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0521834872 - Politics and History in the Tenth Century: The Work and World of Richer of Reims

Jason Glenn

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POLITICS AND HISTORY IN THE TENTH CENTURY

This book stands at the intersection of recent work in historiography and the study of political culture in the early Middle Ages. It takes the autograph manuscript of a tenth-century monk, Richer, as a point of entry into the author's world, and asks how he and his contemporaries in the religious and intellectual community of Reims engaged in Frankish politics.

By shifting focus from the events and actors that typically occupy center-stage in political theatre to the writing of history and its authors, it offers a sustained reflection on the relationship between politics and history. As a case study it aims, ultimately, to articulate new possibilities for the study of early medieval political culture and, at the same time, to provide a model for a type of historical inquiry in which the development of questions and the exploration of possibilities stand more prominent than the conclusions drawn from them.

JASON GLENN is Associate Professor of History, University of Southern California in Los Angeles

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University of Southern California



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Nearly a decade ago I began research for a dissertation whose source base was to be, in large part, narrative texts written in the west Frankish lands – roughly, the lands that would become France – during the decades on either side of the year 1000. I arrived in Paris in the fall of 1994 intending to spend the year exploring the manuscripts of some of these texts that were located at the Bibliothèque Nationale or available on microfilm at the Institut de Recherches et d'Histoire des Textes. I planned to spend a couple of months working on each of the several texts that would serve as the core of my study. Two years later, when I returned to the States, I was still working through the textual, paleographical, and codicological problems of the first text on my list and the single manuscript in which it is found. Were it not for the fact that it is now, for a variety of reasons, time to move on, to turn to those other texts and thus to return to my original project, I might still be trying to solve some of the puzzles that manuscript presents. In any event, this book thus represents a fairly lengthy deviation from the course I originally set for my dissertation research, a detour that has, over and above what I have learned about political, religious, and intellectual culture in the early Middle Ages, taught me a great deal about the study of the past and the practice of history. I have also learned a lot about myself.

For these reasons and others, I am profoundly grateful to the countless people who have made it possible for me to meander through the tenth century over the course of the past ten years and, more generally, allowed me to follow and develop my interests since I was a young child. I must therefore thank, first and foremost, my parents Sara, Michael, and Susan, and the rest of my family which extends in many directions and somewhat unorthodox ways. I am also fortunate to have enjoyed the support of more than my share of kind friends and colleagues. Some have read drafts of one or another chapter or even the entire book; others have no idea what the book is about or do not even grasp fully what it is a medieval historian does but have nevertheless supported my research in meaningful ways. I wish I could acknowledge here by name all of

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As important as my family, friends, and colleagues have been to the research and writing of this book, there would be no book without the facilities and support of other fine institutions. Much of the research for this book was conducted at the Institut de Recherches et d'Histoire des Textes whose staff members were exceedingly kind and helpful. My research in Paris also led me frequently to the Salle des Manuscrits at the Bibliothèque Nationale; and several of the chapters in this study were composed in the old BN's Salle des Périodiques and Salle des Lectures. I have always found the staff in each of the three rooms helpful, and I thank them here. I must also offer my gratitude to the Staatsbibliothek of Bamberg where, during a two-week stay, Dr. Bernhard Schemmel and his staff struggled with my halting German to help me squeeze as much out of my short visit as was possible. I thank him and the library, too, for permission to reproduce the manuscript folios sprinkled throughout this book; likewise, I thank Delphine Quéreux-Sbaï for permission to reproduce a folio from the collection of the Bibliothèque Municipale of Reims. In the United States, perhaps because I was on more familiar terrain, I have asked much less of librarians than when I was abroad, but the staffs of libraries at the University of California at Berkeley, New York University, Columbia University, UCLA, and Princeton University offered kind help and access to their wonderful collections, and the Global Express office at the University of Southern California has made it possible to consult countless volumes and articles otherwise not available to me at the university. Finally, I would like to thank the faculty and staff at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton for creating the ideal environment for research and writing and to acknowledge the Mellon Foundation which made possible my study there during the academic year 2001–2002.

