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Reiner NOLDEN, *Besitzungen und Einkünfte des Aachener Marienstiftes*, Aachen (Verlag des Aachener Geschichtsvereins) 1981, 451 S., Karten (= Zeitschrift des Aachener Geschichtsvereins 86/7, 1979/80).

Die materialreiche Aachener Dissertation ist wertvoll vor allem durch ihren Katalogteil, der untergliedert wird in »Alten Besitz« (meist aus Reichsgut, S. 49–252), Besitz von Nonen (S. 252–271) und Neuerwerbungen des 13. bis 15. Jhs. (S. 271–288). Unter dem »Alten Besitz« sei besonders hingewiesen auf den der zunächst unabhängigen Abtei Chèvremont (Kievermont) in der Diözese Lüttich, zu der bekanntlich auch Aachen selbst zählte. Er gelangte an das Marienstift erst 972 und hätte eine gesonderte Behandlung verdient. Wichtig scheint hier insbesondere der Fernbesitz im Hennegau und in Brabant. Die einschlägigen Angaben finden sich unter *Achiniagas*, Bienne, Frasnès bei Chimay, Givry bei Maubeuge, Haumont (ebd., vor 1172 abgetreten an die gleichnamige Benediktinerabtei), La Louvière (ebenfalls noch im Hennegau) sowie Vilvoorde nö. Brüssel. Insgesamt hätte der Katalog gewonnen, wenn die geographischen Hauptgruppen um Aachen-Jülich, um Lüttich-Huy, an der unteren Maas, an Ahr und Mosel geschlossen hervorträten und jeweils eine eigene Karte erhalten hätten.

Ergänzende Kapitel bemühen sich um eine mehr systematische Auswertung des Katalogs (S. 289), um eine Klärung der Sondervermögen von Propst, Kantor, Scholaster und Fabrik (S. 351), die Erträge aus den Besitzungen (S. 361) und die Verwaltung der Einkünfte. Von besonderem Wert sind die abschließende Untersuchung der Besitzliste von 1226, die Kaiser Friedrich II. im Anschluß an weitgehenden Urkundenverlust durch Stadtbrand im Vorjahr bestätigte, und die Edition zweier Einkünfteverzeichnisse des 14. Jhs.; das zweite von diesen (1354) ist in französischer Sprache verfaßt und behandelt die Aachener Güter um Lüttich.

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Recueil des documents de l'abbaye de Fontaine-le-Comte (XII^e–XIII^e siècles), publié par Georges PON, Poitiers (Société des archives historiques du Poitou) 1982, XXIX–499 p. (Archives historiques du Poitou, 61).

The Poitevin abbey of Fontaine-le-Comte, whose history runs from the early 12th to the 18th centuries, must rank high among the least known of all French monastic houses. Early modern monastic historians paid little attention to it and prior to this publication all that one could find on it in print were three columns in the *Gallia Christiana*, a brief historical survey of some 35 pages of 1837, and a summary description of its archives of 1911. For the most part this neglect should probably be attributed to the small size of the abbey, to the continuing lack of distinguished men in its community, and to its remoteness from the mainstream of international monasticism in medieval times. It seems never to have comprised more than 20 monks, its very modest landed endowment was confined entirely to the province of Poitou, and not a single prominent writer or personage of more than local importance appears to have graced its cloister (with the possible exception of its founder Geoffroy de Loriol who, however, quickly left to become archbishop of Bordeaux). No one wrote a monastic chronicle here and this surely helps explain the obscurity of its history as does also the lack of any cartularies for convenient consultation of its records. This penury does not extend to its documentary archives, however. What only local scholars have long known, this edition will now make clear to a wider scholarly audience, namely, that an astonishing wealth of original letters, charters, contracts, bulls, etc. survives for the early period of this abbey's history. And nearly 90 % of these (233 of the 266 edited here) have never been published and are thus unknown and unexploited even by local historians. The editor precedes this edition with a brief and valuable introduction to the history

of the abbey. Here he concentrates on the still unclear question of the date and circumstances of the abbey's foundation (sometime between 1126–1136) and on the introduction of the Augustinian rule for its canons prior to the end of the 12th century. There then follow short discussions of the government and internal organization of the abbey, on its acquisition and administration of agricultural estates, priories, and parish churches, and finally some summary remarks on the diplomatic form and interest of the documents published here. Two splendid indexes, one of personal and place names, the other an *index rerum*, complete this edition and will greatly facilitate scholarly access to these charters. I am thinking particularly of those who will want to consult this volume not so much for data on local history as for references to famous people and for philological data on the evolution of language. Every one of the personal names that I checked at random appears in the name index, thus inspiring confidence that one can rely on the latter and not have to page laboriously through the entire volume in the search for given individuals.

And famous people there are here in abundance despite the obscurity of the abbey in other respects. Local aristocracy and prelates understandably occupy the place of first importance among the benefactors of Fontaine-le-Comte, but the list also includes four different Popes, Philip le Hardi, Alphonse de Poitiers, Henry II of Anjou and England, his son Richard I, and his wife Eleanor of Aquitaine. All of the latter's four charters for the abbey are previously unpublished, hence unknown to all but a handful of local historians.

The main interest of these documents, aside from the above prosopographical one, will probably lie in the information they afford on a number of different topics in local history. On local aristocratic families to begin with, and among these the Lusignans are particularly well documented. An exceptional number of charters from the bishops and cathedral dignitaries of Saint-Pierre de Poitiers illuminate the ecclesiastical history of the diocese and chapter in great detail. Many charters deal with lands, houses, people, and affairs in Poitiers and will contribute to the study of that city, especially in the 13th century. Many more concern rural possessions and transactions and will be of value for the study of the rural classes, agriculture, and estate administration. Furthermore it should be mentioned that the chronological distribution of these charters greatly favors the last half of the 13th century (the collection ends in 1300). Against the 11 documents dating from 1125–50, 15 from 1150–1200, and 41 from 1200–50, two hundred, or an average of nearly 4 per year, survive for this 50 year period. With such a wealth of data the future historian who seeks to mine these documents under almost any of the headings mentioned above can hardly fail to make a major contribution to the writing or rewriting of local and regional history. Finally the presence of 20 charters in the vernacular dating from 1267–1300 make these documents of particular interest to the philologist.

If I had any regrets about this admirable edition it would be that the author has given too little in the way of historical introduction to these texts, on the abbots for instance, or on the abbey's domains. However, as we learn from his *avant-propos*, the high costs of publication must be blamed for his having had to sacrifice this part of his work. In any case he plans to develop parts of it elsewhere. But the documents themselves are the essential and the Société des Archives Historiques du Poitou (along with the C.N.R.S. which supported this publication with financial assistance) is to be congratulated as one of the very few local historical societies in our day which has the courage to undertake such a costly venture.

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