

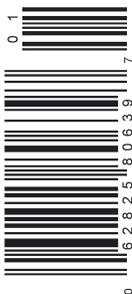
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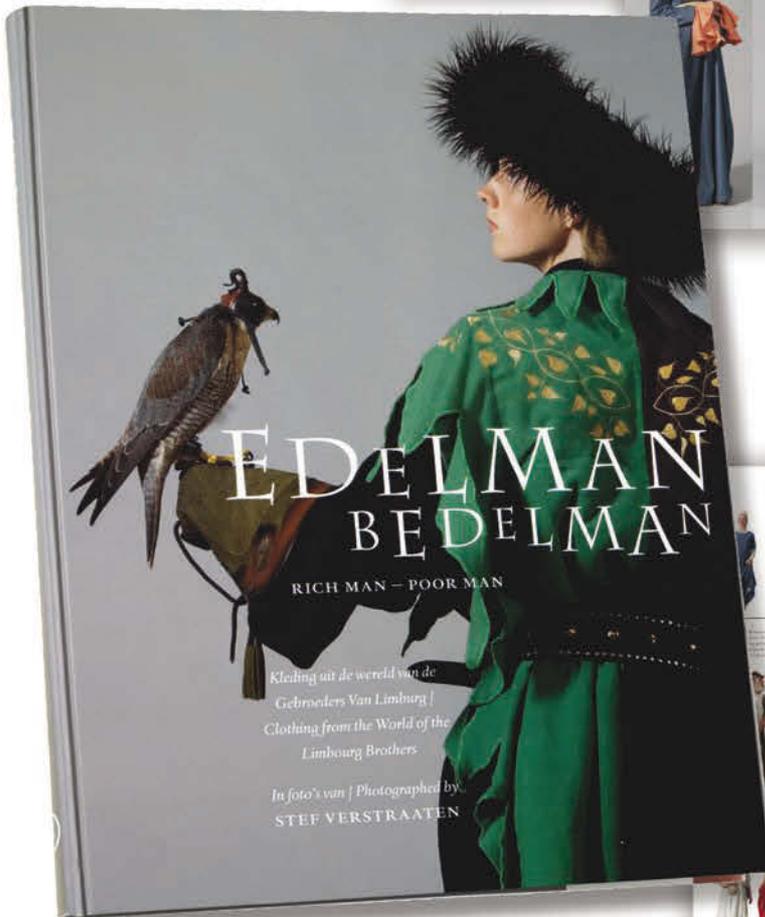
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Contributors: Olivier Bangerter, Ian Brandt, Kenneth Cline, Murray Dahm, Sidney E. Dean, Filippo Donvito, Martin Dougherty, Joseph Hall, J. Morgan Kuberry, Sean McGlynn, Nils Visser, Gareth Williams

Illustrators: Luke Forwoodson, Milek Jakubiec, Jason Juta, Julia Lillo, Mike Perry, Maxime Plasse, Giuseppe Rava, Fabrice Weiss

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Editorial office

PO Box 4082, 7200 BB Zutphen, The Netherlands
Phone: +31-575-776076 (NL), +44-20-8816281 (Europe), +1-740-994-0091 (US)
E-mail: editor@medieval-warfare.com
Customer service: service@karwansaraypublishers.com
Website: www.medieval-warfare.com

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News & Letters

Note from the editor

A while back, I was discussing potential themes with my fellow editor (of *Ancient Warfare*) Josho Brouwers, who mentioned that he was thinking of publishing an issue on treachery in the Ancient world. This, I told him, would also be quite suitable for *Medieval Warfare*.

Thus, we decided to do an ancient traitors issue first, and the medieval version after, and lo!, a new theme was fixed. We have selected a collection of articles covering varying events, periods and areas of medieval history. First, Kenneth Cline delves into the story of the Byzantine Doukas family, who would become notorious for their acts of treachery. In the end, their ambition would be a major factor in the Empire's fall. The next article discusses the alternative methods for capturing cities in the Middle Ages. It is brought to us by Martin Dougherty, new to *Medieval Warfare*, but already a familiar name within the field of medieval military historiography. Two stories we could not ignore (and were pleased we didn't have to) concern English history. In the main article in this issue, regular Sidney Dean writes about how King Edward II was betrayed, and how he betrayed others, during the Despenser War. Joseph Hall covers a more recent episode: a history of the Stanleys. The details of the Battle of Bosworth are saved for a future issue, but Hall skillfully manages to explain how and why the Stanleys took the traitorous path that they did.

Filippo Donvito, who focuses on a little-known battle where the Abbasid Caliphate would meet not just any enemy, but the forces of the Chinese Tang dynasty, provides a very interesting

variation on the theme. That the Tang did not advance further east was a direct result of a carefully planned bit of treachery. Last but not least, Nils Visser, in his study of the Dutch Jacqueline of Hainault, shows how women were often even more susceptible to treason than men.

For the non-theme articles, we went for some unconventional topics. In a relatively large 'The Weapon' section, expert Olivier Bangerter takes us through the history of the Swiss pike. He not only discusses specifics, use and tactics, but also how various groups struggled to counter the weapon's dominance on the late medieval battlefield. Murray Dahm went for a more 'The Source'-like approach, as he studies the apparent evidence for shield-wall tactics in the Anglo-Saxon *Waldere* poem. Lastly, J. Morgan Kuberry, who has been involved in moving the collection of the Higgins Armory Museum, shares with us some of the difficulties in transporting such a large collection from one place to another.

Thus, we start a new year of *Medieval Warfare*. Preparations for several upcoming issues are well underway, and our contributors are already working to bring you the latest in medieval military history. I'm especially looking forward to our 2015 Special on the Battle of Agincourt, which will arrive this spring. Don't forget to visit our website for further news. If you have any comments or questions, please send me an email at: editor@medieval-warfare.com.

— Dirk van Gorp
Editor, *Medieval Warfare* magazine

Spanish Vikings: Searching for the Norse presence in Iberia

The fearsome reputation of the Vikings has made them the subject of countless exhibitions, books and films – however, surprisingly, no comprehensive archaeological study of Viking sites in Spain has ever been carried out. Now, a University of Aberdeen researcher plans to dig up the 'Spanish Vikings' for the first time.

Dr Irene García Losquiño, from the University of Aberdeen's Centre for Scandinavian Studies, says she was surprised by how little

is known, even in academic circles, about the Vikings movements in Spain. "There are written accounts of Viking raids in northern Spain, but, archaeologically, absolutely nothing has been done on an academic scale," she said. "They visited the area from around 840 until the eleventh century, but there is no realization that there is this vast thing to be explored. Most of the studies focus on their activities in other countries, such as Britain and Ireland."