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auf, dass die 860 ins Stift gekommenen Reliquien weitgehend dem Rhonegebiet entstammten. Er zog hier die Verbindung des Stiftes zum Bischof Liudbert von Münster und von diesem ins westfränkische Reich zur Erklärung heran. Das Stift besass auch Bonifatius- und Heilig-Kreuzreliquien.

Der umfangreiche Besitz des Stiftes lag vorwiegend im östlichen Münsterland und entstammte im Kern zweifellos dem Erbgut des Stifters. In einer im späten 11. beziehungsweise frühen 12. Jahrhundert entstandenen Heberolle wurde ein erster Überblick über den gesamten Güterbesitz gegeben. Es gelang dem Stift, seinen Besitz fast vollständig über die Jahrhunderte hinweg zu bewahren und dieser garantierte ihm am Ende des 18. Jahrhunderts eine Gesamteinnahme von rund 13000 Reichstalern pro Jahr.

Wie alle Bände der «Germania Sacra» schliesst auch dieser mit umfangreichen Personallisten und einem ausführlichen Register, das den gesamten Band erschliesst. Nachdem vor kurzem in ähnlicher Form der Band über das Stift Gandersheim veröffentlicht wurde, hat der Verfasser mit dem vorliegenden Werk nicht nur einen grossen Beitrag für die Erforschung der Landeskunde Nordwestdeutschlands geleistet, sondern vor allem auch für die weitere Erschliessung der weiblichen Stifte des Mittelalters und der Neuzeit.

Tübingen

Immo Eberl

RENÉ GUICHARD, *Les Vikings, Créateurs d'Etats: Islande et Norvège. Découvreurs de nouveaux mondes: Erik le Rouge au Groenland en l'an 982. Leif l'Heureux au Vinland en l'an 1000*. Paris, A. & J. Picard, 1972. In-8°, 196 p., ill.

Most reviewers are reluctant to turn down a book without any reservations and I think I am no exception. With this book, however, one is very hard put to it to find any extenuating circumstances. The subject of the book is the Norse discoveries and expansion in the North Atlantic and the achievements of the Vikings as state-builders particularly in Iceland. This is no neglected subject, the early history of Iceland has been intensely studied and there is a recent book on the voyages of discovery to Greenland and Vinland by professor Gwyn Jones, but there is clearly a need to make this knowledge available in French, and this book is meant for the general reader rather than for the scholar.

The general reader, however, is rather ill served by this effort. The author, although capable of reading Scandinavian languages, does not avail himself of the best or most recent works in his field. In fact his negligence is appalling. To give but a few illustrations, there is no reference to the most important general book on the Vikings of the last two decades, P. H. Sawyer's *The Age of the Vikings*, none to Gwyn Jones's *The Norse Atlantic Saga*, and for Sweden he has recourse to such outdated authorities that Birka has not yet come to his notice. For his information on Green-

land the author similarly relies on old or secondary works rather than on the most recent scholarly account, Finn Gad, *Grønlands historie*, 2 volumes, 1967-69. This is all the more surprising when the author is found to take his account of Greenland far beyond the end of Norse settlement in the 15th century down to the present time! However wide a definition is adopted for Viking history, and Mr. Guichard's is the widest I have so far come across, the Eskimos do not belong to it. It is misleading to bring them into this context and it is more than misleading to call the inhabitants of Bergen in 1485 Vikings: this shows a lack of understanding of the whole subject.

On this background it is not surprising to find Mr. Guichard unable to decide what is relevant to his subject and what is not or that he has provided a miserable hotchpotch of useless information. His introductory survey of the sources is of little value to the general reader giving merely a list of names and titles and several chapters are merely chronicles of events, a sort of *Chronica ex Chronicis* with no analysis, no explanations. They might have a function among the author's personal notes but any reader is entitled to expect something more coherent. The more narrative chapters mostly consist of lengthy quotations from or accounts of sagas or various Scandinavian books with no attempts at evaluation or source criticism. Mr. Guichard acknowledges that the value of the sagas as historical evidence is not entirely beyond doubt but seems to hope that at least some of their information is not fiction.

Finally, a comment on the extraordinary number of errors of all kinds cannot be avoided. Printer's errors are so numerous that one doubts whether any proof reading has been done at all and while many of these may be put down to the unacquaintance of French printers with Scandinavian spellings there are a great quantity of errors that more than suggests that the author's familiarity with the Scandinavian languages is less than satisfactory. For example, a meeting is said to have taken place at *Vaaren*; this is no place: the meeting took place *in spring*. Particularly, however, Mr. Guichard offends against chronology; he not only gives a number of false dates, misdating events a century or more, he *also* creates new and strange contexts on the basis of these dates. Thus he seems to think that c. 1000 AD, when Greenland and Vinland were discovered, the magnates of Europe were too preoccupied with the reconquest of Jerusalem from the infidel to take any notice of this achievement. This, to the best of my knowledge, is premature by a century, but this dating of the crusades leads the author to treat the Norman conquest of England as the Normans' substitute for taking the cross! - Is it worse to have sultans in Constantinople in the tenth century? (p. 76).

The book has no index. In view of the nature of its contents this is hardly a drawback.

Copenhagen

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