

Konrad of Megenberg (1309–1374), medieval theologian. Born in Mäbenberg, Konrad began his studies at Erfurt and taught philosophy in the Cistercian college of St. Bernard at Paris, while completing the *studium generale* at the university for eight years, during which time he also visited the papal court (1337). At Paris, he wrote both versions of his *Planctus ecclesiae in Germaniam* (*Lamentation of the Church in Germany*, 1337, 1338), examining the conflict between Ludwig of Bavaria and Pope Benedict XII. His participation in the controversy over theses of William of Ockham at the Univ. of Paris in 1340–1341 brought him a brief suspension from teaching. At Paris he also produced a commentary on Peter Lombard's *Sentences* (not extant) and a disputation against Walter Burleigh. Konrad became rector of St. Stephen's School in Vienna (1342–1348) and was responsible for all education in the city. At Vienna, c. 1342, he wrote his *Expositiones* and the *Quaestiones super speram* (*Questions on the Spheres*), commenting on the standard textbook of astronomy, John of Sacrobosco's *Spaera*, which he later expanded and translated into German between 1347 and 1350. He also began work on a German version of Thomas of Cantimpré's *Liber de natura rerum* (*Book of Nature*, 1348–1350), based on Thomas's third recension, attributed by Konrad and by his contemporaries to Albertus Magnus. A second version of Konrad's *Book of Nature*, containing a three-part introduction, was

dedicated to the young Rudolf IV of Austria, although there is some dispute over Konrad's authorship of the addition.

In 1348, Konrad settled in Regensburg as cathedral canon and served from 1359 to 1363 as the cathedral pastor of St. Ulrich. There he probably completed his *Speculum felicitates humane* (*Mirror of Human Happiness*, also called the *Monastica*, 1348, and dedicated to Rudolf IV) and composed his *Yconomica* (1348–1352) in three books. The latter work examined simple households, the household of the German king and Roman emperor, as well as church institutions, with digressions on the structure of offices at court, the conflict between secular and ecclesiastical power, and the 219 theses condemned at Paris in 1277. Konrad's later political tractates, *De translatione imperii* (*On the Transfer of the Imperium*, 1354) and *Contra Occam* (*Against Ockham*), are largely derived from the second book of the *Yconomica*. His *Tractatus de moralitate in Alamannia* (*Treatise on Morality in Germany*) deals with the 1348 outbreak of the plague, rejecting, among other common explanations of its outbreak, the accusation of Jewish well-poisoning (he also condemns the persecution of Jews), and searching for the causes of the plague among the intellectual currents of his time; he also demands a reform of liberal arts study and the universities. In 1357 Konrad visited the papal court on behalf of the city of Regensburg and in 1361 on behalf of the Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV.

Konrad also wrote a *Tractatus contra mendicantes ad papam Urbanum V* (*Treatise against the Mendicants to Pope Urban V*), also known as the *Lacrima ecclesiae* (*Tears of the Church*, around 1364), which was never printed; a *Commentarius de laudibus Beatae Virginis Mariae* (*Commentary on the Praises of the Blessed Virgin Mary*), his most important theological work, written after 1364 and never published; *Statuta capituli ecclesie Ratisponensis* (*Statutes of the Chapter of the Church of Regensburg*, 1355/1359), intended to reform the cathedral chapter; a *Tractatus de limitibus parochiarum civitatis Ratisponensis* (*Treatise on the Parish Boundaries in the City of Regensburg*, 1373), on church order in the city; and *Historia Sancti Erhardi* (*History of St. Erhard*), in which he contributes to the history of music.

Lexikon des Mittelalters, vol. 5 (1991), columns 1361–62; W. J. Courtenay, "Konrad of Megenberg: The Parisian Years," *Vivarium* 35 (1997): 102–24; G. Hayer, *Konrad von Megenberg*:

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Das Buch der Natur: Untersuchungen zu seiner Text- und Überlieferungsgeschichte (1998);
G. Drossbach, *Die "Yconomica" des Konrad von Megenberg: Das Haus als politische und soziale Norm* (1997).

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