

Russ, Melchior

biography

Russ: Melchior [R.](#), knight, the previous eldest son. Born in Lucerne around 1450, [R.](#) attended the University of Basel in 1471, where he was badly injured at the baptism of the fox (*in depositione beani*), then in 1473 the University of Pavia, where he devoted himself to the study of law and took part in the disputations involved, but met with ridicule from his fellow students for his lack of classical education. Returning home in 1475, [R.](#) 1476 and 1477 in the battles of Granson, Murten and Nancy against Duke Charles of Burgundy; in the winter of 1478 he took part in the campaign across the St. Gotthard to Bellenz as a field clerk in the army of his native town. [R.](#) probably made a trip to France in 1479 on the occasion of the peace negotiations with Milan. Under his father, with whom he had jointly owned the Sins and Rüßegg estates since 1476, [R.](#) as a councilor in the State Chancellery in Lucerne and was therefore also used on diplomatic missions of the Federal Diet. However, when he was not properly rewarded for his efforts to bring about the ten-year league of the Confederates with King Matthias of Hungary (March 26, 1479), he went to the king's court himself. With this he fought on October 13, 1479 in the battle of Kenger-Mezö in Transylvania against the Turks and received from the spoils valuable clothes, weapons and two Turkish banners, together with the assurance of an annual pension of 300 ducats. Elected to the Great Council of Lucerne in 1480, [R.](#) 1483 bailiff of Ebikon and Rootsee, 1487 bailiff of Malters and Littau, without giving up his position in the state chancellery. From 1480 he worked, based on Konrad Justinger's Bern Chronicle, revised by Tschachtlan and Dittlinger, on a Lucerne Chronicle that lasted up to 1412 and was illustrated with pictures. These 1832—1838 by J. Schneller, JE |Kopp and L. Wurstemberger in the Schweizerisches Geschichtsforscher (X, I bis XXVI, 1-272) chronicle has become of far greater importance for the critical investigation of Swiss history than many, partly because of what it says and partly because of what it conceals far more valuable source of history for Switzerland, just think of the pamphlets on the Tell and Winkelried question, which are based on [R.](#) .. While the Germanists in [R.](#) Supposed to discover an "educated and important historian", some of the source critics revealed him as a cheeky plagiarist who not only borrowed nine tenths from Justinger, but also betrayed his own ignorance in all those passages which he himself included in his compilation attached, while the others, who only considered individual passages, considered [R.](#) to be a "subtle" writer, who was above the spirit of the canton, who took a critical stance towards Swiss fairy tales and therefore forfeited the favor of the Lucerne public have." Before the completion of this chronicle, dedicated to the Council of Lucerne and only preserved as a copy, [R.](#) sent with guild master Thomas Schaub from Zurich and undersigned Johann Schilling from Lucerne to King Matthias Corvinus in Hungary to conclude a defensive alliance. Since this alliance was to remain secret, the Swiss envoys, dressed like pilgrims going to Jerusalem, departed for Austria in March, 1488. [Treated with distinction in Vienna and Ofen, R.](#), clad in a golden coat, received knighthood from Matthias Corvinus in St. It was not until 1489 that the three envoys returned to Switzerland, laden with coats of arms and letters of nobility and brilliant promises, without having achieved their purpose. [R.](#) had more than 8000 guilders.to demand from the promising king for his services. Urged by creditors everywhere, he traveled again to Vienna and Ofen to obtain the solution of the obligations from the king. But in the midst of these negotiations, King Matthias died on Palm Sunday night 1491. After [R.](#) had buried his patron with other knights, he returned home in a desperate situation. The Hungarians denied that [R.](#) was a federal envoy and refused to compensate him for his demands. The creditors seized the unfortunate knight's belongings. His wife, Dorothea Allwand von Bern, also left him. In vain asked [R.](#) in Bern for permission to overthrow the Hungarian

merchants and nobles until he was remunerated for his speeches (1490, December 8 and 1496). He found no support in Zurich either, because he had made himself hated by unwise statements about the execution of Frischhans Theilling. In this distress R.his luck at the Palatinate court. For this purpose, the Council of Solothurn, where the older Russian sister lived as the wife of the mayor Bys, gave him a letter of recommendation on September 9, 1491. As early as January 28, 1492, the Council of Solothurn thanked Count Palatine Philip for accepting Knight Melchior Russ into the court service. On April 4, 1492, Count Palatine Philipp Russ entrusted the mission to inquire with the cities of Freiburg and Solothurn as to whether they would be willing to accept the 5-year league of the eight federal towns concluded on August 23, 1491 with Dukes Philipp, Albrecht and to join George of Bavaria. On June 5, 1492, R.as Palatine envoy at the Federal Diet in Baden, but exceeded his competence here by immediately concluding a contract for the dukes that went far beyond the powers of attorney, Pensions | prescribed and given gifts. On January 3rd and 4th, 1493, the Count Palatine refused to fulfill the obligations entered into by R. and dismissed the knight from his service. R. now tried again to assert his claims on King Matthias to King Wladislaw of Hungary and for this purpose wrote a memorial about his diplomatic missions to Hungary. After the death of his father, who died in favor of his little son Melchior R.of the disciples, son of Nicolaus Russ, who was born after 1473, R. rejoined the State Chancellery. Due to his incorrect behavior in the trial of Bishop Jost von Silinen from Lucerne, who was expelled from Valais by Der Matze, he was involved in a lengthy injury trial with the influential mayor Ludwig Seiler of Lucerne in 1496 and on May 18, 1498 for a long time, if not forever Time banned from the Lucerne area. R. , who first moved to Valais and then to Uri, tried to initiate a revision of the process in 1498 by arguing that he had accidentally put the documents in his favor instead of the files in his beret. When the Confederates' war against the German Empire broke out in 1499, R.under the banner of Uri as a simple mercenary on the field. On March 28, 1499 he was occupied at Rheineck. From there his comrades-in-arms, even Mayor Seiler, applied to the Council of Lucerne for a pardon for the impoverished, unfortunate knight. On July 20, 1499, Count Itelfritz von Zollern attacked Rheineck and R. was killed. The Diet honored the memory of the unfortunate by paying off the debts that R. had contracted in Rheineck during the war.

literature

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