

## Hans Schartow (1335-1368)

as a ghost

In düssen suluen iare twif  
schen vnser vrinwe dage  
Erudwunge vnd vnser vrin  
wen lateren Openbarde  
sit ein geist in der myn  
stad by dem tye in Reyner  
Schartowen houe de dreif  
grod vnsture zo des auen  
des roen ed beghen to be  
schemeren Wente an de mid  
nacht vnd warp vnd stor  
mede sere groffliken Dar gin  
ghen vele lude papen vnde  
leyen de dat horden vnde  
segghen tuer den geist sach  
neymant Scholde ik dat alle  
schriuen dat ik sulff vef  
teynde dar vornam in ey  
ner nacht dat worde vele  
to langh Doch to lest sprak  
ed vns tho vnd seide ed wer  
haus Scharowen zele de  
ouer drien iaren vordrukten  
was in der ore vnd begerde  
dat men om almosen nah  
gheue vnd zelemissen lese  
vnd bat van benante pres  
teren genanten tale misse  
vnd vigilien vnd seide of  
wat bedes vnd almosen om  
reide na gescheyn weren  
Vnd in vnser vrinwe nacht  
der lateren nam de gheist  
orloff



Historicized initial of the chronicle: Emperor Otto I with his wives Edita and Adelheid

A.D. 1371

In that same year, between the Feast of the Blessing of Herbs (August 15th, also known as the Assumption of Mary) and the Feast of the Lantern (September 8th), a ghost appeared in the Neustadt district near the Tye (Thie\*) in *Reyner Schartow's* courtyard. It ran about roughly and boisterously in the evenings as dusk began to fall. As midnight approached, a very violent storm raged. Many people, priests and laypeople alike, who had heard of this, went to see. But no one saw the ghost. Should I write all that I myself heard fifteen times during the night, it would be far too long. But finally, it spoke to us and said it was the soul of *Hans Schartow*, who had drowned in the Ohre River three years earlier, and he requested that alms be collected and requiem masses be said. And he asked the named priest, his namesake (Canon of St. Peter and Paul, *Kurt Schartow?*), for a number of masses and nightly prayers, and for some intercession and mercy to be offered at the reeds where it had happened. And on the Night of Our Lady of the Lanterns (Nativity of Mary, September 8th), the spirit departed.

\* The hospital "Schartau" was built in 1473 at the Thie in the Neustadt Magdeburg, founded by *Sophia Schartau*, the widow of *Hennig Schartau*. (Magdeburg Historical Papers, vintage 6, Issue 1, p.23-24)

From the Magdeburg Schöppen Chronicle, Ms. boruss. fol. 172, State Library Berlin, p. 290-291

Translation into Standard German by Dr. H. Haase

The writer of these lines must have been close to the Schartow family, for he had access to Reyner Schartow's farm and could have lurked there at night to watch for the ghost. Who included this ghost story in the Schöppenchronik (local chronicle of the Schöppen) and why, alongside all the far more significant events of his time? *Heinrich von Lammesspringe* (\*about 1325; †after 1396) was the city clerk in Magdeburg from 1350 to 1373. As a chronicler of the lay judges, he may have experienced and recorded the ghost story.