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Independent Crusaders Mapping Project, 1st. Edition

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Archiving Dossier Narrative
Independent Crusaders Mapping Project
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Narrative Section 1. Project Rationale and Scope:

Independent Crusading in the Twelfth Century

In the years between the "numbered" Crusades, a steady stream of pilgrims arrived in the Holy Land with the intention of offering their military services to the Latin States. According to the chronicler Fulcher of Chartres, this practice was customary by at least 1113,[1] and a range of evidence demonstrates that these individuals made a considerable impression both at home and abroad. Western scribes demonstrated an enthusiasm for recorded the deeds of a local magnate or patron who had devoted himself to a period of self-imposed exile in the Levant,[2] Christians writing in the East left us with the identity of numerous warriors who disembarked to fight,[3] and, on occasion, Muslim chroniclers turned their attention to these independent crusaders.[4]

Considering the prominence of crusading in recent medieval historiography, it is surprising that there has been little interest in this phenomenon. The expeditions known to history as the First,

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[1] Fulcher of Chartres, *Historia Hierosolymitana (1095–1127)*, ed. Heinrich Hagenmeyer (Heidelberg, 1913), 575.

[2] Galbert of Bruges, *De multro, traditione, et occisione gloriosi Karoli comitis Flandriarum*, ed. J. Rider, *CCCM* 131 (Turnhout, 1994), 31; Ekkehard of Aura, *Chronicon universale*, *MGH SS*, vi, 262.

[3] William of Tyre, *Chronicon*, ed. R.B.C. Huygens, *CCCM* 63 (Turnhout, 1986), 517 and 681; Fulcher of Chartres, *Historia Hierosolymitana*, 543–8.

[4] Ibn al-Qalānisī, *The Damascus Chronicle of the Crusades*, trans. H.A.R. Gibb (London, 1932), 106–7; Ibn al-Athīr, *The Chronicle of Ibn al-Athīr for the Crusading Period from al-Kāmil fī'l-ta'rīkh. Part 1: The Years 491–541/1097–1146: The Coming of the Franks and the Muslim Response*, trans. D.S. Richards (Aldershot, 2005), 152.

Second, and Third Crusades have been scrutinized by historians for centuries and continue to form the focus of a considerable body of scholarship. However, the small-scale expeditions of independent crusaders are presented as little more than an intriguing aside during studies of the larger ventures, stirring interest rather than taking center stage in dedicated explorations.[5] This neglect can be attributed, in part, to the paucity and, in some cases, nature of surviving source materials. No chronicle equivalent to Ralph of Caen's *Gesta Tancredi*, which described the exploits of the first crusader Tancred, was produced to recount the deeds of Thierry of Flanders during his foray to the East in 1139, [6] nor did any offer extensive treatment of Charles the Good's time in the Holy Land during the first decade of the twelfth century,[7] and the source that dealt most comprehensively with King Sigurd of Norway's 1107–1111 campaign was written decades after the events it described.[8] Moreover, the study of these expeditions has been hindered, albeit inadvertently, by the interests and reservations of crusade historians. Specifically, a concern with definition has formed a prominent feature of crusade scholarship over the past five decades, and this has served, rightly or wrongly, to relegate independent crusades to a tangential interest of crusader studies.

The *Independent Crusaders* project is taking the first steps in exploring this understudied subject. We ask several questions of the surviving sources, but, more than simply a research project, our website is also a teaching resource that will introduce students to important questions in recent crusade historiography and aid in the development of research skills. The website will feature six important sections, as below:

 a. an interactive time map;
 b. a section devoted to charters from which data about independent crusaders has been extracted;
 c. a profile page for known crusaders;
 d. a page that makes the curated data, organized in spreadsheets, citable, downloadable, and re-usable for project visitors;
 e. essays about crusader charters, private crusaders, and prosopographical methods;
 f. teaching modules to promote the interactive character of the project for classroom use.

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[5] A notable exception to this is Lee Manion's treatment of "privy crusading" in his recent exploration of the English crusading romance, albeit for a much later period: Lee Manion, *Narrating the Crusades: Loss and Recovery in Medieval and Early Modern English Literature* (Cambridge, 2014), ch. 2.

[6] William of Tyre, *Chronicon*, 681.

[7] Walter of Thérouanne, *Walteri vita Karoli comitis Flandriae*, *MGH SS*, xii, 540; Galbert of Bruges, *De multro*, 31.

[8] Snorri Sturluson, *Heimskringla: History of the Kings of Norway*, trans. Lee M. Hollander (Austin, 1967), 688–714. It should be noted that the *Heimskringla*'s account of Sigurd's expedition is derived from an earlier account, which is no longer extant and was also used in the Morkinskinna, and a range of skaldic poetry.

