**Understanding the Crusades: The Contribution of Correspondence**

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I investigated in former studies the communication challenges experienced by medieval Christendom throughout the Crusade Period.[[1]](#footnote-1) This paper focuses on correspondence, one of the main networks at the disposal of the crusaders. I propose here a new reading of crusade correspondence, which amalgamates between written and oral messages, between letters and the oral messages transmitted with them. It is the thesis of this study that only the combination of letters and oral messages gives a more comprehensive perspective of transmission and reception of messages in the Early Crusade Period.

The chronological framework of this study begins at the first stages of the crusaders *Outremer* (1098) up to the aftermath of the Battle of Hattin and the beginning of the Third Crusade (1190). The peculiar communication features in the Early Crusade Perioddictates the *terminus ad quem*, largely justified in light of the communication changes that characterize the thirteenth century, to be analyzed in another study. The database of the *Revised Version of Röhricht’s* *Regesta Regni Hierosolymitani* [hereafter RRR] has provided a most precious tool,[[2]](#footnote-2) complemented with the English translations of relevant letters from the collection published by Malcolm Barber and Keith Bate.[[3]](#footnote-3)

The RRR comprises 191 letters in the period under consideration. They reflect, *inter alia,* the contemporaries’ opinions and feelings; the extent of interest of both Christendom and the Latin East in each other; and the chroniclers’ awareness as to the relevance of correspondence as a historical source. Obviously, it would be risky to affirm that our data represents the complete documentation, since additional records could be discovered, a possibility taken into consideration by the RRR editors. Still, the very existence of 191 letters redacted throughout the twelfth century confirms the unique status of the Latin Kingdom and the considerable interest it aroused in contemporary society. The main questions addressed below include four main categories, namely,

1. Crusade correspondence and its nature: Schedule, messengers, oral transmission of news, and the interaction between written and oral messages.
2. Writers and their addressees, categorized according to wide social groups such as ecclesiastical dignitaries, members of the Military Orders, secular princes, merchants, and representatives of the Italian City-States, while differentiating between those writing from or to the Latin East.
3. Subject matters, mainly, political/military news andcalls for assistance; ecclesiastical issues and exchange of vows;relics and their trade.
4. Reference to correspondence in twelfth-century narrative sources, either Latin orMuslim.

Reference to all and each letter would be rather tedious, thus only in exceptional cases particular letters are quoted. The same goes for the source collections with the complete text. The RRR number of each and all letters, however, appears in the footnotes, thus facilitating the identification of particular writers and their addressees, the matters they cover, and the complete version of each letter.

1. **Medieval Correspondence**

St. Ambrose, writing in the fourth century, claimed, “The epistolary genre was devised in order that someone may speak to us when we are absent.”[[4]](#footnote-4) This approach determined much of the weight ascribed to correspondence in the Crusade Period, when the Mediterranean separated between two main sectors of medieval Christendom. The eleventh- and twelfth centuries are considered in this regard the “golden age” of medieval epistolography,[[5]](#footnote-5) letters becoming “the primary medium of medieval communication, administration, and propaganda.”[[6]](#footnote-6) Indeed, the *artes dictaminis*, together with Roman and Canon Law, public speaking, and preaching, became subjects of study for all those aspiring for ecclesiastical or government careers.[[7]](#footnote-7) The different sections of letters were authoritatively established in a logical sequence, which comprised the *salutatio,* followed by the *exordium* consisting of some commonplace generality, a proverb, or a scriptural quotation. Then the *narratio,* which includes the particular purpose of the letter; the *petitio,* based on the two former,and thefinal phrases or *conclusio*.[[8]](#footnote-8)

Such rigid structure was not fortuitous. Many letters were quasi-public documents, written to be collected or publicized, and intended to be read by more than one person. Thus, Anselm of Ribemont in the conclusion of his letter to Manasses, Archbishop Reims, (July 1098) expresses his hopes, “*We ask in the Lord Jesus that* ***all*** *who receive this letter will intercede with God for us and our dead*” (emphasis mine).[[9]](#footnote-9) Furthermore, letters were expected to be correct and elegant rather than original and spontaneous, and often followed practices and contents of model letters.[[10]](#footnote-10) Still, Alberic of Monte Cassino (d. 1088) defines letters as “a suitable arrangement of discourses (*sermones)* established to express the intention of the sender,”[[11]](#footnote-11) thus allowing some space for individual expressions of feelings or intentions.

Many of the features characteristic of medieval correspondence typify crusade letters, as well. Still, the geopolitical circumstances and the growing awareness of the limitations posed by time and space created additional futures that require further analysis.

1. **b. Schedule, Carriers, and Particular Characteristics of Crusade correspondence**

Avoidance of specific references to chronology, particularly, the schedule gap between transmission and reception, reflects a main methodological obstacle in the investigation of crusade correspondence. With the exception of papal letters, indeed, most contemporaries do not specifically mention the date of writing. The editors of RRR eventually suggest some chronological framework but at times, it covers too wide periods.[[12]](#footnote-12) Still, in the exceptional cases when chronological data is available, there is possible to follow the tempo of twelfth-century crusade correspondence. Some examples would illustrate the current state of affairs: Patriarch Daibert of Jerusalem refers in early February 1100 to the former letter of Henry of Castella and John Michael, written to his predecessor c. November 1099, that is three months earlier.[[13]](#footnote-13) News of the Templar Master, Gerard of Ridefort’s death on 8 October 1189 reached Rome by 11 January 1190.[[14]](#footnote-14) Similarly, the Temple preceptor’s report on the Christian losses at Hattin (August 1187) inspired Gregory VIII’s encyclical *Audita tremendi* dated 24 October 1187and a lost letter of Clement III the following year.[[15]](#footnote-15) One may therefore conclude that at least between two and three months were required to the crusaders to get some response from Christendom. Still, sometimes the delay was much longer. The sealed letter of Patriarch Evremar of Jerusalem (3 April 1104) reached Lambert, Bishop Arras, only by 17 November.[[16]](#footnote-16) Pope Alexander III urged the prelates and Christian rulers to help the Templars (22 February and, again, on 12 April 1180), following their requests dated 29 August 1179; that is, between six and eight months earlier.[[17]](#footnote-17) King Louis VII refers to Bishop Nablus’s appeal for contributions of early that year, in his letter dated 28 August 1170.[[18]](#footnote-18) More often than not, such lapse of several months became critical for the crusaders’ survival in a hostile environment.

The following table shows the crusade letters’ date according to wide-ranging categories of decades, thus allowing some evaluation of the intensity of crusade correspondence from and to the Latin East:



Analysis of crusade correspondence requires additional clarifications. The crusaders, especially their leaders, confronted with the need to balance between the very few and defective communication channels at their disposal and the imperative to receive continuous and urgent support from Europe, became a main promotor of more fluent communication channels. Regular mail services, however, like those operating in the neighboring Muslim States and Byzantium, remained completely extrinsic to the crusader world.[[19]](#footnote-19) Nevertheless, the crusaders gradually assimilated the Muslim practice of carrier pigeons, though the birds were always exposed to falcons or hawks that could thwart their mission. Still, carrier pigeons proved to be effective across distances up to 1,000 miles with a speed up to 70 mph, rates that considerably exceeded those of mounted messengers at the time.[[20]](#footnote-20) Although letter-exchange across short distances -- between Byzantium, Antioch, Jerusalem, and Acre -- was relatively efficient, it encountered many difficulties between the Crusade Kingdom and Western Christendom.[[21]](#footnote-21) Indeed, the maritime journey between Europe and the Latin East was relatively short, from fifteen to twenty-five days with favorable winds, but only during specific seasons, from late March to late October.[[22]](#footnote-22)

