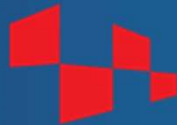
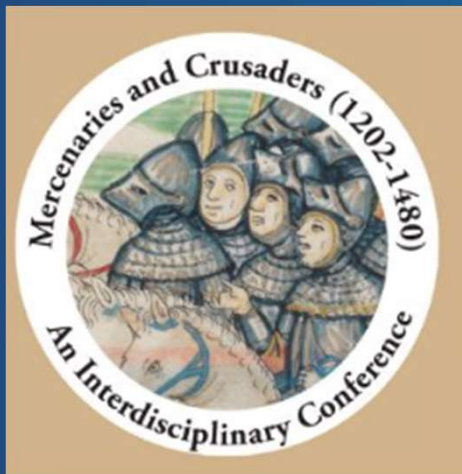


Mercenaries and Crusaders (1204-1480)
An Interdisciplinary Conference
Debrecen, 22-24 June 2022

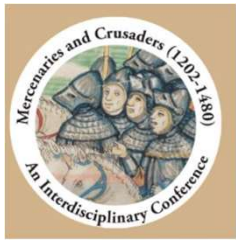
Turcoples of the Templars and Hospitallers (13th-15th centuries)



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Who were the Turcoples?

Historiographical overview (1956-2019)

Smail 1956/1973

Luttrell 1975

Richard 1986

Savvides 1993

Harari 1997

O'Malley 2005

Burgtorf 2008

Richard 2009

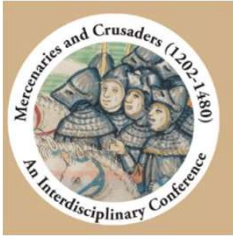
Riley-Smith 2012

Murray 2015/2017

Forey 2016

Luttrell--O'Malley 2019





Chronological and methodological questions

Turcoples in the East

- Turcoples in the Byzantine army (1082—1097)
- Frankish Turcoples (from 1109)
- Turcoples in the military-religious orders
 - Templars (1164)
 - Hospitallers (1168/9)
 - Teutonic Knights

Turcoples in the West

- Sicily (1174), Spain (1229/1234), Central Europe (1241?)

Ethnic group or function?

- **Smail 1956:** „the Franks recruited from the native populations [...] often the offsprings of parents of different religions”
- **Prawer 1980:** „light mounted bowmen”
- **Sterns 1985:** „initially were mercenaries of Turkish origin in the Byzantine imperial army”
- **Hitti 1985:** "Turcoples were recruited mainly from Muslims"
- **Richard 1985:** "lightly armed cavalry mostly converted Moslems, who had been given small fiefs. They formed the vanguard of the army"
- **Forey 1992:** "paid troops employed by the leading orders included turcoples, who were recruited from the native population and who were sometimes mounted and equipped with a bow"
- **Upton-Ward 1992:** "troops equipped with the bow, capable of fighting in the Eastern manner,,
- **Savvides 1993/2006:** "Christianized Moslem mercenaries of Turanic (Turcophone) origins who served in the Byzantine and Oriental Frankish forces from the late eleventh century onwards (especially during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries) the Eastern manner”

Ethnic group or function?

- **Barber 1994:** „light mounted troops, often recruited from the local population”
- **Harari 1997:** „the Frankish Turcoples were all mounted archers, of both Frankish and native origin ... the Turcoples fulfilled vital strategic and tactical tasks: delivering messages; scouting; harassing; skirmishing; laying ambushes; comprising flying-columns; and protecting the exposed extremes of march columns [...] the Turcoples comprised about half the Frankish mounted force”
- **Nicolle 2001:** „converts played a significant role as turcoples, mostly serving as light cavalry and some horse-archers”
- **France 2006:** „early chroniclers say that they were the children of Christian-Turkish marriages, but this applies to Byzantine turcoples. In Outremer the turcoples were light cavalry, used as mounted archers, in reconnaissance, and to carry messages”
- **Burgtorf 2008:** „a label denoting origin had become a label denoting function”
- **Nicolle 2008:** „Some were almost certainly captured Muslim soldiers who had converted to Christianity and continued to serve in the same manner as they had in Islamic armies. Clearly not all were horse-archers and many appear to have fought as infantry. Some appear to have been recruited from the indigenous Arab Christian population, from the Armenians and from men of mixed European settler and local origin.”

Ethnic group or function?

- **Richard 2009:** „from the Greek *tourkopouloi*, "sons of Turks") appeared in the Byzantine army at the time of Alexis I Comnenus as Turks who had converted to Christianity and retained their way of fighting”
- **Riley-Smith 2012:** „*turcoples* were indigenous light cavalrymen, being sometimes equipped with a bow, but Europeans also fought with a mixture of European and native equipment, and the word must have been short-hand for many different kinds of mounted mercenary. The *turcoples* became a semi-permanent wing of the Order's forces, with their own quarters in the Hospitaller compound.”
- **Luttrell—O'Malley 2019:** „(1) a mounted soldier, sometimes a mercenary; (2) a soldier serving in the town and keeping watch there; (3) a local officer, apparently mounted, attached to a *casale*”

The military-religious orders

Templars

- 1164
- Templar Rule (retrais, Catalan rule)
- no continuous office of the Turcopolier
- *milites ad termimum* – charity (vs. paid troops)
- the rank of the turcoples within the order
- mercenaries or vassals; recruited for campaigns or permanent activity?

The military-religious orders

Hospitallers

1168/9 – Gilbert d'Assailly – King Amalric – Egypt

- first Turcopolier 1203 – known by name: 1248
- Turcopolier raised to the rank of the capitular bailiff (1303)
- the Rhodian period: 1309/10--1522





Thanks for Your attention!

