

The bankruptcy of the Höchstetter firm and its partners is analyzed in two chapters, one focusing on local institutions, the other looking at financial markets and credit networks. Safley reconstructs the procedures—a failed mediation ended in formal bankruptcy proceedings—against the Höchstetter firm, with the families involved and the shifting strategies of the firm’s numerous creditors listed in an appendix. Looking at ruin and recovery, Safley then discusses the concept of resilience in respect of the Höchstetter family firm. Despite the complete breakdown of the bankrupt firm, some branches of the family later managed to set up new, successful businesses throughout Europe.

Safley sums up his findings in a short conclusion. The book appears to be the result of a long-term involvement with the subject during the last twenty years. The references show that the book is deeply rooted in rich research on the Augsburg merchants, which mainly was published some decades ago. More recently the volume of special research has declined. The author deals with this situation by discussing older research critically and interprets his findings with references to current debates. Though the author has taken some efforts in harvesting the historical material, he presents an extensive and detailed reinterpretation of the story, though there do not seem to be many new findings in the archives on the case. In conclusion, this first monographic study on the Höchstetter case provides a good introduction into the business practices of Augsburg merchants in the early sixteenth century.

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Making Livonia: Actors and Networks in the Medieval and Early Modern Baltic Sea Region. Anu Mänd and Marek Tamm, eds.
Abingdon: Routledge, 2020. xx + 344 pp. \$160.

Making Livonia is an exemplary collection of detailed, well-presented essays on a corner of medieval Europe that sounds a bit like the location of a Shakespearean comedy: Livonia, the territory today marked mainly by Estonia and Latvia—Europeanized, so to speak, by an intense period of crusading “conquest, Christianization and colonization” beginning in the late twelfth century (1). As editors Marek Tamm and Anu Mänd note in their informative introduction, Livonia retained through the seventeenth century something of the characteristics of a frontier society, a “heterogeneous territorial conglomerate ruled by various overlords” (1) composed of, and contested by, the crusading Teutonic Order drawn mainly from German-speaking lands to the south (represented by Bremen canon Albert of Boxhövden, who, as third bishop of the Livs, founded Riga as a missionary, trading, and governmental outpost), Indigenous peoples (speaking Finnic or Baltic languages),

the Livs and the Letts, settlers from Sweden and Denmark, the Orthodox Church and its following of Russian artisans and merchants, and both the Roman Church and the Hanseatic League. Several essays locate the work of important individuals and families in a network of opportunity. Marek Tamm's essay on Albert of Riga, Anu Mänd's on the Tallinn burgomaster Hans Viant, Ilkka Leskelä's on the Finnish trading Skalm family, and Ivar Leimus's piece on the mint master Paul Gulden all witness the interface between individual achievement and an informed web of geographically dispersed connections.

The first half of the volume treats the Crusade period, tracing what Linda Kaljundi terms "ideological and institutional connections" (93): Tamm on Albert of Riga, Marika Mägi on the changing social and political functions of Estonian hillforts, Kersti Markus on the performance of power in the Danish Crusades, Kaljundi on the representation of "newly converted native peoples" (93) recruited in the Crusades, Juhan Kreem on the mobility of Teutonic Knights. Wojtek Jezierski writes on the politics of emotion in the Latin *Chronicle of Henry of Livonia* (1224–27) and the anonymous Middle High German *Livonian Rhymed Chronicle* (ca. 1290), Anti Selart on the legal status of land donated to the church in the thirteenth century, and Tiina Kala on how manuscript fragments reveal intellectual contacts between Tallinn and European centers of learning.

The second half of the volume concerns Livonia in the fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth centuries, essays focusing less on the military and religious colonization of the region than on its social history. In addition to the essays by Leskelä, Mänd, and Leimus, these essays use the image of the network to develop a reading of emerging social organizations in the developing cities, principally Tallinn: Taipo Salminen on city scribes in Tallinn, Krista Kodres on the representational aesthetics of wealthy burgher homes, and Gustavs Strenga on the circulation of memory among Cistercian convents. All essays are richly argued and detailed, and (sometimes implicitly) work to substantiate the principal claim of the volume—that "different local, regional and pan-European" (5) networks and agents played a decisive role in the making of Livonia: trade (the Hanseatic League); religion (the Cistercians, but also the mendicant Dominican and Franciscan orders); and the military, notably "supra-regional" (9) religious military orders like the Teutonic Order.

Livonia emerges as a distinctive site of intersection among the various players in the region and in its complex engagement with European institutions. Noting that the essays gathered here are methodologically diverse, the editors suggest that the collection illustrates "the possibilities of a relational and network-oriented approach in historical research with a special emphasis on individual actors and their agency" (4). Actor-network theory locates individual agency in the opportunities offered by a networking structure, implying that even nonhuman elements—"objects, ideas, technologies, etc."—may emerge as consequential agents alongside human counterparts. *Making Livonia* most often, though, deploys a relatively informal understanding of networking ("no comprehensive theoretical programme" informs the anthology), and while few of

the essays fully engage the theoretical implications of actor-network theory, all persuasively document networking activities in the more familiar non-Latourian habits of personal, social, cultural, and institutional relationships (4). This fine collection gathers a network, so to speak, of biographical, cultural, military, and social history toward an engaged reading of making Livonia.

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Print Culture at the Crossroads: The Book and Central Europe.

Elizabeth Dillenburg, Howard Paul Louthan, and Drew B. Thomas, eds.
Library of the Written Word 94; The Handpress World 94. Leiden: Brill, 2021. xiv + 552 pp. \$206.

The tell-tale bright yellow cover of Brill's Library of the Written Word series is always easy to spot on the new acquisitions shelf in the library. Looking across the shelf, publication seems surprisingly unabated over the past few years, despite world events. Kudos to Brill and all the editors who strive—even under strained conditions—to produce the series.

This volume, like so many others in The Handpress World segment of the series, stems from the annual conference series sponsored by the Universal Short Title Catalogue (USTC) at the University of St Andrews, Scotland. It reflects the breadth of conference participation with a broad consideration of the printed book across the multiple religious and ethnic groups active in Central Europe. In the introduction, Louthan makes the point that the 2017 conference (and by extension, this volume) intended to provide a more integrated view of early modern print culture in Central Europe by discussing the geographic region rather than just a single theme or concept. Thus, readers need to shift their expectations (based on other volumes in the series) of how the essays may relate to each other.

Unfortunately, all twenty-four essays in the volume cannot be discussed here. Not surprisingly, the largest percentage of essays provide multivalent examinations of the production (writing, translating, printing) of the diversity of religious works across the region (including Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish), as well as examinations of individual printing shop histories and output. I was particularly pleased to see several essays that pushed the idea of print culture beyond this more typical understanding, including those offerings by Herman on printed images and print albums, Czapnik on provenance marks, Jurkowlanec on the reuse and relationship of printed images between works, and Płaszczyńska-Herman on bookbindings and the retail market. Perhaps because they just align more with my own bookish interests, but it is important to understand that print culture includes a greater variety of topics beyond traditional textual or literary considerations to the production of images, as well as the distribution,