The hostile conditions, the danger of letters stealing, or just the many accidents that could hinder letters’ transmission thus encouraged the parallel use of various messengers,[[23]](#footnote-23) with the risk of repetition. Stephen of Blois, writing a second letter to his wife Adela, was well aware of the precarious situation:

*Count Stephen to Countess Adela, dearest friend and wife, the best and most pleasing greetings your mind can imagine. Be it known, my love, that I am enjoying a marvellous journey to Romania in all honour and good health. I took care to send you by letter from Constantinople an account of my life on pilgrimage, but just in case the messenger has suffered some accident,* ***I am rewriting the letter*** *to you*(emphasis mine)*.*[[24]](#footnote-24)

Writers and receivers were further aware to the possibility that their letters might also be falsified.[[25]](#footnote-25)

The climate conditions posed additional challenges thus fostering an inflexible schedule of missions and messengers. Patriarch Aimery of Antioch excuses his humble present to Hugo Etherianus – Emperor Manuel Comnenus’s adviser on Western Christendom -- due to the immediate depart of his messengers.[[26]](#footnote-26) Several writers further underline the many perils experienced in their route eastwards and, eventually, their joy following their safe arrival to the Holy Land.[[27]](#footnote-27) Such feelings of relief were not simple rhetoric, since divine help or the forces of nature were not always at the side of the *milites Christi.* In his letter to Henry, Archbishop Reims, King Amalric refers to his uninterrupted attempts to send a suitable delegation to Christendom (May 1169). Since at a first attempt the ship wrecked, the king was forced to appoint a new suitable delegation. Archbishop Tyre, Bishop Banias, and the brothers of the Hospital, thus replaced the members of the first mission personified by the Patriarch Jerusalem, Archbishop Caesarea, Bishop Acre, and the brothers of the Hospital and the Temple.[[28]](#footnote-28) The high dignitaries selected in both missions hint at the king’s awareness as to the importance of selecting most reliable messengers, notwithstanding the many difficulties that plagued their mission. One may further argue that the careful selection of suitable delegates hints at Amalric’s reluctance to rely on written messages alone, and the vital importance he ascribed to a more personal, direct interaction between his messengers and their addressees. This is a rather situation rather common also in diplomatic negotiations nowadays.

Along with their original duty as couriers, messengers thus orally transmitted parts or even large amounts of information.[[29]](#footnote-29) The careful selection of messengers reflects a most important requisite in messages transmission between the Latin East and Christendom, mainly, the complementation between written and oral practices. One should further bear in mind that letters were also called *sermones* or *orationes* because they were often delivered orally, as speeches, even to recipients who could understand and read Latin, monastic audiences among them;[[30]](#footnote-30) *legere* and *audire* were indeed often used as synonyms.[[31]](#footnote-31) The interaction between written and oral messages becomes of considerable importance to understand, *inter alia,* the aristocracy’s active involvement in crusade correspondence notwithstanding its low literacy level.[[32]](#footnote-32)

The authors of crusade correspondence were well aware of their messengers’ vital role in the success of their missions, and used the occasion to praise the many merits of their emissaries. In his letter to Catholic prelates and laymen in the German region (May or June 1100), Patriarch Daibert of Jerusalem formally declares,

*Dearest brothers in Christ, we would have written at length on the amazingly great miracles and countless blessings which the generous goodness of God frequently showered on the army of Jerusalem on its journey and in the capture of the holy city of Jerusalem, but the practised eloquence of brother Arnulf, who was there to see and hear everything, will provide you with a full chronological account of events if you are kind enough to lend him an ear.*[[33]](#footnote-33)

Arnulf of Chocques was undoubtedly well-qualified to fulfil his mission, being the former chaplain of Robert of Normandy, papal legate in the First Crusade, elected Patriarch of Jerusalem (1099, 1112–15, 1116–18), and, eventually, also Archdeacon (1099–1112) and Chancellor of the Kingdom (1099–1118).[[34]](#footnote-34)

A considerable number of authors further emphasize the credibility of their messengers, while formally declaring their complete trust on them.[[35]](#footnote-35) The Master of the Temple, Bertrand of Blancfort, writing to King Louis VII (November 1164), declares:

*…Most serene king, the troubles in the two lands of Antioch and Jerusalem are too numerous to enumerate to you in writing, so we are sending your worthy excellency Brother Walter to bear this letter. He is honest and careful in God’s business, and has been involved in these events from the beginning to the end. He will divulge to your holiness our decision, and your highness can have total confidence in what he says, because it will be as though coming from our own mouth.*[[36]](#footnote-36)

Indeed, Walter II Brisebarre, lord of Beirut (1156-7- ca 1166), and subsequently lord of the Transjordan (1166-1174) and Blanchegarde (1174-1179,[[37]](#footnote-37) was undoubtedly well skilled to fulfil most delicate missions.

Sometimes there are touching references to the common experiences between the messenger and his addressee, further justifying the most expected trust between both sides. In his letter to Baldwin I, Anselm, Archbishop Canterbury, refers to the close relations between his messenger and the king, which go back to childhood.[[38]](#footnote-38) Stephen of Tournai, Abbot St. Genevieve, as well, reminds Eraclius, Bishop Caesarea, of their common days as students in Bologna,[[39]](#footnote-39) while Ansell, cantor of the Holy Sepulchre, shares his touching memories of their diocese with the bishop and clergy of Paris,

*Although it is now twenty-four years since I left you and your church where I was nourished and educated, my love for you remains fervent and in my mind I still live in your church with you. For, over the years, I have always held conversations with those who have come here from you, those that know you or are known to you, asking for details of you and your church, what you are doing, how you are keeping, particularly those of you I have seen and known. As long as I live, although far from you I shall always love you, and I often dream that I am chanting with you in your rituals and processions, your Feast Day Matins and offices.[[40]](#footnote-40)*

Other times there are frightening descriptions of the messenger’s many sufferings at the service of Christ,

*But because the bearer of the letter suffered dangers with us, and in Christ’s name gave his strength and his blood, so that his mutilated, lacerated body has left him incapable of working and useless for combat, we ask every single pious person to consider his needs, so that by your generous alms and his work and our prayers,* *he may complete his journey to the community of martyrs*.[[41]](#footnote-41)

After commending their messengers, many writers often specifically asked for some reply,[[42]](#footnote-42) a request that hints at the possibility that many letters remained unreciprocated. Furthermore, the careful selection of messengers from very narrow social groups became a most difficult task in times of crises. Geoffrey Fulcher, preceptor of the Temple, warned King Louis VII not to expect additional messengers, because the prolonged absent of the king and master actually impede direct additional *probi homines* to Christendom.[[43]](#footnote-43)

1. **The Authors**

Reference to the authors of crusade correspondence could at times be risky, since some letters appear to be a product of collegial drafting, subsequently modified by anonymous authors during the long process of transmission.[[44]](#footnote-44) The following categorization thus follows the identification established by Röhrich and reproduced in the RRR.

