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Sans doute resté sous la forme que lui avait donné l'auteur, le recueil est organisé très soigneusement, les poèmes étant le plus souvent disposés par paires qui se répondent ou se ressemblent. On y trouve d'abord une majorité de sujets théologiques, puis satiriques et polémiques, puis des *paidika* dans la seconde partie (dans ce cas-là, l'auteur ne parle pas de lui-même à la première personne, mais donne un nom antique à la *persona* du héros du poème). Au centre exact du recueil, un poème sur la Nativité montre une forme prosodique spéciale: copié, comme les autres pièces, sous forme de distiques élégiaques, il présente quelques particularités qui se comprennent mieux si on le lit comme un poème rythmique de forme 2x (8p + 7pp), et les rimes sont alors parfaitement régulières. C'est sans aucun doute un exemple de ce que les théoriciens appelaient le vers mixte, à la fois métrique et rythmique.

Chaque volet de ce volume double, qui rassemble deux ensembles de textes d'étendue peu considérable, présente donc un indéniable intérêt, bien servi par une méthode d'édition sûre et efficace.

Pascale BOURGAIN, Paris

Frank LEGL, Studien zur Geschichte der Grafen von Dagsburg-Egisheim, Saarbrücken (Saarbrücker Druckerei und Verlag GmbH) 1998, XIV-697 p., folding table (Veröffentlichungen der Kommission für Saarländische Landesgeschichte und Volksforschung, 31).

From the eighth to the thirteenth century the principal Alsatian counts belonged to a family that took the cognomen of Egisheim, later that of Dagsburg. Descending from the Etichonen, dukes of Alsace in the late seventh and early eighth centuries, this line produced its most famous scion in Pope Leo IX (1049-1053), but otherwise was remarkable for nobility of lineage rather than historical prominence. The volume by Frank Legl focuses on the entire course of the dynasty's history, but is weighted naturally towards the last stages, where documentation becomes much richer. The material is organized into three parts: genealogical reconstruction, the political history, and a catalogue of the dynasty's allods and fiefs. To cover more than four centuries in a single specialized monograph is always an ambitious undertaking, but it is downright quixotic in the present instance, where the task is attempted three times over. The problems of this work must be attributed not to organizational defects, however, but in large measure to the changing nature of the sources and the inapplicability of methods devised for later sources when the time comes to handle earlier sources.

Much of the dynasty's earlier history is likely to be misconceived. It is significant that the author should speak consistently of the Dagsburg-Egisheim forebears as ›Eberhardinger‹. The name Eberhard belonged to the earliest established ascendant, a late ninth-century count; but probably not to his father, and in the ›Eberhardinger‹ lineage it was much less common than the name Hugo. Meanwhile it became frequent among elder branches of the Konradiner. Despite his mention of my book on the Konradiner in his bibliography, the author misappropriates the so-called ›comital lists‹ in the memorial book of Remiremont, wrongly assigning them an ›Eberhardinger‹ context, using as principle justification the fact that the Etichoner Hugo of Tours († 837) appears prominently as forefather of the Welfs, Capetians, and others named in these lists (including members of the Konradiner). Only one Count Eberhard can be found, however, and this person is certainly a Konradiner as I showed previously. Here, therefore, is a clear misuse and misrepresentation of primary source material.

By associating the ›Eberhardinger‹ with the ›comital lists‹ and by implication with the nunnery of Remiremont, the author is then privileged to proceed to further unfounded conclusions. The Remiremont book's mention of King Lothar II's concubine Waldrada is accepted as confirmation of a consanguinity presumed to exist between Waldrada and the ›Eberhardinger‹ progenitor Eberhard. A futile observation and a clumsy interpretation –

for there is no certain evidence of blood relationship between Eberhard and Waldrada, and if there were we would need to know the relationship's specifics in order to assess its relevance – this finding is unfortunately just one of a number of instances of the author's overall tendency to ›flesh out‹ his topic at the expense of source criticism and, ultimately, reader credibility. Even in the genealogical part, which one might hope would contain only firm data and cold reasoning, the problem of limited source material is in no sense controlled. All the more so, when we turn to the political part.

A definitive presentation will betray as little bias as possible, yet we often find the author constructing narrative accounts around unfounded suppositions. This is not an issue of whether support is adequate, but of whether support exists at all. Two examples will demonstrate this tendency, the first being the events of 911 to 918. During these years Konrad I was king in the east, but it is uncertain whether he was able to hold Alsace. The author assumes that since Bishop Richwin of Strasbourg was summoned before Konrad's politically charged synod of Hohenaltheim in 916, that bishop must have been installed by the western king, Charles the Simple, in 913. Alsace must therefore have lain under Charles, despite Konrad's efforts to maintain control there. When we later find Bishop Richwin functioning normally under the eastern king Henry I, the case presumably becomes even clearer: Henry must have been politic enough to recognize the bishop as a natural ally, perhaps because they were both Konrad's foes.

The superficiality of this interpretation results from the author's determination to provide answers to important questions without doing leg-work in search of answers. Here a mere glance at the extant historical information will furnish diametrically opposite conclusions. Henry I negotiated on equal terms with Charles the Simple, who therefore cannot have been in control of Alsace, if Richwin was Henry's bishop! We know from the episcopal catalogue of Erkanbald that Richwin's episcopacy was recognized from 918 onwards. Henry came to the throne in the following year. Clearly the canonical issues of Richwin's episcopacy – which need have concerned nothing more than the age of the bishop – had already been resolved under Konrad. There is no reason to doubt, therefore, that Alsace lay under Konrad. In this instance the author fills in vital details of constitutional history by admitting the overriding political force of an isolated circumstance, the bishop's summons before a synod, and he even revises the date provided in a contemporary source (Erkanbald's catalogue) to maintain conformity with his political interpretation.

