

Abstract: The charters on oaths of reconciliation under the Viennese judge Mert Enthaimer (1466–1472)

The *Urfehde* (an oath of reconciliation guaranteed with a charter) has been used as a source in a wide range of research on the historical evolution of law, on delinquency in medieval and early modern times, and on criminal prosecution and jurisdiction. In this paper the author analyses the *Urfehdebriefe* issued by the late medieval Viennese town judge Mert Enthaimer (d. 1475) as a legal instrument as well as a means to enforce the judicial authority of the civic government over its citizens. In an evaluation of the various clauses and formulas in the *Urfehde*, the underlying issues regarding the urban community as well as their legal implications are highlighted. Finally, the *Urfehden* are presented as evidence of an increasingly professionalised administration.

Keywords: Vienna; oath of reconciliation; diplomatic; civic community

Schlagworte: Wien; Urfehde; Diplomatie; Stadtgemeinde