Ecclesiastical dignitaries, the papacy at their head, appear in the forefront of correspondence to or from the Latin East, with more than one-hundred letters written by different sectors of the Catholic Church. This finding is not surprising due to the high literacy level attributed to the ecclesiastical hierarchy in the Central Middle Ages.[[45]](#footnote-45) Twelfth-century popes, indeed, developed an active correspondence with the Latin East.[[46]](#footnote-46) However, no clear connection was found between the pontificates’ longevity and correspondence *Outremer*. Although six letters remained from both Paschal II (1099-1118) and Alexander III (1145-53), only one letter in the crusade context remain from Innocent II (1130-43). The very existence of antipopes, who challenged papal supremacy at the time,[[47]](#footnote-47) although sporadically mentioned, does not seem to have played a significant role in crusade correspondence.[[48]](#footnote-48) A similar conclusion could be achieved with regard the legates,[[49]](#footnote-49) who played a vital role in the consolidation of the papal monarchy. Though the active involvement of Adhémar of Le Puy in the First Crusade[[50]](#footnote-50) was in tone with the communication channels developed by the Reformed Papacy, only a few legates appear thereafter in crusade correspondence.[[51]](#footnote-51)

Other members of the ecclesiastical hierarchy played a more active role in crusade correspondence, especially the patriarchs, those of Jerusalem in the forefront.[[52]](#footnote-52) Besides ecclesiastical matters, their letters referred to political and military issues, as well, clearly reflecting the patriarchs’ involvement in government and their continuous attempt to contribute to its survival.[[53]](#footnote-53) Again, no clear connection was found between the extension of the patriarchs’ pontificate and the extent of their correspondence with Western Christendom. Ghibelin of Arles (1107-1112), for example, is completely absent. Conversely, there are four epistles written by the patriarchs of Antioch.[[54]](#footnote-54)

Archbishops[[55]](#footnote-55) and bishops as well, played an active role in crusade correspondence, especially those officiating in the Levant;[[56]](#footnote-56) but there are also some letters written by the high ecclesiastical hierarchy in Western Christendom.[[57]](#footnote-57)

While only four letters written by members of the Monastic Orders in the Levant remained,[[58]](#footnote-58) there is a considerable number (nineteen) written by their colleagues in Western Christendom,[[59]](#footnote-59) with Bernard de Clairvaux representing a category by himself.[[60]](#footnote-60) Thomas L. Smith attributes twelfth-century monastic letters written in the West as a means of “supporting, participating and engaging with the crusading movement.”[[61]](#footnote-61) He further claims that the copying and diffusion of crusade letters turned into a kind of spiritual weapon that together with prayer became a form of “scribal crusading.”[[62]](#footnote-62) The copying and transmission of crusade letters by monastic writers perhaps also heralds a gradual but slow transition from oral to written communication, a process that culminates by the Late Middle Ages.

The two large Military Orders, the *Pauperes commilitones Christi Templique Salomonici* and the *Ordo Fratrum Hospitalis Sancti Ioannis Hierosolymitani* represent another category. Twenty-one letters written by the Templars[[63]](#footnote-63) and other twelve by the Hospitallers, notably their masters,[[64]](#footnote-64) hint at the active role played by the knights *Outremer.* [[65]](#footnote-65)

Besides their active involvement in crusade correspondence, one should further note the active involvement of the ecclesiastical Order in the many delegations in which they participated and sometimes lead. Fifty-three letters were written by secular princes,[[66]](#footnote-66) twenty-six of them by the Kings of Jerusalem,[[67]](#footnote-67) but also by Louis VII of France and Conrad III of Germany during their participation in the Second Crusade.[[68]](#footnote-68) All these letters were written in the Latin East, with the exception of two letters redacted by King Henry II of England.[[69]](#footnote-69) Muslim rulers, as well, correspondent with the crusaders, such as Shams al-Maluk Isma’il of Damascus, and Saladin, his associates and adversaries, in the late quarter of the twelve century.[[70]](#footnote-70) The aristocracy’s active involvement in the First Crusade is clearly reflected in early-twelfth century letters,[[71]](#footnote-71) but it became exceptional towards the second half of the century.[[72]](#footnote-72) On the other hand, only three letters remained from the representatives of the Italian City-States,[[73]](#footnote-73) a rather surprising datum.[[74]](#footnote-74) By the late twelfth century, indeed, merchant letters reveal an increasing tendency to report important political and military events for the sake of business interests.[[75]](#footnote-75) The merchants’ common use of written documents, as clearly evidenced in the Cairo Geniza, further justifies additional archival investigation, which may complement our data.[[76]](#footnote-76) Ultimately, there is a small number of miscellaneous letters, signed either by Franks,[[77]](#footnote-77) an Egyptian imprisoned in Nablus,[[78]](#footnote-78) Rabbi Moses ben Maimon,[[79]](#footnote-79) and one signed by Eastern Christians.[[80]](#footnote-80)

One may conclude at this point that most letters were written in the Levant, perhaps with the exception of crusade correspondence sent by the papal curia and other ecclesiastical dignitaries. However, only 27 % of crusade correspondence originated in Western Christendom, with the popes representing 85% of them. Analysis of the letters’ addressees further clarifies the contemporaries’ foci of attention between both shores of the Mediterranean.

**2b. Addressees**

Only fifteen letters from the Latin East were addressed to twelfth-century popes,[[81]](#footnote-81) as against twenty-three letters sent by the Apostolic See to the crusaders. Ten popes who hold the See of St. Peter in the Early Crusade Period-- Paschal II (1099-1118), Callixtus II (1119-24), and Eugene III (1145-53) among them – are completely absent from crusade correspondence, notwithstanding the active communication between Bernard of Clairvaux and his former student.[[82]](#footnote-82) However, there is some balance in the number of letters that the crusaders wrote to other members of the ecclesiastical hierarchy in Christendom -- like archbishops,[[83]](#footnote-83) bishops,[[84]](#footnote-84) and abbots,[[85]](#footnote-85) -- and those received in the Latin East.[[86]](#footnote-86) The number of letters addressed to the popes (fifteen), as well, equals the number of written messages to both the Patriarchs of Jerusalem and those of Antioch. An eclectic category covers the faithful,[[87]](#footnote-87) canons,[[88]](#footnote-88) and unidentified churches in both Europe and the Latin East. [[89]](#footnote-89)

However, against the many letters written by the masters and members of the Military Orders to Western Christendom, only ten letters were addressed to the Templars[[90]](#footnote-90) and Hospitallers,[[91]](#footnote-91) thus representing one third of the number of letters written by the knights. Moreover, taking into consideration that many letters addressed to the knights were written by other members of the Order and only two by popes and the kings of Jerusalem, one should conclude that correspondence did not represent the main communication channel to the Orders at the time.

On the other hand, either the nobility,[[92]](#footnote-92) the Kings of Jerusalem[[93]](#footnote-93) and other rulers[[94]](#footnote-94) attracted much attention in crusade correspondence. Still, none of them received the consideration devoted to King Louis VII of France, to whom twenty letters were addressed before and after his crusade.[[95]](#footnote-95)

A miscellaneous category that includes the faithful and unidentified correspondents and benefactors[[96]](#footnote-96) complemented the rather small number of letters written to the Italian City-States and merchants.[[97]](#footnote-97)

The following table shows the amount of crusade letters written and received in the Latin East during the Early Crusade Period.



One may therefore conclude at this point that there is some balance with regard well defined groups, like the number of letters that the secular princes wrote and received, and to a less measure, the popes, as well. Still, patriarchs and members of the Military Orders wrote almost two times more than the number of letters they received. Finally, the laity, as well, got a much large number of letters than those they wrote. The lack of balance is probably due to their being a main source of support, i.e., income, for the Latin East. The following table corroborates the gap between letters written from and to the Latin East, whose inhabitants addressed much of their hopes across the sea.

