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Apfalterjerji na Gamberku

IZVLEČEK

Prispevek obravnava približno polstoletno obdobje, v katerem so člani rodbine Apfalterjer opravljali službo dežel-noknežjih oskrbnikov gospostva Gamberk. V tem času je vodilna vloga pripadala jeterbenski liniji Apfalterjerjev, ki se je predvsem na račun zvestobe deželnemu knezu, kralju in cesarju Frideriku V. (III.), močno okrepila. Po pridobitvi gospostva Lebek v fevd se je od nje odcepila gambersko-lebeška stranska veja rodu, ki je doživela viden vzpon, a je po moški strani izumrla že v drugi generaciji. Razmeroma dobra obranjenost virov odstira vpogled v življenje gospo-ščinjskih oskrbnikov in delovanje poznosrednjeveškega gospostva, omogoča pa tudi razumevanje posledic dogodkov in procesov širšega pomena v tem lokalnem okolju.

KLJUČNE BESEDE

Apfalterjer, Gamberk, Lebek, Friderik III., plemstvo, srednji vek, Kranjska

ABSTRACT

THE APFALTERER FAMILY AT GAMBERK CASTLE

The article outlines the nearly fifty-year period during which the members of the Apfalterer family served as stew-ards of the Gamberk seignior on behalf of the territorial prince. At that time, the Jeterbenk branch held the primacy in the Apfalterer family, whose loyalty to the territorial prince, king and emperor Frederick V (III) enabled them to become influential powerbrokers. After being enfeoffed the Lebek seignior, the Gamberk-Lebek side branch broke off and made a significant yet short-lived rise as its male line died out already in the second generation. Relatively well preserved sources provide an insight into the lives of seigniorial stewards and the operations of a late medieval seignior, as well as enable us to understand the aftermath of the events and processes that were of wider significance for this local environment.

KEY WORDS

Apfalterer, Gamberk (Gallenberg), Lebek (Liebeck), Frederick III, nobility, Middle Ages, Carniola

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S U M M A R Y

The Apfaltrer family at Gamberk Castle

In the summer of 1433, the deeply indebted brothers Nikolas and Vigulus of Stegberg (Šteberk) sold the Gamberk (Gallenberg) Castle, together with all appurtenances, to Duke Frederick V (later-to-become King and Emperor Frederick III), who immediately appointed Georg I Apfaltrer as its steward and thus ushered in a period of nearly fifty

years in which the members of this family administered and protected the seignory along the eastern Carniolan border on behalf of the territorial prince. The office of stewardship passed from one family member to another uninterruptedly for decades, which was rarely seen in Carniola at the end of the late Middle Ages. At that time, the Jeterbenk (Hertenberg) branch held the primacy in the family and their loyalty to Frederick III helped them to become influential powerbrokers. When the family was run by brothers Georg I and Konrad II, the circle of loyal Carniolan nobility surrounding the territorial prince was a narrow one; therefore, both could build successful careers in service to the prince and expand their estates. The most significant acquisition was that of the seignory of Lebek (Liebeck), which was enfeoffed to the Apfaltrers no later than early 1444. This set the conditions for the creation of the Gamberk-Lebek side branch of the family, founded by Konrad, who was succeeded by his son Andreas II. In the second half of the fifteenth century, the Gamberk-Lebek family branch reached the zenith of its power and primacy over the highly branched-out Apfaltrer family, but soon became extinct when Andreas died childless in 1479/1480. Consequently, the Jeterbenk line of the Apfaltrer family died out as well, with its estates passing into other hands through the female members of the family.

The fifty-year period, in which the Jeterbenk branch of the Apfaltrer family administered the Gamberk Castle on behalf of the territorial prince, marks the time of the critical transition from the late Middle Ages to the early Modern Period, which was punctuated by frequent political crises and military confrontations. These developments and processes also exacted a toll on the seignory stretching along the eastern Carniolan border. As evident from preserved sources, the seignory suffered the most damage during the Habsburg-Celje feud, and it was also not spared by Turkish incursions, which reached the territory of Inner Austria at the end of the 1460s. Nonetheless, despite all the tribulations, the Apfaltrer family administered and protected the Gamberk seignory for nearly half a century, which points to their great performance, leaving the territorial prince with no reason to replace them.