

1234 10/9

Riga

Δ Ösel-Wiek (prov. Teutonia)

Papal Legate William of Modena appoints Fr. Henricus of the Friars Preachers to bishop of Ösel-Wiek and (re)sets the borders of the diocese.

Source: Transcript in *Öselscher Copialbücher*, early 16th century. The Danish National Archives, Copenhagen.

Limitatio episcopatus Osiliensis et illius erectio vel institutio.

Wilhelmus, divina miseratione episcopus quondam Mutinensis, primarius [poenitentiarius] domini pape, apostolice sedis legatus, dilectus in Christo fratribus omnibus, presentes litteras inspecturis, salutem in nomine Jesu Christi. Mandatum domini pape recipimus in hunc modum: (...). Huius igitur auctoritate mandati instituimus, elegimus, confirmavimus et consecravimus in episcopum Osilia et Maritime fratrem Henricum de ordine predicatorum, conferentes ei in predictis terris omne jus spirituale et temporale. Ad plenam diocesim autem Osiliam episcopatus de tota Maritima, videlicet a dimidio alvei fluminis Emihoch, sicut ascenditur de mari, usque ad rivulum, qui dicitur Pala, ac deinde, sicut ascenditur per rivulum illum, usque ad ortum suum, usque ad aquam, que dicitur altus rivulus, qui conjungitur ex duobus rivulis in ipsa via, sicut descendit rivulus ad mare; item terram Osiliam et Mone et Dageydam, cum omnibus insulis, ad Osiliam et Maritimam pertinentibus, usque ad finem Maritime, versus Revelam, statuimus et sic perpetuo ordinamus et sic precipimus observari. Datum Rige, anno gratie MCC[X]XXIII, quarto idus septembris.

Comments: The transcript has the year 1224 (*MCCXXIII*), which must be a mistake for 1234. In a subsequent transcript in the same register, dated to 1234 10/11, Legate William speaks of Bishop Henricus as newly appointed by himself as substitute for the Cistercian Bishop Gottfried (LEKUB 1. ser. VI no. 2722). Also, the (here omitted) papal letter of mandate referred to in the beginning is dated to 1234 28/2, where Pope Gregory authorised William to appoint bishops in Tallinn, Vironia and adjacent districts (LEKUB 1. ser. I no. 133). ● Fr. Henricus (*Heinrich*) was bishop of Ösel-Wiek from 1234 until his death in 1260. It is not known from which convent or even province he came, but most likely he was German, possibly from the convent in either Magdeburg, Bremen or Lübeck. As bishop, he continuously referred to himself as *frater Henricus ordinis predicatorum Dei gratia episcopus Osilie et Maritime*. Bishop Henricus OP worked together with the Livonian (later Teutonic) Order against the pagan Osilians as well as Danish interests in the region. ● The diocese of Ösel-Wiek (Est. Saare-Lääne) was constituted of the westernmost part of mainland Estonia along with the islands of Saaremaa (Ösel), Hiiumaa (Dagö) and Muhu (Mohn); Bishop Henricus made Pernau the cathedral centre of the diocese in 1251. At first the diocese was semi-independent and administered directly under the popes until subjugated to the church province of Riga in 1255.

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