good starting point or reference for other researchers dealing with early modern European diplomacy. Although in the introduction the editors stipulate that the emphasis in the study of diplomacy on the role of the royal court is closer to the classical approach and stands somewhat in contrast to most recent research, referred to as the "new history of diplomacy" (pp. ix–x), the reader receives in this work a very modern approach to the subject, not focusing on definitions but showing the different circles of actors, extensively characterizing their not always obvious connections and activities.

The greatest weakness of the reviewed book is the narrowing of the analysis to only the perspective of the diplomatic contacts of the court of Sigismund III Vasa with the West European cultural circle. This was, of course, a conscious decision by the editors, justified by their desire for a systematic account of the phenomena analyzed. This approach is somewhat understandable, but the omission of the eastern direction (Moscow, the Ottoman Empire), as well as the northern (Sweden), in the analysis of the ways in which Sigismund's court conducted diplomacy results in a significant incompleteness of the overall picture. The editors were aware of this, as they stipulate in the introduction that the "systematic reflection" they undertake should not be understood as a full description of the relations of the Polish-Lithuanian state in all power constellations (p. xi), but the omission of these directions seems mistaken not so much from a factual as from a methodological point of view. There is also a lack of even a brief conclusion in which the editors would summarize the conclusions of the analyses contained in the various parts of the book. However, despite these shortcomings, the work in question is definitely worth recommending and, in line with the editors' intention, may provide an impulse for further research.

Lublin

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Kees Teszelszky: The Holy Crown and the Hungarian Estates. Constructing Early Modern Identity in the Kingdom of Hungary. (Refo500 Academic Studies, Bd. 92.) Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht. Göttingen 2023. 396 S. ISBN 978-3-525-57344-0. (€ 140,-.) 13.04.2024

The Holy Crown of Hungary is one of the oldest royal insignia of Europe and it is also the one with the most fascinating implications for the political thought of the country where it was used. According to the Doctrine of the Holy Crown—described by legal scholars for the first time in the nineteenth century, but gaining particular importance in the interwar period in order to support claims for the territories of the pre-Trianon kingdom—the object had not only been a symbol of the Hungarian state throughout the centu-