

Werner Seibt and Martin Bitschnau, In the year 1293 John, „archbishop of Ninive“, sealed letters of indulgence in Tyrolia with the matrix of the Armenian katholikos Yakob I († 1286) (p. 112–123)

In 1293 a certain John, calling himself „archbishop of Ninive“, travelled through the diocese of Brixen (located in southern and northern Tyrolia) and sealed – per nefas! – letters of indulgence with the matrix of the Armenian katholikos Yakob, who had passed away some years previously. This is the only seal of an Armenian katholikos we know! The bishop of Brixen was not able to take possession of his diocese, so John, who was welcome in its churches and monasteries, acted like a chorepiskopos. John described Ninive as being in „Armenia minor“ (!) and sometimes used fancy titles in the manner of a swindler. He was certainly not an Armenian, probably a Syrian bishop, who had perhaps come to Europe as a delegate of the Mongols.

Schlagworte: Armenien; Katholikos; Siegel; Ablass

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