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Georg ASMUSSEN, *Hansekaufleute in Brügge. Teil 2: Die Lübecker Flandernfahrer in der zweiten Hälfte des 14. Jahrhunderts (1358–1408)*, Frankfurt a. M. (Lang) 1999, 1024 p. (Kieler Werkstücke, Reihe D: Beiträge zur europäischen Geschichte des späten Mittelalters, 9).

This is an impressive work of scholarship and a fine addition to an important publication series on Hanse history. Under the direction of Werner Paravicini, now of Paris, then of Kiel, this series is reinvigorating a number of areas of a history either long dormant or completely unknown. The common genesis of the growing list of publications in this series was the discovery and editing of a list of Hanse merchants in Bruges who received an important tax exemption in a commercial treaty of 1360. For the next thirty years the Bruges city accounts contained the names of these merchants, and it was part 1 of this series (published in 1992) that brought an edition of that unique source. In the book under review, Dr. Asmussen has expanded the project's efforts by putting to use a customized piece of database software in gathering information about Lubeck merchants who traded with Flanders, the »Flandernfahrer«. It is this prosopographical database that serves as the basis of this study, and which in printed form occupies 640 pages of the book.

Asmussen begins with an extensive introduction laying out how the economies of Bruges and Lubeck became intertwined in the course of the thirteenth century. This century marked not only the genesis of Lubeck as a trading city, but also saw the gradual concentration of the German Hanse's westward trade in Bruges. Only in 1347, however, was the relationship sealed with the formal founding of the Bruges »Kontor« – a corporation of German merchants with wide powers of internal governance and external negotiation with Flemish officials. Lubeck merchants were leaders in this move to incorporation and remained the most faithful to the Bruges staple through the fifteenth century.

The heart of the book begins with the fourth chapter where the author begins the analysis of his database. In his fifty-one year period he has found 200 »Flandernfahrer« unevenly spread across three periods: 43%: 1358–1374, 34,5%: 1375–1391, and 22,5%: 1392–1408. He does not believe the distribution corresponds to any real change in the relationship of Lubeck merchants to the Bruges staple, rather it is due to the accidents of document survival. Rather surprisingly, only about a third of »Flandernfahrer« were actually natives of Lubeck; many came from other Hanse towns and settled in Lubeck – famous examples of this pattern are Siverd and Hildebrand Veckinchusen (numbers 133 and 134 in the database). Yet as fluid and adaptable as the »Flandernfahrer« were, the Lubeck »Bergenfahrer« were even less likely to be natives of the city, a difference the author believes has to do with the relatively higher social and financial standing of the »Flandernfahrer«. He buttresses this contention by pointing out the large numbers of »Flandernfahrer« who came from aldermanic families, arguing further that the capital and political connections possessed by these families were required to gain an edge in Flemish trade. In contrast, Bergen trade was less developed and therefore less capital intensive, thus open to the less wealthy and well-connected. Lubeck »Flandernfahrer« as a rule resided in Bruges while in Flanders. Some must have remained for extended periods – just the office holders in the corporation committed to uninterrupted residence for a year. Over time, Bruges came to play an important role for many Lubeck merchants. It was quite common for apprentices to spend time there, working either for a Bruges or German merchant. A few actually settled in Bruges, as did Thideman Blomenrod who became a Bruges burgher and moneychanger. For most merchants, however, time in Bruges was a necessary component of an education as a merchant. Such experiences forged feelings of corporate identity among these Lubeck merchants, encouraging further ties of intermarriage and business partnership. Dr. Asmussen documents some of these with a series of genealogical tables (p. 157–166).

The picture of Lubeck trade with Bruges and the Low Countries given by Asmussen provides additional details to a largely familiar picture. Lubeck merchants bought large quantities of cloth, most of it of Flemish manufacture but with some of northern French and Bra-

bantine origins as well. Clearly Bruges was the collection point for cloth produced in a broad region where it was made available for purchase in one of the cloth halls. Spices, including alum, were other popular cargoes shipped eastward by Lubeck merchants. This underlines as well Bruges' status as the most important northern market for spices. In addition, numerous Mediterranean products, including dried fruits, almonds and edible oils brought to Bruges by Spanish ships, were acquired as well. Wine, however, was not popular with the Lubeckers. The chief trading goods imported to Bruges were butter, meat, hides, furs, wax and metals such as copper and iron. Other articles were herring, stockfish, malt and amber. Some of these commodities were immediately transhipped; others like amber were worked into rosaries in Bruges workshops. Lubeck's share of the total Hanse trade with Bruges Asmussen estimates at about 25% in the period. This figure is supported by the percentage of Hanse merchants in Bruges from the tax lists in the Bruges city accounts, as well as fragmentary customs books dating from 1368–1369 and damage claims from the 1380s. These as well as the political power wielded by Lubeck supports the traditional picture of Lubeck as the predominant power within the German Hanse in the last half of the fourteenth century.

Last but certainly not least among the achievements of this book is the prosopographical database assembled by the author. It consists of 161 names arranged alphabetically according to principles derived from the *Hanserezesse*. The entries contain fourteen categories of information including obvious personal data like name, birth date, profession, etc.; and more unusual types of information such as places and dates of foreign residence, types of business and financial business transacted, memorials and posthumous mentions. This amounts to an enormous mass of information, important to anyone interested in the internal histories of Lubeck and Bruges as well as the history of Baltic and North Sea trade.

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Ingo DIERCK, Sonja DÜNNEBEIL, Renée RÖSSNER, *Hansekaufleute in Brügge. Teil 3: Prosopographischer Katalog zu den Brügger Steuerlisten (1360–1390)*, Frankfurt a. M. (Lang) 1999, XV–573 p. (Kieler Werkstücke, Reihe D: Beiträge zur europäischen Geschichte des späten Mittelalters, 11).

This volume completes the project initiated by Klaus Krüger (ed.), *Hansekaufleute in Brügge, Teil 1: Die Brügger Steuerlisten 1360–1390* (1992), which edited that portion of the Bruges city accounts listing the 1020 German merchants who were granted exemption from a portion of the excise tax on beer and wine in those years. The purpose of this book is to provide a prosopography of the 397 of that 1020 about whom additional information could be found in published and some manuscript sources from Lubeck, Brussels, Hamburg, Wismar, Rostock, Berlin, Cologne, Antwerp and of course Bruges. Two workgroups were responsible for this mammoth undertaking, one at Kiel (directed by Werner Paravicini), one at Greifswald (directed by Horst Wernicke). In total the work of sixteen scholars went into the book, the most active of whom were the three whose names appear on the title page. All project participants contributed to a data base written in dBase IV by Jochen Storjohann, which extended chronologically from 1330–1420 – a generation before and after the period covered by the Bruges city accounts.

The software imposed a standard format for the entries. Each of the 397 alphabetized names drawn from the Bruges records is given an entry number and identified in bold type by place of residence with other information such as type of economic activities and dates and place of foreign residence given when available. Some of these repeat information already found in the volume edited by Krüger. What follows is a list of those of the same or similar name to the Bruges entry. If the entry is that of a different individual, Johannes van der