

## Warfare and Politics in Medieval Germany, ca. 1000

The *De diversitate temporum*, written in the early eleventh century by Alpert of Metz, is one of the indispensable contemporary accounts for our understanding of the history of the Low Countries at the turn of the first millennium. With a keen eye for detail, Alpert offers insightful anecdotes about people from all walks of life, while at the same time providing a regional perspective on the important political, social, economic, and military affairs of the period.

Alpert was born and raised in the Diocese of Utrecht before becoming a canon at Metz under Bishop Dietrich I (964–984). Later in life, Alpert returned to Utrecht where he entered the abbey of St Paul. Alpert's brother Immo was a canon at Worms under Bishop Burchard (1000–1025), and through the good offices of Immo, Alpert gained a connection with Burchard, eventually dedicating *De diversitate* to him. This translation includes both Alpert's introductory letter to Burchard and Burchard's response to Alpert.

In addition to its significance for the history of the Low Countries, Alpert's work provides considerable insight into the organization of the German kingdom at a point of transition that was marked by the end of the Ottonian dynasty with the death of Henry II in 1024.

This translation is based on the 1980 edition by Hans van Rij.

MEDIAEVAL SOURCES IN TRANSLATION

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Warfare and Politics  
in Medieval Germany, ca. 1000

*On the Variety of Our Times*

by Alpert of Metz

Translated with an introduction by

DAVID S. BACHRACH



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MANUFACTURED IN CANADA

*To my wife Elyse,  
with all my love*



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## Abbreviations

MGH Auct. Ant.	Monumenta Germaniae Historica. Auctores antiquissimi. Hanover: Hahn, 1887- .
MGH Libri Mem. NS	Monumenta Germaniae Historica. Libri Memoriales et Necrologia. Hanover: Hahn, 1983- .
MGH SS rer. Germ.	Monumenta Germaniae Historica. Scriptores rerum Germanicarum in usum scholarum separatim editi. Hanover: Hahn, 1871- .
MGH SS	Monumenta Germaniae Historica. Scriptores. Hanover: Hahn, 1826- .