Bearing in mind the very low degree of literacy attributed to the laity in the Central Middle Ages, the data considered above calls for further analysis. Nancy Harper claimed that until about the eleventh century, illiteracy was more the rule than the exception. Not only much of the lower social strata but also most kings and princes were unable to read or write.[[98]](#footnote-98) Harper conclusions have been corroborated by Toussaert’s research on eleventh-century Flanders, where “illiteracy governed everywhere and the great lords took pride in their ignorance.”[[99]](#footnote-99) The illiteracy attributed to the laity in the Central Middle Ages, indeed, is a common place in medieval historiography.[[100]](#footnote-100) However, the very fact that letters were written to be read aloud as discourses or sermons neutralizes the weight to be attributed to the literacy of the addressees, especially among the laity.[[101]](#footnote-101) Recent research further corroborates the interaction between nobles and literacy through the mediation of the chaplains at their service.[[102]](#footnote-102) Either read or listened, furthermore, letters represented only one part in message transmission, which was complemented by oral messages.

1. **Subject Matters**

Many letters contain a report of the main political and military developments overseas, quite similar to those that can be found in modern newspapers. The examples selected hereby further characterize general tendencies in crusade epistolography thus solving some of the reservations aroused by particular letters in recent historiographical research.[[103]](#footnote-103)

Most correspondence in the Early Crusade Period covers the crusaders’ dealings in the Levant from the beginning of the *Gesta Dei*, either victories or defeats,[[104]](#footnote-104) the election and/or death of kings,[[105]](#footnote-105) and problems following the pilgrims’ return homeland and/or the duplicity attributed to the Eastern Emperors.[[106]](#footnote-106) The letter of Bohemond and other nobles to Pope Urban II testimonies the exaltation of the crusade leaders following their early victories and the finding of holy relics, but also the first seeds of disagreement with the Apostolic See (11 September 1098):

*We all wish and desire that you should know how great was the favour of God and how evident was his help in our capture of Antioch, the capture and slaughter of the Turks who had heaped so many insults on our Lord Jesus; how we, pilgrims of Jesus Christ, avenged the wrong done to God the Highest; how we first besieged the Turks and then in our turn were besieged by the Turks of Khurasan, Jerusalem, Damascus and many other lands, but were liberated by the favour of Jesus Christ….During that time the most merciful compassion of Almighty God that watched over us came to our aid. In the church of St Peter, chief of the apostles, we found the Lance of the Lord which Longinus had used to pierce our Saviour’s side[[107]](#footnote-107)…But, as is often the case, happiness was clouded by sadness, for the bishop of Le Puy, who you had appointed as your vicar, died on the kalends of August….We ask you again and again, our dearest father, as father and leader to come to the place of your fatherhood, and as vicar of St Peter to sit on his throne and have us as your obedient sons in all legitimate actions, eradicating and destroying all types of heresy with your authority and our valour….Something has come to my knowledge that is bad news for God and Christians everywhere, namely that people signed with the cross have received permission from you to stay among the Christian people. As you are the originator of this holy expedition I am very surprised….We your sons, who obey you in everything, most pious father, you should separate from the unjust emperor who has never fulfilled the many promises he had made us. In fact, he has hindered and harmed us in every way at his disposal…*[[108]](#footnote-108)

This letter provides the papal curia with a most touching perspective of the feelings and expectations common to the leaders of the First Crusade. Sometimes, letters further reflect the history of an ancient past, as in the letter of Stephen of Blois to his wife Adela:

*As I said earlier, with the triumph of God, the surrender of Nicaea took place on the thirteenth day before the kalends of July. In early church history, it is written that the holy fathers held a religious synod in Nicaea where they demolished the Arian heresy and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, they confirmed the truth of the Holy Trinity. The city was a teacher of error because of its sins, but now by the mercy of God has become a student of truth because of its sinning servants. I tell you, my love, that five weeks after leaving the oft-mentioned Nicaea we will reach Jerusalem if Antioch does not hold us up. Farewell*.[[109]](#footnote-109)

At this stage of research, however, it is almost impossible to corroborate the reactions, if any, that each letter aroused in its intended public.

The lack of balance in the correspondence between *Outremer* and Christendom became the most apprehensive with regard the considerable number of letters asking for assistance, which often reflect their authors’ despair,[[110]](#footnote-110)

*We are surrounded by the Saracens on all sides. Babylon is to the east, Ascalon to the west, Arsuf on the coast, Damascus to the north. Why mention these perfidious kingdoms and the innumerable others that attack us non-stop? Every day we are invaded, every day slaughtered or captured. We are decapitated and our bodies thrown to the birds and the beasts. We are sold like sheep. What more can we say? In the name of Jesus we are ready to die rather than desert the holy city of Jerusalem and the Lord’s Cross and the most Holy Sepulchre of Christ*.[[111]](#footnote-111)

The letter of Patriarch Eraclius of Jerusalem to Pope Urban III (September 1187), further testifies the worsening of the crusaders’ situation:

*We can hardly describe to your pious ears the magnitude of the sorrow and grief we feel as we are forced to see in our times the contrition of our people, the miserable, lamentable desolation of the Holy Church at Jerusalem and that which is holy given to the dogs*. *Truly, Holy Father, the wrath of the Lord has gone over me…He has allowed the sacrosanct and life-giving Cross, the unique, particular means of help for our salvation, to be captures by the Turks…He handed over our king and the whole of the Christian army to the pagans. Of those who were present nearly all died by the sword or were taken prisoner – only a few managed to escape in flight…Alas, alas, reverend father, it is thus that the Holy Land, the legacy of the Crucified One, has been handed over to the pagans…Your Holiness should have no doubts that after the recent battle if the Turks were to approach the Holy City they would find it totally lacking in men to defend it. Therefore, as God is our only refuge we hasten to your feet, expounding tearfully to your Holiness our afflictions and unbearable misfortunes, like sons to their father, shipwrecked sailors coming to a harbour, so that with paternal affection your heart will be moved towards us and the holy city of Jerusalem…*[[112]](#footnote-112)

If the message was not clear enough, it follows a long list of Christian places conquered by Saladin and his army. Even if one takes into account the weight of biblical rhetoric, – so dear to twelfth-century writers [[113]](#footnote-113)-- it is impossible to neutralize the outburst of feelings that followed the Christian defeat at Hattin.

 Bearing in mind the considerable number of ecclesiastical dignitaries who were involved in correspondence with and from the Latin East, the significant attention devoted to ecclesiastical matters is not surprising. Indeed, the rights and privileges of provinces and dioceses,[[114]](#footnote-114) as well as the election and apostolic confirmation of Latin prelates,[[115]](#footnote-115) characterize many letters. Pilgrimage to the Holy Land and indulgences,[[116]](#footnote-116) eventually relics, their verification and trade, were all mentioned.[[117]](#footnote-117) Maurice de Craon (1132-1196) -- the governor of Anjou and Maine under Henry II, who returned to France about 1170 -- played a most important role, with ten letters addressed to him that verify his relics’ authenticity.[[118]](#footnote-118)

 It would be impossible to cover all nuances of correspondence in the Early Crusade Period,[[119]](#footnote-119) but it will be worthwhile to devote some attention to the books’ interchange between Christendom and the Holy Land, where some of the prelates were anxious to strengthen their doctrine against the many deviations they attributed to Eastern Christians.[[120]](#footnote-120)

**Reference to letters in narrative sources**

Very few twelfth-century chroniclers were aware of the importance of correspondence as a historical source, as against later historiographical trends.[[121]](#footnote-121) William of Tyre and Ralph of Diceto present in this regard exceptional examples because their many quotations of contemporary letters, perhaps because they both had a better access to crusade correspondence. Some letters chosen by William are related to ecclesiastical matters (RRR 49, 131) and matrimonial treatises (RRR 251-2, 1005). There also references to diplomatic and political issues, which were of great importance to the Latins survival, such as Godfrey of Bouillon’s death (RRR 46), Rainald of Chatillon’s alleged insanity (RRR 549), and the complicate dealings with the Byzantine Emperor (RRR 614, 798, 800, 1005).[[122]](#footnote-122) Of particular interest are also Ralph of Diceto’s references to the release of Christian prisoners (RRR 1123, 1139) and Saladin advances in the Holy Land (RRR1148, 1235). [[123]](#footnote-123)

