CHAPTER FIVE

THE THIRD CRUSADE: 1187–93

Historians of the crusading movement are in agreement that the failure of the Second Crusade was followed by a wave of criticism of its organisers; as a consequence, the mounting of further large scale expeditions to the Holy Land was hindered. While it is true that the successors of Eugenius III on the Papal throne did not cease to take an interest in the situation of the Christians in Palestine—the expression of which was the issuing of successive encyclicals on the topic of the crusades—it was only the collapse of the crusader states and the loss of Jerusalem in October 1187 that stimulated another large-scale crusading campaign. By 30 October, Pope Gregory VIII had already issued his encyclical Audita tremendi, in which he he a dramatic call for the faithful to undertake a new crusade, at the same time initiating a diplomatic action intended to persuade the most powerful European monarchs to come together under the crusading banner. Although Gregory VIII himself had already died, in December 1187, the efforts of the papal emissaries and preachers of the crusade continued to have an effect. One of the first to take a vow to join the campaign was Richard, Count of Poitou, the oldest son of the king of England. In January 1188, at a meeting in Gisors in Normandy, the Cross was taken by King Henry II of England, the King of France (Philip II Augustus) and Phillip the count of Flanders. Finally, on 27 March, at a parliament in Mainz, they

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1 See above, p. 79. See also Manteuffel, Papiestwo i cystersi, pp. 75–6; Tyreman, England and the Crusades, pp. 36–9.
2 See Schwerin, “Die Aufrufe der Päpste”, pp. 70ff., and the table presenting the crusade-related bulls and encyclicals of successive Popes.
were followed by Emperor Frederick Barbarossa, which was the culmina-
tion of several months’ intensive campaigning by the advocates of crusade
in Germany.

The activities of the organisers of the new crusade were not restricted,
however, to the most eminent courts of Europe. The preserved sources
allow us to discern that there were attempts made to draw volunteers
under the standard of crusade in Denmark\(^5\) and Wales,\(^6\) as well as there
being answers to the call from as far away as Scotland,\(^7\) Sweden,\(^8\) Norway,\(^9\)
Bohemia\(^10\) and Hungary.\(^11\) There is no reason therefore to doubt that
the news of the defeat at the battle of Hattin and the almost complete
destruction of the kingdom of Jerusalem was widely talked about all over
Europe. It is also almost certain that, independent of any propaganda
efforts mounted by the Papacy, these tragic circumstances themselves
brought a number of individuals into the military campaigns mounted,
as a response to the situation, to come to the aid of the last bastions of
Christianity in the Levant. We may suspect that an important role in the
spread of information was played by the European network of Levantine
orders, above all the Templars and Hospitallers, who as a result of the
Saladin’s offensives, had themselves suffered particularly heavy losses.\(^12\)
In addition, there were agitators for the cause of crusade, emissaries of
Levantine Christian communities, circulating among European courts and
spreading alarm at the deadly threat that hung over the remains of the
Latin states in the Holy Land.\(^13\)

From the perspective of the present study, the change in campaign
organisation which appear in the recruitment efforts preceding the Third
Crusade are worth particular attention. As already mentioned, since the

Crusades*, p. 71.
\(^7\) See Macquarrie, *Scotland and the Crusades*, pp. 28ff.
\(^9\) Ibid., pp. 271–3.
Czeskiego*, 1, p. 98; Reizler, “Der Kreuzzug Kaiser Friedrichs I”, p. 142; Iwańczak, “Udział
Czechów”, pp. 121–2.
\(^12\) Ibid., p. 108, 2–5; Painter, “The Third Crusade”, p. 47; Barber, *The New Knighthood*,
pp. 115ff. On the topic of the contacts maintained between the network of the chivalrous
houses’ European houses and the Levant, see also Lloyd, *English Society*, p. 25; Macquarrie,
*Scotland and the Crusades*, p. 53.