

PATRONAGE AND GUARDIANSHIP (*PFLEGSCHAFT*)  
IN THE LATE MEDIEVAL ECCLESIASTICAL  
LIFE OF THE TOWN OF EGER

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The attainment of the right of patronage by the Order of Teutonic Knights was of fundamental importance in the ecclesiastical development of late medieval Eger. Nevertheless, the Town Council of Eger acquired at the parish church of St. Niklas and other churches in Eger the pre-eminent right of presentation to the benefices endowed there for secular priests, thus achieving a notable position in the patronage-legal sphere. This should not, however, be seen as the result of any purposeful efforts. Alone in the case of the transformation of a synagogue into a church was the Council's intention of gaining a municipal church of its own obvious. Nor can a resolute advance into the Church sphere be ascertained with respect to the various *Pflegschaften* maintained by the Council. However, during its conflict with the Clarisses, the Council insisted on the rights it had acquired to their convents. The

acquisition of rights of patronage and *Pflegschaften* may not, as a rule, have been the result of any deliberate policy vis-à-vis the Church but it did nonetheless give the Council possibilities of influence.