

KÖNIGTUM UND STÄNDE IN UNGARN IM 14.–16. JAHRHUNDERT. By *János M. Bak*. Quellen und Studien zur Geschichte des östlichen Europa, vol. 6. Wiesbaden: Franz Steiner Verlag, 1973. vii, 195 pp. DM 36, paper.

This first book, by a Hungarian-born Canadian scholar and professor of history at the University of British Columbia, is the result of intensive research in late medieval Hungarian history which Bak began with his Göttingen dissertation in 1962. It shows a thorough grasp of the sources, historiography, and problem areas of the subject. In fact, the introduction, notes, and appendixes, which make up one-third of the book, serve as the best available introduction to the period for those who do not read Hungarian. Appendix 2 is an especially fine survey of medieval Hungarian coronation ceremonies and is in the best tradition of the author's mentor, the late Percy Ernst Schramm.

The book's main theme concerns the development of the Hungarian *ständestaat* between 1301 and 1547. The arrangement is chronological, except for the last chapter where Bak argues convincingly that Stephan Werböczy's "doctrine of the holy crown" (1514)—which in later centuries acquired almost mystical veneration—had its origin in the late medieval struggles between king and estates. In analyzing the development of the *ständestaat*, Professor Bak combines political, constitutional, and institutional history with careful interpretation of the changing meaning of terms such as king, kingdom, crown, and community—crucial terms for an understanding of the late medieval state.

Hopefully, this valuable work will be published in English. A new edition might include the promised (p. 95, n. 6) comparative study of Eastern European states, further editing, translations of the twenty Latin documents, and a subject index.

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URAM, KIRÁLYOM . . . : A XV. SZÁZADI MAGYARORSZÁG HATALMASAI. By *Erik Fügedi*. Budapest: Gondolat, 1974. 253 pp. Illus. 57 Ft.

Hungarian historical bibliography is enriched by the publication of Erik Fügedi's interesting book. The title of the book, which in English translation means "My lord, my king," immediately suggests certain reservations and prejudices to the reader. However, as the author explains, the title is not really historical, but only a motto, which symbolizes the order and state concept of old Hungary. Fügedi's goal is research and analysis of the state system and the leading class of the Hungarian kingdom of the fifteenth century. In the introduction, he gives a general picture of the political, social, and economic life of fifteenth-century Hungary, and immediately directs the reader into the analysis of the country's administrative system. The symbol of the state, and the most important person, was the king. Without him there was no kingdom. For this reason, the author analyzes broadly the king's moral and legal position, his coronation, his curia, and court. Administrative sections of the state—for example, the church hierarchy and the nobility—are also examined.

The book is very informative. The author knows his material, his presentation is clear, and his arguments are persuasive. He strives for objectivity and does not base his explanations solely on Marxist-Leninist criticism of medieval society. The