

emperor's wishes¹⁷. As Rudolf Hiestand observes, Frederick attempted to involve the kings of England, Hungary and Denmark in the new expedition¹⁸. For his part, Honorius promoted the crusade as a traditional *passagium generale* in his letters¹⁹. It is clear, then, that in 1223 the new crusade was conceived as a pan-European expedition in which Frederick would play the leading part, and not an imperial one-man army²⁰. The launch of such a mass movement demanded an encyclical letter sent throughout the West, and Honorius and his curia hastily composed *Iustus Dominus* and began to issue the document to its first recipients on 11 April (the last known copies were issued on 27 April). The promotion of a campaign led by Frederick, however, was a tall order. The emperor had repeatedly reneged on his previous promises to fulfil his crusade vow, and many of Christendom's most enthusiastic warrior-pilgrims had either been bankrupted by, or killed on, the recent Egyptian expedition. As Björn Weiler argues, there can be no doubt that this dampened enthusiasm for a new attempt to recover the Holy Land and it seems reasonable to suggest that crusading fervour in the West in 1223 was at a low ebb²¹. Honorius and his curia therefore had

17) SMITH, *Curia and Crusade* (see n. 2) pp. 180–186.

18) Rudolf HIESTAND, *Friedrich II. und der Kreuzzug*, in: *Friedrich II. Tagung des Deutschen Historischen Instituts in Rom im Gedenkjahr 1994*, ed. Arnold ESCH and Norbert KAMP (1996) pp. 128–149, here p. 135. See also HECHELHAMMER, *Kreuzzug und Herrschaft* (see n. 6) pp. 146–147.

19) See, for example, Honorius's letter to the clergy of the West issued on 11 January 1227. Reg. Vat. 13, fol. 159r: *Sperantes quod Deus exurgens iudicare disposuit causam suam et Ierusalem sicut diebus pristinis instaurare, mandatum quod de predicanda cruce dudum a sede apostolica recepisti, duximus innovandum fraternitatem tuam sollicitantes et hortantes attente ac per apostolica tibi scripta mandantes quatinus iniuncte tibi predicationis officium exerceas studiose, magnos et parvos secundum datam tibi a Deo prudentiam sedulis exortationibus inducendo, ut in instanti Augusto quo generale passagium [my emphasis] est indictum impendant suum dicte Terre Sancte subsidium modis omnibus quibus possunt.*; Regesta, ed. PRESSUTTI (see n. 3) 2 nos 6155, 6157.

20) The evidence from *Iustus Dominus* nuances the classic argument that „Partly of his own choice, and partly as a result of pressure from the curia, Frederick had to push forward by himself his preparations for a crusade.“: VAN CLEVE, *The Crusade of Frederick II* (see n. 6) p. 439. See also the works cited above in n. 7.

21) Björn WEILER, *Henry III's Plans for a German Marriage (1225) and their Context*, in: *Thirteenth Century England VII. Proceedings of the Durham Conference, 1997*, ed. Michael PRESTWICH, Richard BRITNELL and Robin FRAME (1999) pp. 173–188, here p. 184.