

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 centerstage 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.

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POLITICS AND HISTORY IN THE TENTH CENTURY

The Work and World of Richer of Reims

JASON GLENN

University of Southern California





PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge, CB2 2RU, UK 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011–4211, USA 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia Ruiz de Alarcón 13, 28014 Madrid, Spain Dock House, The Waterfront, Cape Town 8001, South Africa

http://www.cambridge.org

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First published 2004

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

Typeface Bembo 11/12 pt. System LATEX 2E [TB]

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data Glenn, Jason, 1967–

Politics and history in the tenth century: the work and world of Richer of Reims / Jason Glenn.

p. cm. - (Cambridge studies in medieval life and throught; 4th ser., 60)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0 521 83487 2

1. Richer, of Saint-Rémy, 10th cent. Historiae. 2. France – History – To 987.

3. France - History - Capetians, 987-1328. I. Title. II. Series.

DC36.98.R53G54 2004

944'.01 – dc22 2003065261

ISBN 0 521 83487 2 hardback



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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



Acknowledgments

these wonderful people as well as the members of the California Seminar in Medieval History, participants in the biweekly seminar in medieval history at the Institute for Advanced Study, and those people who have commented on work I have presented in other seminars, public presentations, or for review at one or another journal, but to do so would only extend an already lengthy book. I shall therefore limit myself here to a few of my friends and colleagues who have taken the time to read drafts of my work, offered thoughtful feedback on it, shared unpublished work, or discussed material with me at length, at times on a daily basis: Clifford Ando, Alan Bernstein, Lisa Bitel, Courtney Booker, Warren Brown, Scott Bruce, Celia Chazelle, Paul Cohen, Dan Colman, Giles Constable, Luc Ferrier, Claudio Fogu, Nancy Freudenthal, Eric Goldberg, Hans Hummer, Kyung Moon Hwang, Paul Knoll, Maryanne Kowaleski, Paul Lerner, Anne Lester, Claudia Liebeskind, Robin Lnsenmayer, Simon MacLean, Carolyn Malone, Clementine Oliver, Steve Perkinson, Megan Reid, Roger Reynolds, Theo Riches, Ned Rifkin, Teo Ruiz, Kristin Sazama, Vanessa Schwartz, Terry Seip, Matthew Strickland, and Nancy Zorensky.

At one point or another in the past decade, each of these people has made significant contributions to my work on this book, but there are a few people whom I must single out. Geoffrey Koziol, whose vast knowledge and always honest criticism I appreciate so very much, supervised the dissertation from which this book has sprung. Philippe Buc generously provided helpful comments and suggestions on a draft of that dissertation and many references and much support since. At a critical stage in my thinking about how to transform it into a book, Patrick Geary kindly read the manuscript and offered excellent food for thought. More recently, Rosamond McKitterick read the transformed manuscript in its entirety, twice, each time offering comments and suggestions that proved to be exceedingly useful and even more interesting. Most of all, Bill North and Jay Rubenstein have seen this project develop and grow from the beginning; they will surely see on nearly every page the imprint of our countless discussions, their insightful suggestions, and constructive critique. But I can say without reservation that, as great as my debt is to all of these people, my amazing wife Vickie Mendoza has contributed more to and sacrificed more for this study than anybody else. While I dedicate the book to her, I know that she would also want me to dedicate it to the memories of Samuel Liam, Joseph Glenn, and Robert Brentano. The last inspired me more than he would ever have wished to and taught me that history could be - must be! - difficult and messy, complex and even elusive, if it is to be real; he taught me to respect students and readers enough not to simplify things for them. To him and, more generally,



Acknowledgments

to the faculty and staff of the history department at the University of California at Berkely, I am eternally grateful.

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.

I must likewise express my gratitude to the other agencies and institutions which have provided financial resources necessary for my work. A fellowship from the National Science Foundation supported my initial foray into the history of science and, as it became clear to me that my research interests lay elsewhere, my move into medieval history and pre-dissertation research that developed into this project. Two Humanities Research Grants from the Graduate Division at Berkeley and a scholarship from the Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa supplemented other support in the early phases of my dissertation work. A Fulbright fellowship supported one year of research in Paris. An Ehrmann fellowship from the History Department at Berkeley allowed me to extend my stay for a second year. And the Mabel McLeod Lewis Foundation at Stanford



Acknowledgments

University provided a year-long grant which enabled me to complete my dissertation upon my return. Most recently, in the form of faculty research funds and a grant from the Zumberge Research and Innovation Fund, the University of Southern California has provided funds which have enabled me to complete this book. To all of these institutions and agencies I am very grateful. Likewise, I am grateful to everyone who has written what now seems like hundreds of letters in support of various applications to one or another institution or foundation since I applied to graduate school in the fall of 1989.

Finally, I wish to express my appreciation to Miranda Outman-Kramer, who compiled the index for this book, and to the editorial and production staff of Cambridge University Press. In particular, I must thank for their patience and understanding, Bill Davies, Jackie Warren, Carol Fellingham Webb, and Simon Whitmore.