Most twelfth-century Latin chroniclers, however, stood far away, while quoting crusade letters in few occasions.[[124]](#footnote-124) On the other hand, some Muslim chroniclers were more aware of the benefits of letters as historical sources.[[125]](#footnote-125)

The chroniclers’ disregard of the historical value of letters, on the one hand, and their receptiveness of oral messages on the other, further corroborates the weight of orality at the Early Crusade Period. Fulcher of Chartres faithfully reflects a common mood when he refers to his fellows’ excitation at the arrival of ships from the West and their approaching to the new comers “like saints”, since “everyone was anxious to ask for [news] about his country and household.” Fulcher further refers to the enjoyment or sadness of the listeners following the news they got from home.[[126]](#footnote-126) Oral transmission, indeed, was the rule in the Early Crusade Period and as such, it left its weight on the significance of crusade correspondence.

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Giles Constable wrote some years ago, “The history of letters, and of those who wrote them, thus merges into the history of bureaucracy and diplomacy and forms an important chapter in the development of government and administration in the Middle Ages.”[[127]](#footnote-127) On the other hand, Parsons recently claimed, “the conception of the crusade letters as a direct link to the events of the First Crusade, in contrast to the more fictive histories, is out of date.”[[128]](#footnote-128) He recognizes, however, that his reservations do not neutralize the value of letters, even those ‘problematic’ in his view, as transmitters of crusade narrative. It is the thesis of this study that not only the history but also the development of crusade correspondence, its nature and means of transmission provide additional facets for a better understanding of the Early Crusade Period. Unfortunately, research of medieval correspondence has currently approached letters according to their modern form, i.e., as a unit that encapsulates the whole message. Crusade letters, however, were just a part in message transmission, complemented as it was by oral messages. The careful selection of messengers among the sociopolitical elite turned them into a most active factor in the transmission of news. In medieval terms, messengers became a kind of political troubadours, well equipped to receive the attention not only of the letters’ addressees but of wider audiences, as well. In medieval practice, they became a kind of social trigger, around whom the sociopolitical elite met and listened to messages from the Latin East. In the same way that medieval people learned about the Holy Land and sacred history from the preaching of local or itinerant priests, they **listened** to the crusaders’ dealings, since in their most part, they were not able to read their letters. Letters, therefore, as written documents, present only a fragment of the whole performance and not always the most important. Still, the honorific aura that accompanied Latin documents, especially among illiterate audiences, turned crusade letters into a kind of holy relic and as such into an important component in the transmission of messages between Western Christendom and the Latin East. One may therefore conclude that a better understanding of the interaction between messengers and letters, between oral and written messages, would contribute a more accurate perspective of the nature and weight of crusade correspondence and through it of the Crusades as a whole. On the one hand, the complementation of letters and what may tentatively be called “political troubadours” reflects the sociopolitical and economic changes characteristic of the Central Middle Ages, which brought about the decline of the feudal, local, small units. Crusade correspondence thus appears in this regard as another reflection of the expanding horizons of medieval Christendom. The copying of crusade letters, on the other hand, heralds the slow and gradual transition to written documents, as already proclaimed by Roman Law, thus paving the way for the widespread of literacy and eventually the press by the Late Middle Ages.

