

Book Reviews

The Ancestry and Life of Godfrey of Bouillon. By John C. Andressohn. *Indiana University Publications, Social Science Series*, No. 5. (Bloomington, Indiana, 1947, pp. 135. Illustrations, maps, bibliography, and index. \$1.50.)

Few subjects in European History have been more intensively studied than the Crusades. Yet Professor Andressohn's scholarly monograph indicates that there is still need for critical studies to expand or correct the work of Kugler, Röhricht, Von Sybel, and other authorities.

The present volume falls into two well-defined portions. In the first, which scholars probably will find the more useful, the author presents a careful, completely documented account of the ancestry and life of Godfrey prior to the beginning of the First Crusade. The second portion of the book (Chapters III-IV) is primarily the story of the First Crusade, with attention concentrated on Godfrey as directly as the sources permit. Although the material on the Crusade is familiar to students of the period, the author's views on controversial questions enlist close attention and, in the main, concurrence.

In dealing with the early life of Godfrey, Professor Andressohn follows Breysig in holding that the duke was born in 1060. Although Godfrey of Bouillon was named the heir of Godfrey the Hunchback, the Emperor, Henry IV, did not grant him possession of Lorraine on an hereditary basis. Indeed, title to all the former possessions of the Hunchback was disputed by his widow, Matilda of Tuscany, who, with the support of Pope Gregory VII, was a formidable antagonist. The author rightly maintains that Godfrey of Bouillon fought under the banner of Henry IV in the Investiture Wars and accompanied him to Italy in his counter-offensive against Gregory VII. The view that Godfrey finally received Lorraine in 1087 is also presented in convincing fashion.

In his account of the Crusade, Professor Andressohn rightly refutes Von Sybel, who erroneously believed that Eustace of Boulogne accompanied Godfrey on the expedition. The author follows Albert (*Alberti Aquensis historia Hierosolymitana*) in believing that legates of Bohemond prompted the Emperor, Alexius, to come to an agreement with Godfrey and regards the struggle at Tarsus a reflection of the conflict between factions headed by Godfrey and Bohemond. Al-

though tempted to accept Albert's recognition of Godfrey's primacy among the crusading leaders, Professor Andressohn correctly rejects this interpretation in view of Godfrey's third place among the leaders named in a letter to Pope Urban II. Nevertheless, with the siege of Arcas and the reaction against Raymond, "attempts were made to wrest the active control of the crusading operations from Raymond and place it in the hands of Godfrey" (p. 93). Raymond declined the crown of Jerusalem, the author believes, because he "hoped for a more lucrative conquest, a coastal stretch, probably in the region of Tripoli" (p. 104).

Professor Andressohn brings keen critical appraisal to bear upon the traditional concepts of Godfrey's character and competence. The duke's "conduct toward church property was by no means exemplary. Like many other lay princes he profited by the confusion and the turmoil of the Investiture Struggle" (p. 48). Piety did not impel Godfrey to go on the Crusade; "Rather than unusual religious fervor, it was the example of the princes of Northern France that stirred in him the spirit of adventure, the willingness to give up the 'certain for the uncertain'" (pp. 48-49). Yet despite the brevity of his regime and the multitude of difficulties he encountered as the first head of the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem, Godfrey "had transformed Palestine from a doubtful asset to a coveted prize" (p. 124).

No student of the Crusades, or of Medieval History in general, can overlook Professor Andressohn's study. In clear, straightforward style, the narrative is presented with careful attention to balance and perspective. Controversial issues are faced four-square, with the author's interpretations bolstered with appropriate citations and often excerpts from the relevant sources. The appearance of such a study under direct auspices of Indiana University is additional cause for gratification among scholars who will look forward to the appearance of other volumes in the *Series* with great interest.

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The South during Reconstruction, 1865-1877. By E. Merton Coulter. Volume VIII, *A History of the South*, edited by Wendell H. Stephenson and E. Merton Coulter. (Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University Press, 1947, pp. xii, 426. Illustrations, bibliography, and index. \$5.00).