

Brigitte Hotz, Beguine existence as a universally approved way of religious life? Source-assessing remarks on a new book and the specific value of preliminary studies (p. 124–139)

The late medieval perception of the phenomenon of Beguines was as varied as the phenomenon itself. A new monograph attempts to reduce the multiple responses to the mere pattern of „integration into the ecclesiastical system“, an assumption which this contribution aims to challenge with a critical evaluation of the sources: Beguines were also exposed to the hostilities of the head of the Church or its local authorities. Based on fundamental evidence from the Council of Vienne, following papal decisions and the controversy surrounding the Strasbourg Beguines as examples, the paper deals with: 1. two Clementines with imprecisely formulated prohibitions of Beguines, specified afterwards by papal decrees and declarations; 2. two bishops of Strasbourg who were involved in the gradual differentiation between forbidden and licit forms of Beguine life, and acted more or less accordingly; 3. fundamentalist circles of clerics uncompromisingly opposed to Beguines.

Schlagworte: Beginen; kanonisches Recht; Konzil von Vienne; Kirchengeschichte;

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