

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910424624503321
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Titolo	The Fish Lands : German trade with Iceland, Shetland and the Faroe Islands in the late 15th and 16th Century / / Bart Holterman
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berlin/Boston, : De Gruyter, 2020 München ; ; Wien : , : De Gruyter Oldenbourg, , [2020] ©2020
ISBN	9783110651829 3110651823 9783110655575 3110655578
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (XVII, 638 p.) : dreiseitige Klappkarte
Disciplina	382.0943
Soggetti	HISTORY / Modern / General History Germany Commerce History Germany
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Preface -- Contents -- List of Tables -- List of Figures -- Abbreviations -- 1. Introduction -- 2. Economic background: Traded commodities -- 3. Political background: The Hanse, urban centres, and foreign authorities -- 4. Relations between German merchants and islanders in the North Atlantic -- 5. Harbours and trading places -- 6. Overview of harbours in Iceland -- 7. The organisation of the North Atlantic trade -- 8. Summary and conclusion -- 9. Deutsche Zusammenfassung -- Bibliography -- Appendix A: Licences issued for Icelandic harbours -- Appendix B: Faroese monopoly holders -- Appendix C: North Atlantic merchants in Hamburg -- Appendix D: North Atlantic merchants from Bremen in the sixteenth century -- Appendix E: Overview of the donation register of the Confraternity of St Anne of the Iceland Merchants, Hamburg (online material) -- Register of persons and places

The late medieval German trade with the North Atlantic islands, in the margins of the Hanseatic trade network, has received only limited scholarly attention. Merchants from predominantly Hamburg and Bremen established direct trade relations with these islands in the late 15th century, and managed to control the international trade with Iceland, the Faroes and Shetland for much of the 16th century. However, the Hanseatic commercial infrastructure was absent in the North Atlantic, which forced these merchants to develop new trade strategies. Besides a critical re-evaluation of the economic and political conditions, this volume offers a comprehensive study of the organisation of the trade and the methods used to establish and maintain networks between islanders and German merchants. Moreover, it analyses the role and socio-economic position of the communities of merchants with the North Atlantic in their home towns. The book shows that the North Atlantic trade was anything but insignificant. It was a dynamic and integral part of the trade network of the northern German cities, and its study is highly relevant for the economic history of Northern Europe.
