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recherche rendue complexe – et passionnante – tant par la délicatesse des questions posées que par l'abondance et la variété des réponses qui peuvent y être apportées. L'histoire et son écriture sont un chantier toujours ouvert; c'est en somme ce que démontre cet échantillon des travaux de Dieter Berg.

Sébastien BARRET, Dresden

Jörg OBERSTE, *Der »Kreuzzug« gegen die Albigenser. Ketzerei und Machtpolitik im Mittelalter*, Darmstadt (Primus Verlag) 2003, 222 p. – Christine WOHL, *Volo vincere cum meis vel occumbere cum eisdem. Studien zu Simon von Montfort und seinen nordfranzösischen Gefolgsleuten während des Albigenserkreuzzugs (1209 bis 1218)*, Frankfurt a. M. (Peter Lang) 2001, VI–332 p. (Europäische Hochschulschriften, Reihe III, Geschichte und ihre Hilfswissenschaften, 906).

These two studies of the Albigensian Crusade approach the subject from different perspectives but complement each other in an interesting manner. Jörg Oberste presents a sure-footed and reliable narrative of the background and main events of the Crusade from its origins in the 1190s through to the treaty of Paris and council of Toulouse in 1229. The book is lightly footnoted but makes use of many quotations from contemporary sources, and is helpfully equipped with six maps and twenty black-and-white illustrations. Oberste sets the scene with two chapters on Languedoc, one devoted to its cultural, political and economic profile, the other to the nature of the cathar faith and church. He follows these with a chapter on the attempts made by Raymond VI of Toulouse to reach a peaceful settlement with the church, which foundered with the murder of Peter of Castelnau in January 1208. The next four chapters guide us through the tortuous series of sieges, negotiations, interventions and revolts that culminated in the expedition led by Louis VIII in 1226. Oberste's last chapter includes a description of the establishment of the inquisition in Languedoc, and he provides an epilogue on the fall of the cathar fortress at Montségur in 1244, which has always exercised a fascination over historians of the Crusade.

Anybody looking for a short, up-to-date narrative account of the Albigensian Crusade in German will find it in this book. It is reminiscent of Jonathan Sumption's 1978 book in English on the Crusade. It comprises the re-telling of a familiar series of events, as comprehensively as its length permits. The author is sympathetic towards the southern cause, writes well and seems to be aiming at a general audience. Yet one cannot help thinking that there could be more. Jörg Oberste clearly knows the terrain on which the Albigensian Crusade was fought, and in his Foreword he refers to his own conduct of archival work in the Haute-Garonne. But neither his knowledge of the topography nor his own research add anything that is really original to his book.

By contrast, Christine Woehl's monograph is much more difficult to engage with but has more to offer. It springs from the author's Frankfurt am Main dissertation of 2000 and structurally it is rather clumsy. Woehl begins with three chapters of a quite general character, examining various aspects of the Albigensian Crusade. The first is essentially historiographical, while the second reviews major factors in the movement towards the use of Crusade against the cathars and their protectors. There follows a chapter analysing four key narrative accounts of the Crusade, those by William of Tudela, Peter of Vaux-de-Cernay, William of Puylaurens and the anonymous »Canso de la crozada«. The core of the book is then reached. Woehl uses three chapters and an impressive range of evidence to build up portraits of the social networks of individual fighting men, based upon their activities and their overlapping ties of kinship, land-holding, dependency and service. First she presents an overview of the Montfort lineage itself, before providing a highly detailed account of Simon de Montfort's thirty-eight closest followers on the Crusade. The last of these chapters

reviews the strategies that were pursued by the main southern lineages either in resisting or in collaborating with Montfort's invaders. Finally, Woehl addresses the issue of what proportion of those crusaders who received lands in the conquered south put down solid roots there, and concludes that the result was far from being the northern take-over which southern myth-making has tended to favour.

Woehl's study does not make for easy reading and her exposition could be a lot clearer: a crucial point about the unending financial problems which de Montfort faced is included almost as an afterthought in a footnote on page 68. Regrettably, she avoids examining *mentalités* because of recent published work by Kay Wagner. It is a pity too that she conducted her research in line with a methodology which does not consider the Albigensian Crusade to have been a ›real‹ Crusade at all, so that the contribution made by the crusading vow towards the cohesion and functioning of Montfort's army fails to receive the attention it deserves. It must also be said that Woehl has been poorly served by her publisher. There are far too many typographical errors, and the book is drab and looks cheaply produced. Nonetheless, if used with care her study will be a mine of information for future historians of de Montfort's campaigns in the Midi, and more generally for the social networks which underpinned the conduct of large-scale warfare in this period, before central governments began to organise military activity through contracts and pay. It contains detailed prosopographical information on many of the men who stuck by Simon de Montfort through thick and thin, and for each of them the sources and literature are listed in full. A vast amount of work, including long spells in the archives, has gone into this book and Woehl's judgements on complex issues of interpretation are sure-footed and judicious. Her book deserves to be welcomed as a scholarly contribution towards a war that is widely perceived as a turning point in the European Middle Ages and yet continues to pose many difficult questions.

Norman HOUSLEY, Leicester

Franz-Reiner ERKENS, Kurfürsten und Königswahl. Zu neuen Theorien über den Königswahlparagrafen im Sachsenspiegel und die Entstehung des Kurfürstenkollegiums, Hannover (Hahnsche Buchhandlung) 2002, XXX–125 p. (Monumenta Germaniae Historica, Studien und Texte, 30).

A modest study originally intended for the Boshof *Festschrift* of 2002 transformed itself into a major investigation of the formation of the imperial college of electors. The value of Erkens' book lies neither in its scope – it does not greatly exceed the length of some of the *Deutsches Archiv* articles alongside which at one point it was intended to appear – nor in its incisiveness – little advance is made here to our understanding of the college's formation, with the exception of a particular issue noted further below. Rather, this book is important because it provides a definitive refutation of a set of source criticisms offered by Armin Wolf in support of the idea that inherited right was the most influential factor in the college's formation. In his ›Entstehung des Kurfürstenkollegs‹ (1998) Wolf described a hypothetical process of the college's restriction to seven electors, where an ideological current already prominent in Rudolf of Habsburg's election (1273) becomes the basis of positive law associated with Albert of Habsburg's election (1298). The present reviewer noted (in *Francia* 27/1, 2000, p. 345–347) that Wolf's assumption of a late interpolation into the *Sachsenspiegel*, necessitated by that source's testimony about an already formed electoral college, did not sit comfortably with the reader. In the book currently under consideration, Erkens decides this question once and for all. He demonstrates that the *Sachsenspiegel*'s passage on the electoral college cannot reasonably be regarded as a post-1273 interpolation, since similar assumptions would need to be made of other sources, including the law books of southern Germany that derive from the *Sachsenspiegel*. Accordingly, Wolf's interpreta-