Abstract: Careers at the Imperial court, around 1500. The example of Johann Waldner (ca. 1430–1502)

This essay deals with the rise of Johann Waldner († 1502) in the court of Emperor Frederick III. Since 1467, Waldner can be traced in the Imperial Chancery. As early as autumn 1471, the records of the Regensburg Christentag mention him in a leading position. His rise within the Chancery is directly linked to his work as a scribe of the Court of the Imperial Chamber (Reichskammergericht). He is attested with the title of Protonotary since July 1472. After the death of Archbishop Adolf of Mainz in 1475, Waldner took over the management of the Roman Chancery in the position of Vice Chancellor, but he never attained the position of Chancellor. In the vast majority of references, Waldner continued to refer to himself as „Protonotary“ or „Secretary“ even after taking over the Chancery. These are the two terms most frequently found for him outside the Court and Chancery. Waldner belonged to the inner circle of the court in the final third of Frederick’s reign; his later fall can be explained by shifts in power at Maximilian’s court.

Keywords: Emperor Frederick III – Johann Waldner – Chancery – Kammergericht – social mobility