

ABSTRACT

Although Philippe de Mézières (ca 1327-1405) was born into a not very influential gentry family from northern France, his steep career brought him to the Holy Land. As a diplomat and an ardent supporter of the idea of the Crusades, he got to visit the most important European royal courts, thus securing the attention of historians. He consciously reflects the political and social climate in Europe at the time, he explores religious issues and even own experiences – in short, de Mézières vast literary work is one of the most remarkable images of Europe during the late Middle Ages and the thinking of a medieval man of a high social status. Thanks to Philippe de Mézières' presence at the Royal Court of Charles IV in Prague and their likely meeting in Paris in 1378, we can trace evident links to Luxembourg politics in his work, to the Czech Kingdom and even to Charles IV himself, including his son Wenceslas. As a Crusades theoretician, de Mézières got himself involved in the highest levels of European politics, yet he constantly emphasized the need for morality, peace and cohesiveness in the courts. The thesis uses an example of one of de Mézières' later works, his Letter to Richard II (*Epistre au roi Richarti*, 1395), to explore diplomatic ties in Western Europe in the fourteenth century and pursues political objectives and pragmatic intentions of propaganda books, letters and theater plays. Those, despite their high level of artistry, cannot deny their apparent political intentions and therefore provide the historian with a message more complex than it might seem at first glance.