Los Angeles, CA 14 May 2003



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

AHR American Historical Review

CCM Corpus consuetudinum monasticarum, trans. 14 vols.

to date (Sieburg, 1963-)

DA Deutsches Archiv für Erforschung des Mittelalters

EHR English Historical Review EME Early Medieval Europe

Flodoard, Annales Les annales de Flodoard, ed. by P. Lauer as

vol. xxxix of Collection de textes pour servir à

l'enseignement de l'histoire (Paris, 1906)

Flodoard, Historia Flodoard of Reims, Historia Remensis ecclesiae, ed.

by M. Stratmann as MGH, SS, xxxvI (Hanover,

1998)

FMSt Frühmittelalterliche Studien

Gerbert, Gerbert d'Aurillac, Correspondance, ed. and trans.

Correspondance by P. Riché and J. P. Callu, 2 vols. (Paris, 1993)

Gerbert, ASB Gerbert, Acta concilli Remensis ad s. Basolum, MGH,

SS, III: 658-686

Hoffmann, "Richer" H. Hoffmann, "Die Historien Richers von Saint-

Remi," DA 54 (1998) 445-532

HZ Historische Zeitschrift JMH Journal of Medieval History

MGH Monumenta Germaniae Historica

SS Scriptores, 38 vols. to date (Hanover, 1826–)
SSRG Scriptores rerum Germanicarum in usum scholarum sep-

aratim editi (Hanover, 1871–1995)

SSRM Scriptores rerum Merovingicarum, 7 vols. (Hanover,

1884-1920)

NCMH The New Cambridge Medieval History, 6 vols. to date

(Cambridge, 1995–)

Pertz, Richer Richeri historiarum libri IIII, ed. by G. H. Pertz in

MGH, SS, III:561-657 (1839)

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List of abbreviations

PL Patrologia latina, ed. J.-P. Migne, 221 vols. (Paris,

1841-1866)

RHF Recueil des historiens des Gaules et de la France, ed.

by L. Delisle, 24 vols. (Paris, 1840–1904)

Richer, Histoire Richer, Histoire de France, ed. and trans. by Robert

Latouche, 2 vols. (Paris, 1930 and 1937)

Richer, Historia Richer, Historia, ed. by H. Hoffman as MGH, SS,

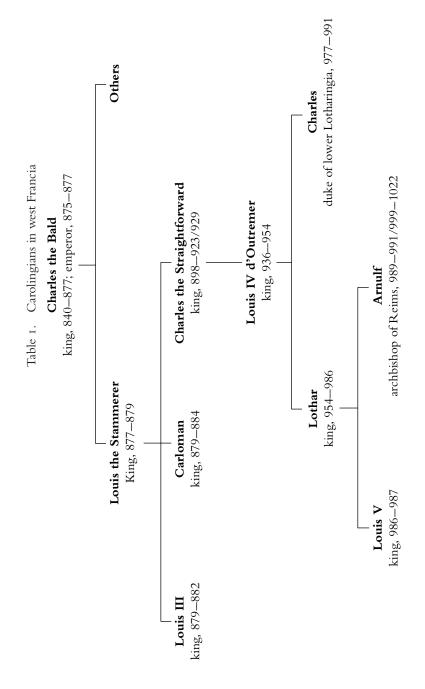
XXXVIII (Hanover, 2000)

TRHS Transactions of the Royal Historical Society

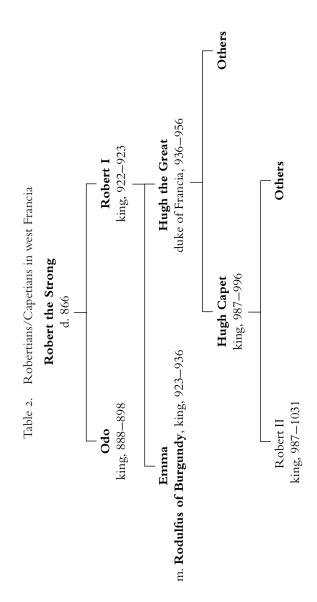
Waitz, Richer Richeri historiarum libri IIII, ed. by G. Waitz

(Hanover, 1877)

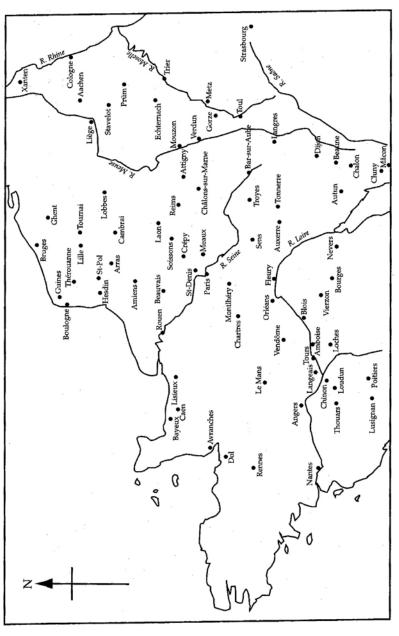












Map 1. Northern France