

# Hans Fründ

**Hans Fründ** ( *Johannes Fründ* , ca. 1400–1468) was a clerk or chronicler from Lucerne in Switzerland. He is known for his account of the Valais witchcraft trials and the former Zürich War .

## Biography

Born and educated in Lucerne , he was employed as a chronicler there in 1429, under Egloff Etterlin. Around 1430, he wrote about the Valais witchcraft trials .

From 1437 to 1461 he was Chancellor ( *Landschreiber* ) of Schwyz . In this function, he participated in several federal diets and also served as a chronicler during the old Zürich war (1440-46). His chronicle expresses the point of view of an eyewitness from Schwyz adopting an anti-Habsburg position <sup>2</sup> . Fründ seems to have contracted a serious illness in 1447 which prevented him from finishing his story, so the text does not cover the peace negotiations and the definitive treaty of 1450 <sup>3</sup> .

Fründ remains in the canton of Schwyz, until 1457. That year, he is again employed by the city of Lucerne, in the office of the court secretary (Gerichtsschreiber) *after* the failure of his candidature for the post of state secretary ( *Stadtschreiber* ).

Fründ was married three times, first to Elli Bumbel, then to Adelheid von Tengen and finally to Margaretha Giessmann. He probably died in 1468, and certainly before theMarch 10, 1469. He appears to have acquired some wealth, which is established by records of litigation over his inheritance between his third wife and the daughter of his second marriage.

## Posterity

Fründ's chronicle is one of the main sources (along with that of Conrad Justinger , the *Chronicles of Bern* around 1430) used in the illustrated Chronicle of Tschachtlanch of 1470. Similarly, Diebold Schilling the Elder uses a substantial portion of Fründ's text in his *Berner Schilling* chronicle of 1483. Although Fründ's text has been widely quoted by authors of later works, his own authorship has been overlooked, and his own works misidentified . Fründ's chronicle has long been considered lost, and Heinrich Bullingerlater mistakenly attributed his text to a certain Ulrich Wagner. He is, however, noted in the memoirs as a chronicler by Aegidius Tschudi (around 1550), who is not, however, recognized as a reliable witness. Fründ's

## Hans Fründ

Function

Chancellor ( d )

Biography

Birth

Towards1400  
Lucerne

Death

1468  
Lucerne

Activities

Writer , clerk , columnist or  
columnist



first page of Hans Fründ's manuscript concerning the witch hunt in the canton of Valais in the central library of Lucerne

identity and recognition of his authorship of his chronicles was finally reestablished in Swiss historiography in the 1870s, first by Hungerbühler (1871), who however mistakenly attributed an ancient text to him on a Legend of the Swedish origin of emigrants in Switzerland <sup>4</sup> while the text of his chronicle is published by Kind (1875) <sup>5</sup>.

## Bibliography

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- “ Fründ, Hans (<https://hls-dhs-dss.ch/fr/articles/014126/>) ” in the Online *Historical Dictionary of Switzerland* , version of 2006.
- Hugo Hungerbühler, *Vom Herkommen der Banque* (1871), 51–70 (<https://books.google.ch/books?id=JfwuAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA51>) .
- GP Marchal, *Verfasserlexikon* II, 2nd ed. 1980, 992f.
- Christian Sieber, "'Unfreundliche' Briefe, Kriegserklärungen und Friedensverträge. Der Alte Zürichkrieg (1436-1450) im Spiegel der Biographie von Landschreiber Hans Fründ", *Mitteilungen des Historischen Vereins des Kantons Schwyz* 98 (2006), 11–37.

## References

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1. *Von den Hexen, so in Wallis verbrant wurdent* , extant in two versions, Luzern, Zentralbibl., BB 335, pp. 483-488 and Strasbourg, Bibl. univ., Ms. 2. 935, ff. 162-164. See J. Hansen, *Quellen und Untersuchungen zur Geschichte des Hexenwahns und der Hexenverfolgung im Mittelalter* (1901), 533-537. Editions: K. Utz Tremp, in: M. Ostorero et al. (eds.), *The Sabbath Imagination* (1999), pp. 30-44, 47-51. G. Modestin, *Vallesia* 60 (2005), 404-409 ([https://doc.rero.ch/record/22050/files/I-N-268\\_2005\\_10\\_00.pdf](https://doc.rero.ch/record/22050/files/I-N-268_2005_10_00.pdf)) .
2. Christian Immanuel Kind, *Die Chronik des Hans Fründ, Landschreiber zu Schwyz* (1875).
3. Kind (1875), p. III-IV (<https://www.archive.org/stream/diechronikdesha00schwgoog/#page/n13/mode/2up>) .
4. the author of this text now being generally held to be Heinrich von Gundelfingen, who wrote in c. 1470; see Egloff (2006).
5. see Kind (1875) p. VII (<https://www.archive.org/stream/diechronikdesha00schwgoog/#page/n17/mode/2up>) on the authorship question.

## External links

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- Records in general dictionaries or encyclopedias
  - : *German Biography* (<http://www.deutsche-biographie.de/118935518.html>) · *Historical Dictionary of Switzerland* (<http://www.hls-dhs-dss.ch/textes/f/F014126.php>)
- Authority records : VIAF (<http://viaf.org/viaf/69162771>) · BnF (<http://catalogue.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/cb145131839>) ( [data](http://data.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/cb145131839) (<http://data.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/cb145131839>) ) · GND (<http://d-nb.info/gnd/118935518>) · WorldCat (<https://www.worldcat.org/identities/viaf-69162771>)