

Elena Di Venosa, “Rüsch, Niclaus”,
Encyclopedia of the Medieval Chronicle,
R.G. Dunphy ed.
(Brill, Leiden and Boston 2010), 1312

Rüsch, Niclaus

[Nicolaus, Nik(o)laus]

post-1433–1506. Switzerland (Basel). Son of the painter Niclaus Lawlin from Tübingen. Author of chronicle notes on the Burgundian wars (*Beschreibung der Burgunderkriege*). He is mentioned from 1459 as *stattschreiber* (town clerk) and messenger in Mulhouse, where he served until 1474. The same year he became chief clerk in his native town (*Clerick von Basel und Notarius*), which he represented in legal and political questions at home and abroad. He was friend of the university notary and diarist Johannes Knebel. From his retirement in 1497 until his death he was repeatedly elected *Oberzunftmeister* (guild master) and participated in the town council. Among his numerous records of political events, those about the Burgundian wars are an important historical source for the years 1474–6. The manuscript (74 fragmentary

8° pages; Basel, SA, Politisches G 1,8) alternates narration, lists of places and people, and copies of letters to Leipzig and Erfurt. The clerk, together with his assistant Johannes Harnesch, describes such events as the pledge of Alsace, Hagenbach's execution and the battles of Héricourt and Murten in a plain prosaic style for *die wirde der stat Basel* (the honour of the town Basel), but a complete chronicle was not fulfilled. Sections of the text were copied by an anonymous continuator of → Detmar of Lübeck's chronicle.

Bibliography

Text: C.C. BERNOUILLI, *Die Beschreibung der Burgunderkriege durch den Basler Stadtschreiber Niclaus Rüsch*, in W. Vischer, *Basler Chroniken* III, 1887, 275–332; 638–40 [partial].

Literature: F. SCHANZE, in *VL*² 8. *RepFont* 10, 243.

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