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FROM THE BACK COVER: "THE DEEDS OF FREDERICK BARBAROSSA: BISHOP OTTO OF FREISING, MATERNAL UNCLE OF FREDERICK BARBAROSSA, HAD ALREADY ACQUIRED A REPUTATION AS A MAJOR HISTORIAN FOR HIS WORK, THE TWO CITIES, BEFORE HE BEGAN THE OFFICIAL BIOGRAPHY OF THE GREAT MEDIEVAL GERMAN EMPEROR. ALTHOUGH THE DEEDS OF FREDERICK BARBAROSSA COVERS ONLY THE FIRST EIGHT YEARS OF FREDERICK'S LONG AND EVENTFUL REIGN, IT ILLUMINATES THAT PERIOD WHEN, AS PROFESSOR MIEROW SAYS, 'FREDERICK'S STAR SHONE MOST BRIGHTLY. SUCCEEDING TO A DISORGANIZED REALM, HE RESTORED ORDER AT HOME AND PRESTIGE ABROAD; IMPERIAL CONTROL WAS REESTABLISHED IN BURGUNDY, AND AN IMPERIAL PARTY IN ITALY.' THE WORK IS DIVIDED INTO FOUR BOOKS. BOOK I COVERS ROUGHLY THE YEARS 1075 IN THE REIGN OF HENRY IV TO THE DEATH OF CONRAD III IN 1152. BOOK II BEGINS WITH THE ELECTION OF FREDERICK AND HIS CORONATION AT AACHEN AND COVERS HIS JOURNEY INTO LOMBARDY, AND HIS CONQUESTS IN ITALY, HIS CORONATION AS HOLY ROMAN EMPEROR IN ROME, AND HIS RETURN TO GERMANY UP TO THE PEACE OF BABARIA IN 1156. BOOKS III AND IV BEGINNING WITH FREDERICK'S EXPEDITION AGAINST THE POLES AND ENDING WITH THE COUNCIL OF PAVIA AND THE ELECTION OF POPE VICTOR, WERE WRITTEN BY OTTO'S SECRETARY, RAHEWIN, AFTER OTTO'S DEATH AND BRING THE RECORD UP TO 1160. SOME NOTES REFERRING TO THE YEARS 1161 TO 1169 ARE CONTAINED IN A SHORT APPENDIX. FREDERICK'S LETTER TO HIS UNCLE, REQUESTING HIM TO WRITE THIS HISTORY AND OUTLINING THE EVENTS TO BE COVERED. INTRODUCES THE MAIN TEXT. THE INTRODUCTION AND FOOTNOTES EXPLAIN AND INTERPRET THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS IMPORTANT MEDIEVAL DOCUMENT."

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