1. Sophia Menache, *The Vox Dei: Communication in the Middle Ages* (New York, 1990), 98-123; *ead.,* “The Crusades and Their Impact on the Development of Medieval Communication,” in *Kommunikation zwischen Orient und Okzident: Alltag und Sachkultur,* Veröffentlichungen des Instituts für Realienkunde des Mittelalters und der frühen Neuzeit, Internationaler Kongress Krems an der Donau (6. bis 9. Oktober 1992), ed. Harry Kühnel, vol. 17 (Wien: Verlag der österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 1994), 69-90; *ead.,* “The Communication Challenge of the Early Crusades, 1099-1187,” in *Autour de la première croisade,* ed. Michel Balard (Paris: Presses universitaires de France, 1996), 293-314; *ead*, “The Challenges of Medieval Communication: The Military Orders,” *Annales Turonensia* 16 (2020), forthcoming. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. **crusades-regesta.com**, eds. Jonathan Riley Smith, Benjamin Zeev Kedar, Peter Edbury et al. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Malcolm Barber and Keith Bate, *Letters from the East: Crusaders, Pilgrims and Settlers in the Twelfth and thirteenth centuries* (Abingdon, 2016) [hereafter Baber and Bate]. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Epistola 66, *P.L.* xvi: 1225. Sister Charles, S.N.D., “The Classical Latin Quotations in the Letters of St. Ambrose,” *Grece and Rome* 15 (1968): 186-97. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Giles Constable, *Letters and Letters Collections,* *Typologie des sources du moyen âge occidental,* ed. L. Genicot, vol. 17 (Turnhout, 1976), 31; Luella M. Wolff, “A Brief History of the Art of Dictamen: The Medieval Origins of Business Letter Writing,” *International Journal of Business Communication* 16(1973): 3-11. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. William Patt, “The Early ‘Ars dictaminis’ as a Response to a Changing Society,” *Viator* 9 (1978): 133-56, at 135. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Giles Constable, “Dictators and Diplomats in the Eleventh and Twelfth Centuries: Medieval Epistolography and the Birth of Modern Bureaucracy,” *Dumbarton Oaks Papers* 46 (1992): 38. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. W. Patt, “The Early *Ars dictaminis*, 133-55. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. *Epistulae et chartae ad historiam primi belli sacri spectantes. Die Kreuzzugsbriefe aus den Jahren 1088–1100,* ed. H. Hagenmeyer (Innsbruck, 1901), XV, 156-60. Trans. Barber and Bate, 30. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Sophia Menache, *The Vox Dei,* 16-17. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. L. Rockinger, *Briefsteller und Formelbücher des eilften bis vierzehnten Jahrhunderts* (Munich, 1863-64), 10. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. See, for instance, RRR 477, 546-47 (ten years), 427 (twelve years), 599 (26 years). [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. RRR 22, 18. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. RRR 1269. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. RRR 1233. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. RRR 73. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. RRR1044. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. RRR 853. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Adam J. Silverstein, *Postal Systems in the Pre-Islamic World* (New, 2007); *Id., Revue des mondes musulmans et de la Mediterranée* 127 (2010); Camilia Martha MacKay, *The Road Networks and Postal Service in the Eastern Roman and Byzantine Empires (First-Fifteenth Centuries),* Ph. D. dissertation, (University of Michigan, 1999). [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Susan B. Edgington, “The Doves of War: The Part played by Carrier Pigeons in the Crusades,” in *Autour de la première croisade,* 167-75. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. Hans Eberhard Mayer, “Latins, Muslims and Greeks in the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem,” *History* 63 (1978): 175-92; Jonathan Rubin, *Learning in a Crusader City: Intellectual Activity and the Intercultural Exchanges in Acre, 1191-1291* (Cambridge, 2018), 15-46. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. Michel Mollat, “Problèmes navales de l’histoire des croisades,” *Cahiers de civilisation médiévale* 10 (1967): 345-59; John Pryor, “Transportation of Horses by Sea during the Era of the Crusades: Eight Century to 1285 A.D.,” *Mariner’s Mirror* 68 (1982): 9-27 and 103-25; *id*., “A View from a Masthead: The First Crusade viewed from the Sea,” *Crusades* 7 (2008): 87-152. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. In his letter to Master Hugh of the Temple (c. 1129), Prior Guigo of La Grande Chartreuse, specifically mentions that he is sending copies of his letter by two separate messengers, RRR 281. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. *Epistulae et chartae ad historiam primi belli sacri spectantes.* no. IV, pp. 138–40. Trans. Barber and Bate, p. 15. James A. Brundage, “An Errant Crusader: Stephen of Blois,” *Traditio* 16 (1960): 380-95. Though Parsons questioned the independent, quasi-eyewitness status of Stephen’s letters, he still recognized that “they are testament to a developing narrative of the crusade in the late eleventh or early twelfth centuries,” Simon Thomas Parsons, “The Letters of Stephen of Blois Reconsidered,” *Crusades* 17 (2018), 1-29, at 3. [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. Giles Constable, “Forged Letters in the Middle Ages,” in *Fälschungen im Mittelalter: Internationalem Kongress der Monumenta Germaniae Historica,* München 16-19 1986 (Hannover, 1988), 11-37. See also the important collection published by Christian Hoegel and Elisabeta Bartoli, *Medieval Letters: Between Fiction and Documents* (Turnhout, 2015), passim. [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. RRR 880. [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. RRR 18, 482, 486, 1148, 1286. [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. RRR 837. Patriarch Amalric of Jerusalem confirms the king’s report in his letter to the clergy and laity of Christendom, RRR 847. [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. RRR 708-9, 890, 927, 1260; Markus Stock, “Letter, Word, and Good Messengers: Towards an Archaeology of Remote Communication,” *Interdisciplinary Science Review* 37 (2012): 299-313. [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. Thomas L. Smith, “First Crusade Letters,” 499. [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. Giles Constable, “Dictators and Diplomats in the Eleventh and Twelfth Centuries,” 40. [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. See the second table below. [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. RRR 28. Trans. Barber and Bate, p. 37. [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
34. R. Foreville, “Un chief de la premiere croisade: Arnulf Malecouronne,” *Bulletin philologique et historique du comité des travaux historiques et scientifiques, 1953-1954* (1955): 377-90. [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
35. RRR 28, 47, 81, 202, 252, 304, 357, 440, 718, 740, 798, 800, 836-7, 859, 889, 894-5, 1005, 1067, 1139, 1148, 1242, 1246-7, 1254. [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
36. RRR 741. Trans. Barber and Bate*,* p. 60. [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
37. Hans Eberhard Mayer, “The Wheel of Fortune: Seigniorial Vicissitudes under Kings Fulk and Baldwin III of Jerusalem,” *Speculum* 65-4 (1990): 860-68. [↑](#footnote-ref-37)
38. RRR 59. [↑](#footnote-ref-38)
39. RRR 1067. [↑](#footnote-ref-39)
