

FOREWORD

Almost twenty years have now passed since the appearance of the first volume of this *History of the Crusades* (1955). In the Foreword to that volume I cited the maxim attributed to Augustus, which Petrarch once quoted to his friend Boccaccio: Whatever is being done well enough, is being done soon enough (*Epp. seniles*, XVI [XVII], 2). Since seven years elapsed before the second volume was published (1962), I have never been under the illusion that we were doing our task soon enough. I can only hope that we have done it well enough. Now, after another dozen years, we present the third volume to our readers, but I am glad to say that the fourth volume has also gone to the press.

Volume III, as its title indicates, deals with the period of the later Crusades. The fourteenth century witnessed the two Smyrniote Crusades (1344–1347), the sack of Alexandria (1365), the anti-Bulgarian and anti-Turkish expedition of Amadeo VI of Savoy (1366–1367), the Barbary Crusade (1390), and the Christian defeat at Nicopolis (1396). The fourteenth century closed with the anti-Turkish expedition of the doughty marshal Boucicault in defense of Constantinople (1399–1400), and the following century opened with his harassment of the Mamluk coast of Syria (1403). After Boucicault most Christian expeditions against the Moslems were directed against the Ottoman Turks; they were primarily defensive, to stem the Turkish advance into Christian territory.

The hope of rewinning the Holy Land had largely passed by the fifteenth century, although it remained the ideal of propagandists at the Curia Romana. The fall of Constantinople in 1453 was a blow to eastern Christendom from which recovery was to prove impossible. Pius II's crusading efforts died with him at Ancona (1464), and little came of the crusading dreams of visionaries at the court of Burgundy in the time of Philip the Good (1419–1467). The Conciliar movement had distracted the papacy; the anti-Hussite Crusades helped spend the military resources of the Germans. Nevertheless, the fifteenth century was marked by the Hungarian expeditions which John Hunyadi and Matthias Corvinus led against the Turks. If the Christians were defeated at Varna (1444), they repulsed the Turks at Belgrade (1456). If the Mamluks reduced Cyprus to a tributary state

with the humiliation of king James (1426), the Venetians later acquired the island and held it for more than eighty years (1489–1571). Early in the sixteenth century Selim I's destruction of the Mamluk power in Egypt (1517) made the Turks masters of the eastern Mediterranean littoral. The Hospitallers had to surrender Rhodes on the first day of the new year 1523, but Malta held out against the Turks in 1565, and the naval forces of Christendom were victorious at Lepanto in 1571.

Although Dr. Hazard and I had once hoped to carry the *Crusades* down to the Venetian surrender of Crete to the Turks in 1669, time and circumstance have moderated our ambition. Our plans have changed somewhat—inevitably so—in the twenty years that have passed since the appearance of the first volume. Volume IV will deal primarily with the art and architecture of the crusader states; Volume V, with political and economic institutions, agricultural conditions, crusading propaganda, western missions, religious minorities, and social history. Volume VI will be an atlas and gazetteer of crusading history.

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