

Fédération Internationale des Instituts d'Études Médiévales
TEXTES ET ÉTUDES DU MOYEN ÂGE, 35

FRONTIERS IN THE MIDDLE AGES

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Proceedings of the Third European
Congress of Medieval Studies
(Jyväskylä, 10-14 June 2003)

Edited by O. MERISALO
with the collaboration of P. PAHTA

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FOREWORD

The Third European Congress of Medieval Studies organised by the FIDEM took place in Jyväskylä between 10 and 14 June 2003. The theme, *Frontiers* in the Middle Ages, had been decided on four years earlier after the previous FIDEM congress in Barcelona. Between 1999 and 2003, congresses and colloquia on frontiers had suddenly become extremely popular, which did not harm the Jyväskylä congress: it was attended by eighty scholars who gave altogether 60 papers and round table presentations. Despite chilly and rainy weather (that only cleared up for the day of the excursion to Savonlinna and Punkaharju) the remarkable scholarly level of the papers and the authentic interest in the subjects treated, shared by all participants, engendered an academic euphoria that only enhanced the excitement of further discussions. Forty-four of the papers are edited in this volume.

It is my great pleasure to thank once more all the speakers who made the congress into a uniquely exciting intellectual and human experience. It would not have been possible without the financial support of the following institutions and people: the Academy of Finland, the Académie suisse des sciences humaines et sociales, the Embassy of France (Dr Daniel Picart), the Embassy of Switzerland (Mr Jacques Lauer), the Cercle franco-finlandais de Helsinki (Ms Sini Sovijärvi), the Centre culturel français (Mr Jean-Christophe Margelidon), the Centre for International Mobility (Ms Kirsti Merikanto), the Embassy of the State of Israel (Mr Raphaël Morav), Finnair, the Istituto italiano di cultura (Mr Pietro Roselli), the Friends of the Museum of the Book, now the Book Historical Society of Finland, the University of Jyväskylä and the City of Jyväskylä. Professor Jacqueline Hamesse, since 2003 President of the FIDEM, helped to shape the programme and accepted to have the proceedings published in the FIDEM series. The members of the organising committee made their valuable contribution in the planning phase of the congress: I have the pleasure of thanking Professor Simo Knuuttila, Dr Päivi Pahta, Dr Jussi Nuorteva, Dr Tuomas Heikkilä and Dr Samu Niskanen (University of Helsinki) for their excellent ideas and suggestions. The local staff bore the brunt of the most hectic part of the congress: without Ms Heli Blankenstein,

general secretary of the local committee, Ms Titta Angervo, Sanna Jokinen, Mari Kalpio, Laura Nikkanen, Elina Sopo and Elina Sorvari as well as Mr Lauri Ockenström multifarious practical problems related to photocopies, PowerPoint shows, microphones, lunch tickets etc. would not have been solved. Their enthusiasm, interest and dedication were an essential element in the overall success of the congress. I am especially grateful to Mari Kalpio, Laura Nikkanen, Elina Sopo and Lauri Ockenström who also participated in the editing work of the Acts. The contribution of Dr Päivi Pahta in planning the general structure of the volume and in editing some of the papers was essential. She also brought in the contribution of Mr Simo Pankakoski and Tuomas Tammilehto, research assistants at the Collegium for Advanced Studies of the University of Helsinki, who helped with bibliographical details. The Department of Modern and Classical languages of the University of Jyväskylä contributed excellent infrastructure and working conditions in 2005-2006 thanks to the kind interest of Dr Bertold Fuchs, head of department. Professor José Meirinhos, general secretary of the FIDEM, organised the smooth run of the printing phase with his characteristic generosity and competence.

Omnibus gratias quam maximas.

Jyväskylä, 5 April, 2006

Outi Merisalo