40. RRR 196, Trans. Barber and Bate, p. 39. G. Bautier, “L’envoi de la relique de Vraie Croix à Notre-Dame de Paris en 1120,” *Bibliothèque de l’École des Chartes* 129 (1971): 387–97. [↑](#footnote-ref-40)
41. RRR1016. Trans. Barber and Bate, p. 73. Since the letter was written in 1178, it probably hints at the battle of Mont Gisard (25 November 1177). One should note that the RRR identifies the author as Roger de Moulins, Master of the Hospital, while Barber and Bate attributed it to Brother Raymond. [↑](#footnote-ref-41)
42. RRR 54. [↑](#footnote-ref-42)
43. RRR 737. [↑](#footnote-ref-43)
44. Thomas L. Smith, “First Crusade Letters,” 488. [↑](#footnote-ref-44)
45. C. F. Briggs, “Literacy, Reading and Writing in the Medieval West,” *Journal of Medieval History* 26 (2000): 397-420; Laidulf Melve, “Literacy, Aurality-Orality: A Survey of Research into the Orality/Literacy Complex of the Latin Middle Ages (600)-1500),” *Symbolae Osloenses* 78 (2003): 143-97, see specially 176-80. [↑](#footnote-ref-45)
46. Paschal II, RRR 27, 61, 92, 112, 131, 138, Callixtus II 208, 224, Honorius II, 257-8, antipope Analect II, 286, Innocent II, 305, Celestine II, 440, Eugene III, 511, Alexander III 680, 787-8, 804, 876-7, 933, 1068, Urban III, 1179. [↑](#footnote-ref-46)
47. Mary Stroll, *Popes and Antipopes: The Politics of Eleventh-Century Church Reform* (Leiden, 2012), 243-48. [↑](#footnote-ref-47)
48. Benedict Wiedemann, “*Super gentes et regna:* Papal ‘Empire’ in the Later Eleventh and Twelfth Centuries,” *Studies in Church History* 54 (2018): 109-22. [↑](#footnote-ref-48)
49. See, Kriston R. Rennie, *The Foundations of Medieval Papal Legation* (New York, 2013), pp. 65-86, 154-69; Harald Müller, “The Omnipotent Pope: Legates and Judges Delegate,” in *A Companion to the Medieval Papacy: Growth of an Ideology and Institution*, ed. Keith Sisson and Atria A. Larson(Leiden, 2016), 197-219. [↑](#footnote-ref-49)
50. James A. Brundage, “Adhémar of Puy: The Bishop and his Critics,” *Speculum* 34-2 (1959): 201-12; J. H. Hill and L. L. Hill, “Contemporary Accounts and the Later Representation of Adhémar, Bishop of Le Puy,” *Medievalia et Humanistica* 8 (1955): 30-38. [↑](#footnote-ref-50)
51. Maurice of Porto, legate of Paschal II, RRR 27, Gibellin of Arles, and Cardinal Robert of St. Eusebius, 92; Peter of Porto, legate of Calixtus II, 208; Giles of Tusculum, legate of Honorius I, 261, Alberic of Ostia, legate of Innocent II, 402. [↑](#footnote-ref-51)
52. Arnulf of Chocques, RRR 10, 127, Daibert (Dagobert) of Pisa 22, 28, 49, 61, Evremar (Ehremar),73, Garmond of Picquigny, 194, and the canons 196, 202, Stephen of La Ferté, 288, William of Malines, the chancellor and canons, 327, 459, Fulk of Angoulême, 589, Amalric of Nesle,and the canons of the Holy Sepulchre, 657, 823, 836, 847, 891-2, 894-5, 902, Heraclius and the canons of the Holy Sepulchre, 1114, 1226, 1239-40, 1257, 1269. On the diffusion of Daibert’s letters in Germany, see, Thomas L. Smith, “Scribal Crusading Three New Manuscripts Witnesses to the Regional Reception and Transmission of First Crusade Letters,” *Traditio* 72 (2017): 133-69. [↑](#footnote-ref-52)
53. Bernard Hamilton, *The Latin Church in the Crusader States: The Secular Church* (London, 1980), 52-85. For a complete list of the patriarchs of Jerusalem and Antioch, see, *ibid.,* 373; Joshua Prawer, *Crusader Institutions* (Oxford, 1980), 296-304. [↑](#footnote-ref-53)
54. RRR 399, 880, 1242, 1246. [↑](#footnote-ref-54)
55. Edessa RRR 216; Nazareth 859; province not mentioned, perhaps forgery, 1273. [↑](#footnote-ref-55)
56. Belen RRR 477, 828; Acre 673, 827, 1005; Nablus 829, 853. [↑](#footnote-ref-56)
57. Pisa RRR 16; Casale 18; Chartres 54; Canterbury 59-60, 1286-7; Arras 81; York 88. [↑](#footnote-ref-57)
58. St. Mary of the Valley of Jehoshaphat RRR 465; Mount Syon 826; St. Mary the Great 831; Leprosary of St. Lazarus 833. [↑](#footnote-ref-58)
59. St. Amand RRR 209; La Grand Chartreuse 281; Grandmont 510; Cluny 537, 597, 599; St. Genevieve 1067. On the diffusion of crusade letters in Benedictine and Cistercian religious houses of Germany, see, Thomas L. Smith, “Scribal Crusading Three New Manuscripts,” 133-69. [↑](#footnote-ref-59)
60. RRR 232, 303-4, 344, 400, 448-9, 546-8, 826, 831, 833. [↑](#footnote-ref-60)
61. Thomas L. Smith, “First Crusade Letters and Medieval Monastic Scribal Cultures,” *The Journal of Ecclesiastical History* 71-3 (2020): 484-501. [↑](#footnote-ref-61)
62. Id., “Scribal Crusading Three New Manuscripts,” 156. [↑](#footnote-ref-62)
63. Arnulf, priest of the Temple RRR 47; Geoffrey, prior, 357; Andrew of Montbart, seneschal, 495; unknown author 501; Master Bertrand of Blancfort (1156-69) 708, 725, 726, 740, 741, 783, Geoffrey Fulcher, procurator and preceptor, 736, 737, Master Philip of Nablus (1169-71) 825, R., abbot, 830; knights 1044; Terricus, commander, and the convent 1233, 1234, 1235, 1236,1255; Master Gerard of Ridefort (1185-89) 1242. [↑](#footnote-ref-63)
64. Master Blessed Gerard (1099-1113, 1118-20) 61, Master Raymond du Puy (1118/21/23-60) 223, 610, Master Gilbert d’Assailly (1163-69) 782, 873, 874, brothers 875, 1237, Master Jobert of Syria (1169-72-77) 893, 983, Master Roger de Moulins (1177-87) 1016, 1237, Master Ermengard d’Aps (1187-90) 1263. [↑](#footnote-ref-64)
65. RRR 218 is signed by *milites* of the Kingdom of Jerusalem, with no reference to a specific Order. [↑](#footnote-ref-65)
66. RRR 1229. [↑](#footnote-ref-66)
67. RRR 8-9, 98, 141, 211, 251-2, 427, 549, 614, 702, 707, 709, 718, 743, 800, 811, 821, 832, 837, 889-90, 922, 954, 1148, 1267. [↑](#footnote-ref-67)
68. RRR 482, 486. [↑](#footnote-ref-68)
69. RRR 886,1254. [↑](#footnote-ref-69)
70. RRR 310, 926-7, 1123, 1139, 1127. [↑](#footnote-ref-70)
71. RRR 2, 6, 8- 9, 15, 22, 46-47, 52-3. [↑](#footnote-ref-71)
72. RRR 140, 326, 590, 734, 1247, 1256, 1260. [↑](#footnote-ref-72)
73. RRR Venice 18, Genoa 583, 1241. [↑](#footnote-ref-73)
74. Reference to the Genoese appears, however, in papal correspondence. See, RRR 327, 1028, 1179. On the Genoese intervention in the crusade and the papal approach at their regard, see, Antonio Musarra, *In Partibus Ultramaris: I Genoesi, la Crociata e la Terrasanta (secc. XII-XIII)* (Rome, 2017), 244-71, 283-89. For Venice, see Baldwin II’s privileges, RRR 211. [↑](#footnote-ref-74)
75. Juraj Kittler, “’The Pen is so Noble and Excellent an Instrument’: How the Medieval Merchants and Renaissance Diplomats invented the Newswriting Style,” *Journalism Studies* (2020): 1403-19. [↑](#footnote-ref-75)
76. Shlomo Goitein, *A Mediterranean Society: The Jewish Communities of the Arab World as portrayed in the Documents of the Cairo Geniza,* 6 vols. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1967-1993), vol. 1, 37-65. [↑](#footnote-ref-76)
77. RRR 480. [↑](#footnote-ref-77)
78. RRR 544. [↑](#footnote-ref-78)
79. RRR 974. [↑](#footnote-ref-79)
80. RRR 1274. [↑](#footnote-ref-80)
81. To Urban II (1088-99), RRR 6, 16; Adrian IV (1154-59), 583, 604; Alexander III (1159-81), 657, 875, 889, 922, 1044; Lucius III (1181-85), 1123, 1139; Urban III (1185-87) 1233, 1241-42; Clement III (1187-91), 1269. [↑](#footnote-ref-81)
82. [↑](#footnote-ref-82)
83. Archbishops of Reims, RRR 2, 216, 837, 859, 890-3; Compostela 194, 288; Genoa 327; Toledo 399; Trani 874; Canterbury 1260, 1286-7. [↑](#footnote-ref-83)
84. Bishops Città di Castello RRR 18, Arras 73, Paris 196, 202; Acre 549. [↑](#footnote-ref-84)
85. Abbots/Abbesses of St. Benigno Canavese, RRR 127; St. Denis 482; Hannover 486; Florennes 673; Bingen 902. [↑](#footnote-ref-85)
86. Patriarchs of Jerusalem RRR 18, 54, 81, 112, 304, 933, 1028, 1179, 1254; of Antioch RRR 131, 138, 400, 864, 1028, 1254.

