

“Germany’s Last Knight:” Recommended Readings

There is no English-language book-length biography of Franz von Sickingen. There is, however, a 93-page chapter in a 1977 Ph.D. dissertation which serves that purpose:

—Harold H. Kehr, “Franz von Sickingen,” in The von Sickingen and the German Princes 1263—1523 (Boston University Graduate School, 1977), pp. 209—301. *Available on the OLLI website, or from the instructor.*

German-Language Works:

—Wolfgang Breul, ed., Ritter! Tod! Teufel? Franz von Sickingen und die Reformation (2015)...*lavishly illustrated book of essays, published as part of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.*

—Reinhard Scholzen, Franz von Sickingen: Ein adeliges Leben im Spannungsfeld zwischen Städten und Territorien (1996)...*good on S’s feuds and economic activities, rather than his religious beliefs and role.*

—Klaus Eberhard Wild, Franz von Sickingen: Ein Ritter in unruhiger Zeit (2006)...*good short biography.*

German History, General Surveys:

—Hagen Schulze, Germany: A New History (1998)...*clear and concise.*

—Joachim Whaley, The Holy Roman Empire: A Very Short Introduction (2018)...*good brief survey.*

German History, Specific Topics:

—Roland H. Bainton, Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther (1950; many reprints)...*classic older biography.*

—A. G. Dickens, The German Nation and Martin Luther (1974)

—Hajo Holborn, Ulrich von Hutten and the German Reformation (1937, repr. 1965)...*good biography of Sickingen’s literary colleague.*

European History in the Reformation Era:

—Thomas Arnold, The Renaissance at War (2001)...*changing military developments in the transition from medieval to modern times.*

—G. R. Elton, Reformation Europe 1517—1559 (1963; second edition, unchanged but with updated afterword and bibliography, 1999)...*a classic, emphasizing personalities and ideas rather than social history.*