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[More information](#)NOTES ON THE NOTES AND OTHER
CONVENTIONS

References within the notes are typically in a shortened form; complete references for all works cited are to be found in the bibliography. References to the work of Richer refer first to the folio of his autograph manuscript (Bamberg, Hist. 5), then to the book and chapter as indicated in the recent edition of Hartmut Hoffmann, and finally to the page in that edition: Richer, *Historia*, f. ##, ##.##, ##. I should perhaps also note that I have not cited comprehensively the work of other scholars who have used or commented on the passages in Richer's work discussed herein. Readers should nonetheless understand an implicit suggestion throughout that, in addition to whatever references I offer, they should consult, for comparison, the three most recent and extensive studies of Richer's work: W. Giese, "*Genus*" und "*Virtus*": *Studien zu den Geschichtswerk des Richer von Saint-Remi* (Augsberg, 1969); H. Hoffmann, "Die Historien Richers von Saint-Remi," *DA* 54 (1998) 445–532; and H.-H. Kortüm, *Richer von Saint-Remi: Studien zu einem Geschichtsschreiber des 10. Jahrhunderts* (Stuttgart, 1985).

All translations in the text are my own. I have, however, often checked them against the translations of previous scholars, particularly in the case of Richer. For all translated quotations in the body of this study, the original text can be found in the notes. Quotations discussed exclusively in the notes have not been translated. In Richer's case, because there are so many minor stylistic revisions and corrections to the manuscript, I have not always noted all of the revisions and changes in my quotation but have, instead, often quoted merely the final version of the passage. Those interested in changes not discussed in my notes or the main text should therefore consult the critical apparatus of Hoffmann's edition.

Finally, in order to distinguish between saints and places named for them, I have used a hyphen for the latter. Saint Remigius is therefore the man for whom the monastery of Saint-Remigius is named.

ABBREVIATIONS

<i>AHR</i>	<i>American Historical Review</i>
<i>CCM</i>	<i>Corpus consuetudinum monasticarum</i> , trans. 14 vols. to date (Sieburg, 1963–)
<i>DA</i>	<i>Deutsches Archiv für Erforschung des Mittelalters</i>
<i>EHR</i>	<i>English Historical Review</i>
<i>EME</i>	<i>Early Medieval Europe</i>
Flodoard, <i>Annales</i>	<i>Les annales de Flodoard</i> , ed. by P. Lauer as vol. xxxix of <i>Collection de textes pour servir à l'enseignement de l'histoire</i> (Paris, 1906)
Flodoard, <i>Historia</i>	Flodoard of Reims, <i>Historia Remensis ecclesiae</i> , ed. by M. Stratmann as <i>MGH</i> , SS, xxxvi (Hanover, 1998)
<i>FMS</i>	<i>Frühmittelalterliche Studien</i>
Gerbert, <i>Correspondance</i>	Gerbert d'Aurillac, <i>Correspondance</i> , ed. and trans. by P. Riché and J. P. Callu, 2 vols. (Paris, 1993)
Gerbert, <i>ASB</i>	Gerbert, <i>Acta concilli Remensis ad s. Basolum</i> , <i>MGH</i> , SS, iii: 658–686
Hoffmann, “Richer”	H. Hoffmann, “Die Historien Richers von Saint-Remi,” <i>DA</i> 54 (1998) 445–532
<i>HZ</i>	<i>Historische Zeitschrift</i>
<i>JMH</i>	<i>Journal of Medieval History</i>
<i>MGH</i>	<i>Monumenta Germaniae Historica</i>
SS	<i>Scriptores</i> , 38 vols. to date (Hanover, 1826–)
SSRG	<i>Scriptores rerum Germanicarum in usum scholarum separatim editi</i> (Hanover, 1871–1995)
SSRM	<i>Scriptores rerum Merovingicarum</i> , 7 vols. (Hanover, 1884–1920)
<i>NCMH</i>	<i>The New Cambridge Medieval History</i> , 6 vols. to date (Cambridge, 1995–)
Pertz, <i>Richer</i>	<i>Richeri historiarum libri IIII</i> , ed. by G. H. Pertz in <i>MGH</i> , SS, iii: 561–657 (1839)

List of abbreviations

<i>PL</i>	<i>Patrologia latina</i> , ed. J.-P. Migne, 221 vols. (Paris, 1841–1866)
<i>RHF</i>	<i>Recueil des historiens des Gaules et de la France</i> , ed. by L. Delisle, 24 vols. (Paris, 1840–1904)
Richer, <i>Histoire</i>	Richer, <i>Histoire de France</i> , ed. and trans. by Robert Latouche, 2 vols. (Paris, 1930 and 1937)
Richer, <i>Historia</i>	Richer, <i>Historia</i> , ed. by H. Hoffman as <i>MGH, SS</i> , xxxviii (Hanover, 2000)
<i>TRHS</i>	<i>Transactions of the Royal Historical Society</i>
Waitz, <i>Richer</i>	<i>Richeri historiarum libri IIII</i> , ed. by G. Waitz (Hanover, 1877)

Table I. Carolingians in west Francia





