

Terrier [Land Holdings] of the Town of Karben (Hesse, Germany)

In German, manuscript on parchment

Germany, Karben, 1483

6 ff., apparently complete, with the exception of the original seal, which lacks (contains in batarde cursive for the text and in Gothic text) important center near the Rhine in medieval Germany. Knights, cited frequently in the manuscript, were based in Kloppenheim (today Karben). In addition to facilitating the study of diplomatics, paleography, and seigniorial administration, the document is rich in local history, full of references to the geography and toponymy of the area and to the citizens living there.

## PROVENANCE

1. Terrier compiled under the direction of the priest of Karben, probably for the family of Karben; completed in a cursive hand of the 16

th century (f. 6r, additions, three additional plots of land described.

2. Several additional notes, of which one is modern (f. 6v), "Burggräfenroder Akkerbuch de anno 1483," which indicate that the manuscript must have remained in possession of the Karben family until relatively recently.

3. Modern notes: "54" (f. 6v).

## TEXT

ff. 1-5v, Terrier de (Groß)Karben; ff 1-2, Part 1, title, "Daz Suerborn Felt"; incipit, "Item daz stuck hinder Carben liget neben jongher Waltern von Vilwil helt dry morgen mynder xv girten.

eyne stuoock lit neben Leyderman und zuget zu der  
cit, "... und xv roden. Summa lv morgen, eyn  
marum C lx morgen und eyne firteil, vii roden"; (ff.

date (in red), "Anno Domini m° cccc° lxxx iii°";<sup>5(f)</sup>, final account, "Summa summarum der wesen xlviii morgen und x roden."

f. 6, Colophon, "Wyr hernoeh gschreiben lantscheyder und gsworen Henricz undergreffe zu Carben, Welants hen der alde Sipel, alle beyde wonhafftig zu Cleyn Carben, und swin hen Bosen henchin Peders Conrardt, Leydele bes hen alle wonhafftig zu Grossen Carben, bekennen unß offentlig daz wir solliche vorgschreiben lant und wesen stoeck von stoeck uff den eyt gelantscheyt han und dez zu warem orkunde han wir obgenant und iczlicher bsonder gebeden den ersaman hern Hern Ruppracht Scheybelin, pastor zu Cleyn Carben, daz er sin eygen ingeseygel unden an dithe register gehangen hait. Welichs verseygelt ich Ruppertus obgenant mich al( v)4(o)2(n s)6(t)7(o)2(P9(t)-2(8( )-2(S)9(na)5(no1( W)1( W(8( t2(S)9ye t2(S .9o)-

the children Robert, Karl, and Emerich, as well as their sister Margaret, widow of Emerich von Reifenberg; see HauptStaatsArchiv Darmstadt, **Z**, 58/1). “Jongher Herman,” named four times in the document the only person whose name is not accompanied by the name of his fief -is probably Herman van Karben, cousin of Emerich, Robert, and Karl von Karben, and it may be that he ordered the terrier. In so doing, he would be following in the footsteps of his uncle Herman, married to Katharina von Vilbel, who had previously authenticated the terrier established at Büdesheim for the Teutonic Order in 1463 (HauptStaatsArchiv Darmstadt, **B**, 51/3).

Not only does the inventory of the land holdings of Karben afford an extremely interesting glimpse of the division of lands, it also shows the presence there of individuals who are known from other sources: Walther von Vilbel, named no less than ten times in the document (on Viwil, Vilwil, Vylwil) and mentioned in several imperial acts, notably that of November, 27, 1466 (see

