

PREFACE

Having devoted nearly a quarter of a century to this series of volumes on the crusades, and having known for at least a decade that eventually this preface would be required of me, I nevertheless have accumulated no philosophical profundities to share with the reader, merely some deeply felt apologies and regrets, gratitude and hopes.

Apologies for the inordinate delays in producing this and its companion volume, now in press, are due both to the readers who have—we trust—been impatiently awaiting their appearance, and to the contributors, many of whom have conscientiously revised chapters submitted in the 'fifties and 'sixties to take into account subsequent research. Regrets parallel the apologies, for the inexorable passage of time has claimed the lives of four of our contributors—Sir Harry Luke and Professors Ettore Rossi, Mustafa Ziada, and Edgar Johnson—so that we have had to prepare their chapters for publication without the benefit of their advice, in rueful awareness that we could never duplicate their specialized knowledge. I can only hope that such footnotes and bibliographical additions as I have supplied, and such modifications as I have had to make in their original manuscripts, would have met with their approval.

Gratitude, of course, is due primarily to our other contributors, not only for revising their chapters but for their forbearance with editorial exigencies and suggestions. Many others have helped, over the years, and our deep appreciation is here acknowledged, to Mrs. Jean T. Carver for extensive impeccable typing, to Mrs. Margaret T. Setton and Dr. David L. Gassman for meticulous proof-reading, to Mrs. Mary Maraniss of the University of Wisconsin Press for equally meticulous preparation of the manuscript for the printer, to Professor Randall T. Sale and his staff for the maps which embellish these pages, to the anonymous printers who have cheerfully incorporated countless revisions and corrections, and not least to the ever-helpful director of the Press, Thompson Webb, Jr.

As for our hopes, without which the effort of assembling and editing such collaborative works as this would be intolerable, they will surprise no one: the hope that this third volume is as generously received as its two predecessors, and stands up as well over the years; the hope that volume IV will appear shortly, and that volumes V and

VI will follow with all deliberate speed; the hope that perusal of the series will prove profitable, not only in supplying information presented from varied points of view, but in providing occasion for contemplation of a world in upheaval, so different from our own and yet so inescapably similar.

HARRY W. HAZARD

The Institute for Advanced Study
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