

eine Ordensburg gewesen sei.⁶⁶ Was Polock betrifft, ist hier wahrscheinlich immer noch die „Konstantinische Schenkung“ gemeint.

Die Quellen zur Geschichte des Fürsten Konstantin von Polock sind knapp und widersprüchlich. Wichtig ist, dass seine Zusammenarbeit mit dem Deutschen Orden in Livland in den 1260er Jahren eindeutig beweisen kann, dass die politische Zusammenarbeit zwischen katholischen und orthodoxen Würdenträgern damals noch problemlos möglich war. Die Kämpfe um die Vormacht in Livland, in Litauen und in Polock waren miteinander verbunden und es handelte sich nicht um voneinander getrennte Konfessionsgebiete. Die politische Zusammenarbeit machte alle Grenzen flexibel und durchlässig. Schließlich ist auch im Falle der livländischen Geschichte immer daran zu denken, dass Quellen, die in Interessen der Machtrivalität entstanden sind, nicht nur die historische Sachlage, sondern auch historische Wunschbilder widerspiegeln können.

SUMMARY

*Prince Constantine of Polotsk and Livonian
history in the third quarter of the 13th century*

The 13th and 14th century sources that are related to the Livonian branch of the Teutonic Order repeatedly mention a Polotsk prince Constantine who supposedly gave Latgale (East Latvia) to the Teutonic Order and whose activities apparently took place around the 1260s. Different historians have identified prince Constantine with rather different Russian princes. The background to the Livonian texts mentioning Constantine is a bitter controversy between the Archbishop of Riga and the Teutonic Order over hegemony in Livonia and competition for the subjugation of East Latvia in the 13th and 14th century. Sources describing these events are biased and deeply polemical. The article identifies Prince Constantine with a representative of the Polotsk or Smolensk local dynasty who came into power in Polotsk for some time after the death of Lithuanian Prince Tautvila in 1263. While Tautvila as the Prince of Polotsk had associated himself with the Riga Archdiocese – for which reason the archdiocese could later argue in its dispute with the Order that Polotsk had been Catholic but because of the Teutonic Order had fallen into the hands of pagans or the schism again, – Constantine was in alliance with the Teutonic Order. It is not known whether Constantine actually “gave” Latgale to the Teutonic Order (possibly in winter 1263-1264) as a seigni-

⁶⁶ HERMANNI Chronicon (wie Anm. 47), S. 152 §7; LUB, Bd. 2, Nr. 1036 §7; Zeugenverhör (wie Anm. 21), S. 201, B. IX §236-239.