

Editorial Principles

The Latin text (as transcribed) is not intended to replace the current academic edition, edited by Wolfgang D. Fritz, and published in *Monumenta Germaniae Historica (MGH Constitutiones 11)*.¹ Rather, it illustrates the special features of the Frankfurt copy in a way that cannot be implemented in an academic edition. Therefore the many abbreviations are marked by round brackets, while square brackets are used for editorial additions.

The spellings of words with *i/j* and *c/t* have been retained in their original forms, although it was not always possible to decide clearly whether a word contains a *c* or a *t*. However, to improve legibility, the use of *u* and *v* was adapted to suit contemporary practice. For the same reason, we took over the punctuation from the MGH Edition. The use of capital letters, on the other hand, does not follow academic editions and is therefore not restricted to the beginning of a sentence and proper names. Instead, it was taken over almost completely from the original, to preserve any emphasis of important words, such as *Imperium*, *Princeps Elector* and *Dux*. This should also help us understand the structure which was applied by the scribe. The only instances where original lowercase letters have been capitalised are cases where a word comes at the beginning of a sentence under MGH punctuation.

In the Frankfurt copy the Metz section (chapters 24-31) has almost no chapter headings or numbering. Only chapter 27 has a heading, and some of the chapters are not even separated by spaces or paragraphs. To improve clarity, the transcription therefore departs from the original, and the relevant chapter headings and numbers have been added. Also, we took over the section numbers from the MGH Edition. No new paragraphs were inserted in cases where the beginning of a paragraph in the Frankfurt copy does not occur at the beginning of a line. A critical apparatus has been added to show any deviations between the MGH Edition and the Frankfurt copy.² Headings and subheadings follow the same principles for the Latin text, the Early Modern High German text and the contemporary translation.

The Frankfurt translation of 1371, which was burnt in 1944, is based on the Altmann Edition (ALT 1897)³, which also forms the basis of Fritz's MGH Edition.⁴ In his annotations, Fritz gives details of the most important variations among German translations. To avoid overloading the annotations here, we decided to leave out many of those variations, and they are only mentioned where they help towards a better understanding. In some cases footnotes were taken over from the Altmann Edition where they explain terms that may not be readily intelligible. Except in a small number of instances, the Frankfurt Early Modern High German translation, too, follows the punctuation of the MGH Edition.

The contemporary German translation is the one created by Wolfgang D. Fritz in 1978.⁵

¹ "Die Goldene Bulle vom 10. Januar und 25. Dezember 1356 – Lateinisch und frühneuhochdeutsch", in: *Monumenta Germaniae Historica, Legum IV – Constitutiones et Acta Publica Imperatorum et Regum*, vol. 11, Fasc. 7: *Dokumente zur Geschichte des Deutschen Reiches und seiner Verfassung 1354–1356*, edited by Wolfgang D. Fritz, Weimar 1988, pp. 535-633 (Introduction pp. 537-558; Latin text pp. 560-632; Register of the Golden Bull, pp. 789-823).

² In the MGH Edition the Nuremberg section (chapters 1-23) is based on the Bohemian copy. As this section of the Frankfurt text was copied from the Bohemian text, it has not been used for the Nuremberg section. Nevertheless, the Frankfurt copy does contain deviations from the MGH Edition: these are due to spelling errors and differences in the choice of words. For the Metz section (chapters 24-31), however, the MGH Edition specifies variations in the Frankfurt copy.

³ Wilhelm Altmann, "Die alte Frankfurter Übersetzung der Goldenen Bulle Kaiser Karls IV.", in: *Zeitschrift der Savigny-Stiftung für Rechtsgeschichte – Germanistische Abteilung* 18 (1897), pp. 107-147; reprinted in: *Archiv für Frankfurts Geschichte und Kunst* 48 (1962), pp. 133-157,

⁴ *MGH Constitutiones 11* (see footnote 1), pp. 561-633.

⁵ *Die Goldene Bulle – Das Reichsgesetz Kaiser Karls IV. vom Jahre 1356*, German translation by Wolfgang D. Fritz, historical appraisal by Eckhard Müller-Mertens, Weimar 1978. This translation has been slightly modified, using the word *Hoftag* (Court Diet) for *curia*, instead of Fritz's *Reichstag* (Imperial Diet). Also, German post-1997 spelling rules have been applied, and chapter numbers are rendered in Roman numerals. Further translations of the Golden Bull can

The following English translation has been used: *Selected Historical Documents of the Middle Ages*, translated and edited by Ernest F. Henderson, London/New York 1892 (several editions), pp. 220-261: *The Golden Bull of the Emperor Charles IV, 1356 A. D.*

be found in: *Quellen zur Verfassungsgeschichte des Römisch-Deutschen Reiches im Spätmittelalter (1250–1500)*, selected and translated by Lorenz Weinrich, Darmstadt 1993, *Ausgewählte Quellen zur deutschen Geschichte des Mittelalters – Freiherr vom Stein Gedächtnisausgabe*, vol. 33, Darmstadt 1983, pp. 315-395, *Kaiser und Reich – Klassische Texte und Dokumente zur Verfassungsgeschichte des Heiligen Römischen Reiches Deutscher Nation vom Beginn des 12. Jahrhunderts bis zum Jahre 1806*, with an introduction by Arno Buschmann (also: editor and translator), Munich 1984, pp. 105-156: "Goldene Bulle", Konrad Müller (ed.), *Die Goldene Bulle Kaiser Karls IV. von 1356 – Lateinischer Text mit Übersetzung*, Bern 1957, *Quellen zur neueren Geschichte* 25, 3rd ed. Bern 1970, Kurt Hans Staub and Jörg-Ulrich Fechner (introduction), Konrad Müller (translator), *Die Goldene Bulle Kaiser Karls IV. von 1356 – Faksimile der Ausfertigung für den Kurfürsten von Köln*, Darmstadt 1982, *Die Goldene Bulle: Nach König Wenzels Prachthandschrift* – with the German translation by Konrad Müller and an epilogue by Ferdinand Seibt, Dortmund 1978, 2nd ed. Dortmund 1983.