

Roman Zehetmayer, On retainership of noblemen in Babenberg Austria (p. 23–49)

This study focusses on structure and composition of noble retainerships of comital and other powerful families in 11th and early 12th century Austria. Among these, ministerials were gaining ground from the 1040ies onwards and recruiting to a larger degree than supposed from the ranks of free nobles. Also *milites proprii* played a larger role than hitherto recognised. The bonds between lord and retainer are scrutinised here, and fields of action and options differing widely for free nobles and ministerials, but among the ministerials themselves as well, are shown.