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**Francia. Forschungen zur westeuropäischen Geschichte**  
Herausgegeben vom Deutschen Historischen Institut Paris  
(Institut historique allemand)  
Band 17/1 (1990)

DOI: 10.11588/fr.1990.1.54073

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demonstrieren, zeigt nur eine tiefgreifende Unkenntnis der altfrz., speziell altlothringischen Sprachgeschichte und der romanischen Lehnwortforschung.

So muß denn dieses späte Werk von W. Jungandreas in seiner Methodik und Durchführung als verfehlt bezeichnet werden, selbst seine Fragestellung entspricht nicht mehr dem heutigen differenzierteren Forschungsstand.

Wolfgang HAUBRICHS, Saarbrücken

ERNST TREMP, Studien zu den *Gesta Hludowici imperatoris* des Trierer Chorbischofs Thegan, Hannover (Hahnsche Buchhandlung) 1988, VIII–224 p. (*Monumenta Germaniae Historica. Schriften*, 32).

This exemplary monograph serves as a prolegomenon to Dr Tresp's forthcoming MGH-edition of the works on Louis the Pious composed by Thegan and Astronomus. Written with learning and clarity, it takes its place among a series of studies which are currently revising the conventional image of Louis the Pious as a failure and of his reign as a period of decline. Dr Tresp documents, in his introduction, the results of previous research; and goes on, in his tripartite study, to shed new light on the life of Thegan; on the character, sources, style and structure of the *Gesta Hludowici*; and on the influence and manuscript transmission of that under-rated work.

Particularly impressive is Dr Tresp's combination of historical and prosopographical techniques with philological method. After establishing Thegan's origins in the Frankish heartlands; his connections with Walahfrid Strabo's correspondent Hatto, *dux et consul*; his probable sojourn at Aachen and his rise in the ecclesiastical hierarchy, Dr Tresp eschews the temptation to present the *Gesta* as the work that Thegan was destined to write. Nor did this pastoral prelate set out to compose an imperial biography (as Walahfrid clearly recognised). The title *Gesta* points to a different genre, the genre of narrative polemic.

Dated by Dr Tresp to between autumn 836 and summer 837, the *Gesta* are coloured by their author's antagonism to Ebo of Reims and by his sympathy for Louis the German. Dr Tresp finds convincing evidence of Thegan's reliability as an historical source – partisanship apart – for Louis the Pious' reign, and demonstrates how his work, swiftly recognised by Thegan's contemporaries as an important document of ›Zeitgeschichte‹, enjoyed a marked, if limited, diffusion in centres which Dr Tresp documents with historical and palaeographical exactitude. The important role of Walahfrid Strabo in the reception of the *Gesta*, the particular difficulties posed by their unusual Latinity, the delicate question of the part played by oral tradition and Thegan's protectors in the composition of the work are all problems handled by Dr Tresp with balance and judiciousness. If his book has a weakness, I should consider it to be in the treatment of the reception of Thegan's work by Asser (130–132), where Dr Tresp's account is too summary to yield unequivocal results.

A thorough analysis of the textual tradition of the *Gesta* and a convincing classification of the manuscripts are complemented by full and helpful indexes. This book is a major contribution to Carolingian political and intellectual history, and its readers will await Dr Tresp's forthcoming edition with confidence and pleasure.

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