



Lexikon des Mittelalters

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Search

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< A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z >

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Normalization of lemmata into English and subject classification of index: Laura Napran (with guidance from Simon Forde)

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- Aarberg, Swiss comital family
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< A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z >

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- Aaron of Alexandria, physician, 7th c. [IEMA]
- Aaron, Badamin → Badamin Aaron

< A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z >

northumberland

Northumberland (England)

- Northumbria (Kingdom)
- Norton, Thomas, fl. 1477
- Nortum → Dietrich Reseler von
- Norheim, bishop of, ca. 1365 - 1441 [IEMA]
- Norway
- Norwich (Norfolk, United Kingdom [England])
- Nostell Priory (West Yorkshire, United Kingdom [England])
- Notabeln
- Notabilia
- Notarial registers
- Notaries → Notarius
- Notarii sacri palatii Lateranensis
- Notarius
- Notation, byz.
- Noteć (Polska)
- Noteć River (Poland) → Noteć (Polska)
- Notger
- Notger, bishop of Liège
- Nothelm, archbishop of Canterbury
- Notio
- Notitia
- Notitia dignitatum
- Notitia of Leo VI → Diatyposis of Leo VI
- Notitia provinciarum et civitatum Galliae
- Notitiae episcopatum ecclesiae Constantinopolitanae
- Notke, Bernt, ca. 1440-1509
- Notker Balbulus
- Notker, Balbulus, ca. 840-912 → Notker Balbulus
- Notker II, monk of St. Gallen
- Notker III Labeo (der Deutsche)

Northumberland (England)

Northumberland (England)

Earldom und Gft., entwickelte sich allmählich aus dem n. Teil (→ **Bernicia**) des alten Kgr.es v. → **Northumbria** und umfaßte das Gebiet zw. den Flüssen Tweed (im N) und Tees (im S) sowie das Gebiet ö. der Pennine Chain. Im späten 11. Jh. und frühen 12. Jh. wurde der Kirchenbesitz v. → **Durham** (»St. Cuthbert's Land«) von N. losgelöst und bildete vielleicht die "Pfalzgtf." (*county palatine*) v. Durham. Nun bestand N. weitgehend aus dem Land n. der Flüsse Derwent und Tyne. Doch auch in diesem verkleinerten Territorium gab es Bezirke (»Liberties«), die von der direkten kgl. Kontrolle durch *sheriffs* befreit waren, so gehörte z. B. Hexhamshire (→ **Hexham**) den Ebf.en v. York, Tynedale den Kg.en v. Schottland und Redesdale der Familie v. Umfraville. Nach der norm. Eroberung übertrugen die engl. Kg.e N. verschiedenen Earls, bei denen es sich meistens um weltl. Magnaten altengl. Herkunft handelte, doch gehörten auch die vom Kontinent stammenden Robert de Commines und Robert de Montbrai (→ **Mowbray**) sowie → **Walcher**, Bf. v. Durham, zu ihnen. 1095-1139 unterstand N. direkt der engl. Krone, doch nach dem zweiten Vertrag v. Durham zw. Stephan v. Blois und David I. wurde es Heinrich († 1152), dem Erben des schott. Thrones, übertragen. Die schott. Kg.e behielten N. bis 1157, als der engl. Kg. Heinrich II. es wieder in Besitz nahm. Der ehrgeizige Bf. v. Durham, Hugh du → **Puiselet**, hatte das Earldom (1189-94) unter Richard I. inne und fügte 1189 durch Kauf den südlichsten Teil v. N., den wapentake of Sadberge, zu den bfl. Ländereien. Seit ca. 1200 war N. kein Earldom mehr, sondern entwickelte sich zu einer Gft. (*county*). Es gab nur einen sheriff, der sich auf die kgl. Burgen v. → **Newcastle upon Tyne** und → **Bamburgh** stützte. Ihm unterstanden zwei → **coroners** für die Gebiete n. bzw. s. des Flusses Coquet. Obwohl N. mit seinen »Liberties« flächenmäßig eine der größten engl. Gft.en bildete, blieb es immer eine der ärmsten. Nur Newcastle upon Tyne war hinsichtl. seines Wohlstandes und seiner Größe vergleichbar mit Städten im s. England. Die langen krieger. Auseinandersetzungen zw. England und Schottland (1296-1357) hatten weitreichende Folgen für N. Die Ämter des warden der ö. Mark (East March) und des warden der Mittleren Mark (Middle March) wurden seit ca. 1333 bedeutender als das ältere Amt des sheriffs. Die Familie der → **Percy** erwarb unter der Hand die Herrschaft der de Vesci in → **Alnwick** mit ihrer Burg. Da die Percies ständig das Amt eines warden der Mark innehatten, besaßen sie fakt. die Vorherrschaft in N., die 1377 durch die Übertragung des Earldom of N. anerkannt wurde. Seit dieser Zeit war das Earldom eher ein Ehrentitel für den bedeutendsten Vertreter des engl. Adels als ein Provinz-Earldom

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- Norway
- Norwich (Norfolk, United Kingdom [England])
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- Notabeln
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- Notaries → Notarius
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[Previous](#) [Next](#)

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 der direkten kgl. Kor
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 fakt. die Vorherrscha
 war das Earldom eh
 alter Prägung. Die P
 des ersten Earl of N,
 N. im 12. Jh. über nur wenige Burgen verfügte, nahm ihre Zahl seit dem 14. Jh. erhebl. zu. Neben den großen Burgen (*castles*) entstanden nun viele Burgen mittlerer Größe (z. B. Harbo *peels*).
 (*bastles*, *peels*).

G.W.S. Barrow

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 » Next ▶

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