

Letha Böhringer, Die Schwestern und Töchter der Odelind von Pyritz. Ein überregionales Netzwerk von Beginen im Reich wird sichtbar

Abstract: The Sisters and Daughters of Odelind of Pyritz. A supra-regional network of beguines in the Empire emerges

The article traces a unique network of voluntarily poor non-cloistered sisters and beguines resembling a religious order – but was formed without ecclesiastical or lay support. The first community we know of was founded in 1291 at Cologne by a woman known as Odelind of Pyritz in Pomerania. A 1332 inquisition at Schweidnitz in Silesia targets a convent of women who called themselves the Daughters of Udilind; the protocol names a number of towns with similar communities. Some twenty years later a convent in Augsburg, Swabia, identifies itself as the Sisters of Udelhild. Odelind/Udilind/Udelhild was apparently the inspirational figure of an unobtrusive, yet respected group of convents scattered across the German-speaking lands. The convents were self-sufficient, distant to mendicants and clergy, and maintained communication by the exchange of members and financial assistance. The Sisters and Daughters of Odelind are a new phenomenon of independent women creating their own religious lifestyle of strict poverty and self-sufficiency.

Keywords: beguines – Inquisition – Cologne – Schweidnitz – Augsburg – lay religion – convents – Odelind of Pyritz

Schlagworte: Beginen – Inquisition – Köln – Schweidnitz – Augsburg – Laienreligiosität – Frauenkonvente – Odelind von Pyritz