Holy Rulers and Blessed Princesses

Dynastic Cults in Medieval Central Europe

Medieval dynasties frequently relied upon the cult of royal saints for legitimacy. After the early medieval emergence of this type of sainthood, in the Central Middle Ages most royal dynasties had saints in their family: Edward the Confessor, Olaf, Canute, Louis IX, Charlemagne, the Emperor Henry II, and Wenceslas are some of the best-known examples.

Within this context the saints of the Hungarian ruling dynasty – the Arpadians – constitute a remarkable sequence: St Stephen, the ‘apostle king’ converting his people, St Emeric, the virtuous young prince preserving his virginity, St Ladislas, the ‘knight saint’, St Elizabeth, St Margaret, and other central European blessed princesses, whose mendicant convents mirrored the Court of Heaven. This sequence of dynastic saints provides a unique example of the late medieval evolution of royal and dynastic sainthood, an important category in the medieval cults of saints. Building upon a series of case studies from Hungary and central Europe, and complementing it with a wide-ranging set of comparative data, analysing political, cultural, ritual, and literary aspects of these religious cults, Gábor Klaniczay proposes an original new synthesis of the multiple forms and transformations of royal and dynastic sainthood in medieval Europe.

GÁBOR KLANICZAY is Rector of Collegium Budapest, and Professor of Medieval Studies, Central European University and Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest.
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To the memory of my father
Holy Rulers and Blessed Princesses

Dynastic Cults in Medieval Central Europe

GÁBOR KLANICZAY

Translated by
ÉVA PÁLMAI
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Acknowledgements

This book is the result of research I have done during the past two decades. It would be difficult for me to enumerate all those who have been an inspiration and of help to me during this extended period. Still, I feel obliged to name some of the teachers without whose encouragement I would not have embarked upon this lengthy and perhaps too ambitious enquiry. I must also acknowledge some of the friends whose assistance and criticism have been incorporated in this final text.

Let me start with my father, Tibor Klaniczay, to whose memory this book is dedicated. It is to him that I owe my love of the Middle Ages and the passion for historical enquiry. He read and commented on most of my studies on holy rulers. I can only regret that I could not finish my book until after his death in 1992. Let me express, secondly, my gratitude to Éva H. Balázs and Ilona Sz. Jónás, my professors at Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest. After completing my studies, I had the chance to meet other eminent scholars, from whom I could continue to learn. Let me name four of them. Jacques Le Goff, whose seminars in 1976 changed my views on how one should ‘faire de l’histoire’, and who has remained a source of inspiration and good advice ever since. It has been an unexpected bonus for me that in the past decade, his interest has turned towards a problem highly relevant to my research: the biography of Saint Louis, the most perfect royal saint of the Middle Ages. This, of course, has opened up a new and unexpected area of common interest. Although they never actually taught me, I count Erik Fügedi and Jenő Szűcs among my professors: I have learned a lot from these two eminent Hungarian medievalists. They taught me that Hungary, too, had a ‘new middle ages’, one waiting to be discovered in close communion with the latest international research trends, but building no less upon our own valuable local historiographic traditions. Finally, I must mention André Vauchez, whose works and advice gave me the impetus, around 1980, to start doing research on the royal saints of Hungary, and who first piqued my interest in the ‘beata stirps’ problem, the topic of this book.
xvi  Acknowledgements

The enquiries which, ultimately, have resulted in this book have profited greatly from the help, input, comments and criticism of many colleagues. Special thanks are due to János M. Bak, Sofia Boesch Gajano, Peter Brown, Peter Burke, Caroline Walker Bynum, József Laszlósvzky, Edit Madas, Ernő Marosi, Janet Nelson, Evelyne Patlagean and Matthias Werner. Let me add that I have received some major support from my students at Eötvös Loránd University and the Central European University: having discussed these issues with them in seminars, it was from them that I received some of the most relevant questions and criticism. Since 1997 I have had the task of directing Collegium Budapest, the first institute for advanced study in post-socialist Central Europe, and I have finished my book in the company of this international and interdisciplinary community of fellows and visiting scholars, to whose creative inspiration I owe yet another amount of significant intellectual input into my book.

Finally, let me thankfully acknowledge, besides the two above-mentioned universities, the support of all the institutions which have provided me with excellent opportunities to finish this work. A scholarship from the Hungarian Soros Foundation in 1987–8 allowed me to start this book project. In 1990–1, a Fellowship at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin allowed me to achieve a rough version of the Hungarian text of the book. In 1992, a Scholarship at the Getty Center for the History of Art and the Humanities allowed me to extend my enquiries to the domain of images, especially as concerned the female saints of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.

The present book is essentially the translation of work finished in 1992–3, since when I have been able to update some of my references. I hope that this synthesis, made in the early 1990s, is still valid today. As a tentative to verify this hope, following the most welcome advice of the publishers of the English translation, I supplemented the Hungarian version, which appeared in 2000, with a ‘Conclusion’ newly written for the international public in May 2001. Finally I must thank my translator, Éva Pálmai, who has been not only a translator, but also my most sensitive critic and discussion partner throughout the years she has been working on this manuscript.

Budapest, May 2001
Abbreviations

AASS Acta Sanctorum (Socii Bollandiani, Brussels–Antwerp, 1643–1940), 68 vols.


CC Corpus Christianorum (Brepols, Turnhout).


Fejér Georgius Fejér, Codex Diplomaticus Hungaricae ecclesiasticus ac civilis (Buda, 1829–1844), xi + prodromus; 43 vols.

FRB Fontes Rerum Bohemicarum (ed.) Joseph Emler (Prague, 1873–).


xviii  Abbreviations

Libellus  Albert Huyskens (ed.), Der sogenannte Libellus de dictis quatuor ancillarum s. Elisabeth confessus (Munich and Kempten, 1911).


MPH  Monumenta Poloniae Historica, IV (Lwów, 1884).


Quellen  Albert Huyskens (ed.), Quellenstudien zur Geschichte de hl. Elisabeth (Marburg, 1908).

SC  Sources Chrétiennes


Vita Hedvigis  Vita sanctae Hedvigis ducissae Silesiae (Vita maior; vita minor; genealogia) ed. Aleksander Szemkowicz in MPH IV, pp. 501–655.