Details on each component are as follows:

A. The *Independent Crusaders TimeMap*. This page serves as the center point of the exhibit, and features an interactive timeline paired with a map of Western Europe. As users scroll through the timeline, glyphs or icons appear on the map corresponding to the point of origin of a named individual crusaders according to their date of departure. Clusters of icons are color-coded to reflect the departure of groups of crusaders traveling together. Users can click on the icons representing each individual, and a pop-up box provides their known biographical information and links to a profile page with information and bibliography on that crusader. Another link in the box takes the visitor to an edition of the charter which served as the source for at least some of this information.

B. *Independent Crusaders Charter gallery*. This page includes small images of each charter used to establish the data for the interactive map. When users click on the image, a larger, text enriched version of the charter appears, which highlights the elements of the charter used in the project and provides translations into English of those key elements, with commentary. The charter gallery and text-enriched/partially-translated charters provide evidence about the activities of individual crusaders, but also lays bare the process of discovery for modern-day historians by illustrating the ways charters are used and understood.

C. *Independent Crusaders Profile Pages:* Each profile page provides information about individual crusaders gained through primary and secondary source research. In some cases, the profiles of well-known individuals and expedition leaders are linked to the profiles pages of other crusaders, and the relationship between these individuals made explicit.

D. *Independent Crusaders Downloadable Data Pages*. The downloadable data sheet found within the project provides the names, departure locales, and dates, and sources for the independent crusaders whose actions are plotted on the departure map.

E. *Essays*: The essays explain the context of particularly active independent crusaders, such as Hugh of Troyes or Thierry and Philip of Flanders, aspects of project methodology, and the study of charter documents.

F. *Teaching Modules:* The current version of the project contains two teaching modules; the first introduces a lesson on independent crusading, the second introduces students to the process of working with medieval charters.

Narrative Section 2. Project Trajectory and Re-evaluation Rationale

This is the first edition of the Independent Crusaders Mapping Project. The project is being archived as the result of a number of decisions made in the course of project development. Project creators had envisioned three different parts to the project whole: TEI encoded charters,

a map visualizing data found in those charters, and a spreadsheet or database that structured the data found in the charters. Omeka was chosen as the publishing platform on the basis that it would provide a format for dealing with charters as individual objects in a collection. However, the choice of platform posed serious challenges since it is not well suited to handling the kind of textual TEI that characterized the charters. In addition, project creators discarded the Neatline mapping application associated with Omeka in favor of Carto for its ease of use, meaning that new strategies had to be developed to ensure the Carto map would display using the Omeka content management systme. The final component, the structured data, never reached full functionality, the spreadsheets that were created as a result of the initial planning stages were to textual to be truly "structured," however, more structured but less informative spreadsheets were created as part of the mapping component. Thus the current iteration of the project achieved the basic aim of displaying charters and a map that could inform the potential audience about "independent crusaders," but lacked the depth and data linkage that the development team had hoped to achieve. The team hopes to address these data challenges in the second edition of the project, planned to launch in 2018.

Narrative Section 3. Project Outcomes

The following products were a direct or indirect outcome from this project:

Conference Presentation by Stephen Powell and Katherine Briant, "Queerness of Space, Time and Text in the Independent Crusaders Mapping Project" *Queer Encoding: Encoding Diverse Identities.* NYU Center for the Humanities: New York, NY, April 28, 2017.

Conference Presentation by Stephen Powell, "The Independent Crusaders Mapping Project: Addressing Medieval Sources Through Digital Mapping" *Terra Digita Conference*, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, November 4, 2017.

Narrative Section 4. Tools Used
The project was built in the Omeka 2.5 content management system. The database was created in Excel 7.0. Spreadsheets. The departure map, inserted into the Omeka platform, was created in Carto.

Narrative Section 5. Web analytics
Web analytics from the project's launch in July of 2017 until March 2017 as uneven, with significant spikes after each presentation on the topic. See attached document for overall use patterns.

Narrative Section 6. Digital Objects
The digital objects created for this project include PDF-files of each webpage, the data sheet used to create the departure map, a sitemap, and a web recording of the project in action. All digital objects are stored at the project's persistent identifier, at
http://demo.fordham.bepress.com/archiving_dossier_demo/1/.

Narrative Section 7. Project Preservation Plans and Copyright Clearance

A memo of understanding exists with Fordham University Library to host and maintain the contents of this dossier for ten years, until 10/2018. Project metadata produced in connection with the Fordham Library will make the data, project pages, and a web-rcording of the dynamic elements of the project findable until this date. Project creators certify that all site content, including images from outside sources,conforms to appropriate copyright clearance laws. The project can be accessed, cited, and reused under a creative commons license.

Narrative Section 8: Project Bibliography
A full list of primary and secondary sources for this project can be found in the project PDF files, located at http://demo.fordham.bepress.com/archiving_dossier_demo/1/.