

HAB Wolfenbüttel, Cod. Guelf. 87.2 Aug. 2^o, transmits an anonymous visionary account, which was clearly written in 1225 at the Cistercian monastery of Mariental, near Helmstedt. The visionary in this text reports meeting the Virgin Mary; in a speech, she refers to the so-called Children's Crusade of 1212 and proclaims that in three years the Christians will finally defeat the infidels in the Holy Land. The visionary confirms the truth of this prophecy and insists that the entire Cistercian Order, through its prayers, supports this goal. The origins of this text lie with the papal efforts for a new crusade, promoted in Germany between 1224 and 1226 by Cardinal Bishop Konrad von Urach. The author refers in particular to the Treaty of San Germano concluded in July 1225, in which Emperor Frederick II bound himself to campaign to Jerusalem within three years. Concrete economic interests also underpin the account: Abbot Henry II of Mariental met with Konrad von Urach in Magdeburg in September 1225 to seek his support in a dispute between his monastery and Walbeck Abbey. Afterwards, Konrad ensured that the commission he appointed to oversee this so-called Lappwald trial decided in Mariental's favour.