

Torgeir Melsaeter, A neglected source from the 16th century. The armorial of Martin Schrot and Adam Berg (1580) as an imperial propaganda tool for a crusade against the Turks (p. 339–368)

Armorial are often seen as descriptive collections of coats of arms and thus not often consulted for historical analysis. Martin Schrot's and Adam Berg's *Wappenbuch* (1576, 1580/81) is a neglected source concerning research on the political history of Central Europe in the early modern period. This armorial was published as a propaganda tool on behalf of Emperor Rudolph II in order to convince the princes, countries and institutions of Europe, especially those of the Holy Roman Empire, to initiate a crusade against the Turks. The goal was both to secure the European Christian community as well as to recapture former Christian territories lost to the Turks and other Muslims throughout history. Hungary plays a key role here as the most important territory to protect. As visual signs, coats of arms represent European Christianity, and could also be connected directly to the crusades of the Middle Ages. Together with many informative texts, the coats of arms in the armorial made an important contribution to supporting the emperor in his struggle against the Turks.