The tendency is to some extent forgivable when, as here, the sources are sparse. Yet a second example shows that the tendency is thorough-going, raising a question whether the author has allowed methods designed for earlier sources to influence the design of methods for later sources, rather than just vice versa. Here we are concerned with the disputes that arose over the Dagsburg inheritance at the dynasty's extinction in 1225. A variety of claimants stepped forward, but the author is unable to explain the basis of their claims, and so he generates a narrative by supplying political interpretations of the claimants' movements. Without a grip on the legal ramifications of the disputes, it is obvious that interpretations of political maneuvering may be entirely without merit. Apparently the author would prefer to believe that there were no legal ramifications. His failure to address them is seen by the reader, conversely, as an extraordinary lacuna in his account. The disputes were resolved in part by courts of arbitration, which heard the relevant legal cases and issued final judgments. We are very interested to know what arguments were presented to these courts. The author appears to suggest that these judgments were purely political.

Rather than be told what must have happened according to inadequately formulated principles of investigation, the reader desires a discussion of possible contexts for the events. In at least one instance we can achieve insight into a claim on the Dagsburg inheritance without making serious difficulty for ourselves. The counts of Ferrette, who claimed the Alsatian inheritance, visibly traced back to Leo IX's family along two lines. What the reader

expects, and does not find, is a discussion – however fragmentary – of the precise details of this and other claims, a consideration of the various parcels of inheritance in terms of claims, and an appraisal of the impact of legal issues upon the disputes. Instead the account resorts to political interpretation at each doubtful turn. Ultimately this procedure raises grave doubts in the reader's mind as to the verity of any of the author's political assumptions, and the discussion becomes oppressive.

This work is sufficiently voluminous that one may be sceptical whether, if redeeming features can be identified, they will be able to rescue the undertaking. Nevertheless there are a number of reasons for conceding that the study was undertaken responsibly. In the first place one can say that the organization of material facilitates critical consideration of the interpretations pursued by the author. The alphabetically arranged articles on the dynasty's allods and fiefs serve as ready reference on issues that arise in the main text. For example, one may encounter the author's interpretation of the status of a particular castle at a given point in time, then turn to an article presenting all available material on that castle's history, on the basis of which one can begin to consider possible alternatives to the interpretation offered. This is a highly positive feature, and the author actually leads the way methodologically here. Furthermore, towards the end of the volume the author provides an edition of thirty documents of or pertaining directly to the counts of Dagsburg. Some had not been published hitherto, while others were available only in incomplete and flawed editions. There are also several photographic plates, which serve especially to document the seals of the last members of the dynasty. We miss only a discussion of the photographic materials, although their value is not in doubt. In general, one must be careful not to rate this book too highly on account of its ponderous length. Yet if intelligently used, it is likely to prove helpful.

Donald C. JACKMAN, Pennsylvania State University

Elke GOEZ, Werner GOEZ (Hg.), *Die Urkunden und Briefe der Markgräfin Mathilde von Tuszien, Hannover (Hahn) 1998, in-4°, XLIII–666 p., 18 pl. h.-t. (Monumenta Germaniae Historica, Diplomata 5, Laienfürsten- und Dynastenukunden der Kaiserzeit, 2).*

Il faut reconnaître d'emblée que l'imposante collection des diplômes et des lettres de Mathilde de Canossa que viennent de procurer Elke et Werner Goez constitue une sorte de modèle du genre. Un ensemble documentaire d'importance s'y trouve édité selon toutes les règles de l'art. Un progrès décisif est ainsi accompli par rapport aux *Regestes* de Mathilde établis à la fin du XIX^e siècle par Alfred Overmann¹. Ces derniers étaient demeurés jusqu'à nos jours un ouvrage de référence dont les Goez ont avec raison souligné les mérites mais aussi les inévitables insuffisances au regard des exigences actuelles. Sans négliger les apports ponctuels postérieurs à Overmann², on conviendra volontiers qu'avec cette remarquable édition, le corpus diplomatique de Mathilde, plus d'un siècle après Overmann, a été entièrement rénové et se trouve désormais à un niveau de perfection critique que l'on peut tenir pour définitif.

Les actes de Mathilde forment sans conteste, par leur masse et leur intérêt un ensemble sans équivalent pour une princesse territoriale des XI^e–XII^e siècles. On notera cependant

- 1 Alfred OVERMANN, *Gräfin Mathilde von Tuszien. Ihre Besitzungen. Geschichte ihres Gutes von 1115–1230 und ihre Regesten*, Innsbruck 1895, in-8°, 277 p. 1 c. h.-t. – L'ouvrage, qui développe une dissertation de 1893 est donc loin, comme son titre l'indique, de se limiter à un volume de régestes mathildiques. Ces derniers n'occupent que les p. 123–190 et, sous 147 numéros, regroupent à la fois des régestes proprement dits et des repères d'itinéraire du type des »Jahrbücher«.
- 2 Voir, dans la bibliographie de l'édition, les références à A. Falce (1925–1927), C. Santoro (1953), G. Badini (1981–1990), P. Golinelli (1987–1997) et T. Ferrara (1994).