Archbishops of Tyre RRR 257, 800; Nazareth 876.

Bishops of Belen, Acre and Lod 876; Caesarea 208-9, 1067.

Abbots/ Abbesses RRR 511, 599. [↑](#footnote-ref-86)
87. RRR 27, 28, 92, 459. [↑](#footnote-ref-87)
88. RRR 258, 427, 440, 477, 510, 673, 787-8, 804. [↑](#footnote-ref-88)
89. RRR 9-10. [↑](#footnote-ref-89)
90. RRR 281, 344, 495, 548, 1148, 1234. [↑](#footnote-ref-90)
91. RRR 610, 1068, 1148, 1237. [↑](#footnote-ref-91)
92. RRR 8, 15, 18, 46-7, 49-50, 52, 88, 218, 232, 251-2, 303, 310, 357, 954, 1005, 1114, 1236. [↑](#footnote-ref-92)
93. RRR 59-60, 92, 326, 448-9, 546-7, 597, 798, 886, 927. [↑](#footnote-ref-93)
94. RRR Christian Kings, 614, 1229, 1242, 1255-7, 1267; Muslim rulers 98, 140-1, 480, 811, 926. [↑](#footnote-ref-94)
95. RRR 590, 702, 707-9, 718, 725-6, 734, 736-7, 740-1, 743, 782-3, 836, 873, 894-5. [↑](#footnote-ref-95)
96. RRR 28, 53, 61, 208, 223, 261, 501, 589, 823, 847, 853, 877, 974, 1016, 1127, 1226, 1235, 1239, 1247, 1274. [↑](#footnote-ref-96)
97. RRR 211, 825-31, 833, 983. [↑](#footnote-ref-97)
98. Nancy Harper, *Human CommunicationTheory: The History of a Paradigm* (Rochelle Park, 1979), 74. See, also, B. Stock, “Medieval Literacy, Linguistic History, and Social Organization,” *New Literary History* 16-1 (1984): 13-29. [↑](#footnote-ref-98)
99. Jacques Toussaert, *Le sentiment religieux, la vie et la pratique religieuse des laïcs en Flandre maritime et au “West Hoeck” de langue flamande aux XIVe, XVe et d”ebut du XVIe siècles* (Paris, 1963), 60-66, 85-87. [↑](#footnote-ref-99)
100. Jacques Le Goff and Jean Claude Schmitt, “Au XIIIe siècle: Une parole nouvelle,” in *Histoire vécue du people chrétien,* ed. Jean Delumeau, 2 vols. (Paris, 1979), vol. 1, 257-80; F. H. Bäuml, “Varieties and Consequences of Medieval Literacy and Illiteracy,” *Speculum* 55-2 (1980): 237-65. [↑](#footnote-ref-100)
101. According to Parsons, indeed, “Letters were normally intended as performances pieces to a crowd,” Parsons, “The Letters of Stephen of Blois,” 5. [↑](#footnote-ref-101)
102. Nicholas Paul, “A Warlord’s Wisdom: Literacy and Propaganda at the Time of the First Crusade,” *Speculum* 85-3 (2010): 534-66. [↑](#footnote-ref-102)
103. Simon Thomas Parsons, “The Letters of Stephen of Blois Reconsidered,” 1-29, [↑](#footnote-ref-103)
104. RRR 2, 6, 15-6, 28, 46-7, 49, 53, 98, 140-1, 218, 251, 480, 482, 495, 501, 590, 597, 604, 702, 707, 708-9, 718, 734, 736-7, 740-1, 836-7, 891, 1016, 1044, 1123, 1127, 1139, 1242, 1226, 1233-7, 1239-42, 1246-7, 1255-7, 1260, 1263, 1273, 1287. [↑](#footnote-ref-104)
105. RRR 8-9, 46, 52, 59, 448, 709, 926, [↑](#footnote-ref-105)
106. RRR 6, 1267, 1274, [↑](#footnote-ref-106)
107. C. Morris, “Policy and Visions: The Case of the Holy Lance of Antioch,” in *War and Government in the Middle Ages: Essays in Honour of J. O. Prestwich* (Woodbridge, 1984), 33-45. [↑](#footnote-ref-107)
108. RRR 8; trans. Barber and Bate, 30-33. [↑](#footnote-ref-108)
109. See above, note 24. [↑](#footnote-ref-109)
110. RRR 194, 326, 590, 702, 707—9, 726, 734, 736-7, 740, 743,836-7, 847, 873, 1229, 1234, 1242, 1257, 1260. [↑](#footnote-ref-110)
111. RRR 194; Letter of Warmund of Picquigny, Patriarch of Jerusalem, and Gerard, Prior of the Holy Sepulchre, to Diego Gelmírez, Archbishop of Santiago de Compostela (c. 1120), trans. Baber and Bate, 43. [↑](#footnote-ref-111)
112. Benjamin Zeev Kedar, “Ein Hiferuf aus Jerusalem vom September 1187,” *Deutsches Archiv für Erforschung des Mittelaters* 35 (1982): 120-22. Trans. Barber and Bate, 80-82. [↑](#footnote-ref-112)
113. Sophia Menache and Esther Cohen, “Holy Wars and Sainted Men: Christian War Propaganda in the Middle Ages,” Journal of Communication 36-2 (1986): 52-62. [↑](#footnote-ref-113)
114. RRR 92, 112, 127, 131, 138, 288, 440, 465, 477, 511, 599, 610, 787-8, 804, 876-7, 892-3, 933, 1028, 1068. [↑](#footnote-ref-114)
115. RRR 10, 23, 54, 208, 257-8, 261, 286, 303, 305, 400, 402, 549, 657, 875, 922. [↑](#footnote-ref-115)
116. RRR 6, 27, 61, 459, 589, 847, 853, 874, 886, 1114, 1226, 1239. [↑](#footnote-ref-116)
117. RRR 2, 6, 73, 196, 202, 209, 216, 459, 510, 589, 673, 725, 853. See, Brett E. Whalen, “The Discovery of the Holy Patriarchs: Relics, Ecclesiastical Politics and Sacred History in 12th century Crusader Palestine,” *Historical Reflections* 27-1 (2001): 139-76. [↑](#footnote-ref-117)
118. RRR 823, 825-33. Mauricius de Craon He is the central character of the anonymous Middle High German verse romance *Moris von Craun*, dated between 1187-1250. See, Fabrice Lachaud, *La structure familiale des Craon du XIè à 1415: Le concept lignager en question,* Ph. D., Universite Michel de Montaigne (Bordeaux, 2012). [↑](#footnote-ref-118)
119. For example, proposals of matrimony, RRR 954,1005, diplomatic matters RRR 448, 614, 798, 927, 1267, 1274, and requests of donations, in which the Hospitallers played a major role, RRR 223-4, 983, [↑](#footnote-ref-119)
120. RRR 344, 357, 399, 864, 880. [↑](#footnote-ref-120)
121. Sophia Menache, “Rewriting the History of the Templars According to Matthew Paris,” in *Cross Cultural Convergences in the Crusader Period: Essays Presented to Aryeh Grabois* (New York, 1996), pp. 183-213; ead.,“Matthew Paris’s Attitudes Toward Anglo-Jewry,” *Journal of Medieval History* 23 (1997):139-62; ead., "Written and Oral Testimonies in Medieval Chronicles: Matthew Paris and Giovanni Villani," *The Medieval Chronicle* 6 (2009): 1-30. [↑](#footnote-ref-121)
122. William of Tyre798, 800, 1005. A rich research concerns William of Tyre (see below); still, none of them specifically refers to his use of correspondence. See, P. W. Edbury and John Gordon Rowe, *William of Tyre: Historian of the Latin East* (Cambridge, 1988), passim; A. C. Krey, “The Making of an Historian in the Middle Ages,” *Speculum* 16 (1941): 149-66; A. V. Murray, “Biblical Quotations and Formulaic Language in the Chronicle of William of Tyre,” *eprints.whiterose.ac.uk* 2014. [↑](#footnote-ref-122)
123. Grover A. Zinn Jr., “The Influence of Hugh of St. Victor’s Chronicon on the *Abbreviationes Chronicorum* by Ralph of Diceto,” *Speculum* 52 (1977): 38-61. [↑](#footnote-ref-123)
124. Guibert of Nogent, RRR 2; Albert of Aachen, 49-50; Matthew of Edessa 50; *Historia Compostellana* 194, 288; Galbert of Bruges 218; Guigo of La Grand Chartreuse 281; Almerich, a cidiano de Antiochia 399; Conrad of Scheyern 589, 1114; *Gesta regis Henrici Secundi* 1242, 1254; *Hugonis chronici continuation Weingartensis* 1229; *Historia de expeditione Friderici Imperatoris* 1237, 1263. [↑](#footnote-ref-124)
125. Ibn al-Athir, RRR 98, 141; Ibn al-Qalanisi 140, 310, 326, 480; Abu Shamah 926, 1127. [↑](#footnote-ref-125)
126. “*Quos, cum de partibus nostris occidentalibus advenisse videremus, extemplo ad eos quasi ad sanctos iucundi procedebamus, a quibus unusquisque nostrum de natione sua et parentela diligenter inquirebamus. Quibus de hoc intimabant prout ipsi sapiebant. Tum de prosperitate audita laetabamur, de incomoditate autem tristabamur*.” Fulcher of Chartres, *Historia Hierosolymitana*, ed. Heinrich Hagenmeyer (Heidelberg, 1913), 388. [↑](#footnote-ref-126)
127. Giles Constable, “Dictators and Diplomats in the Eleventh and Twelfth Centuries,” p. 46. [↑](#footnote-ref-127)
128. Parsons, “The Letters of Stephen of Blois,” p. 5. [↑](#footnote-ref-128)