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978-1-107-06459-1 - Power and Religion in Merovingian Gaul: Columbanian Monasticism  
and the Frankish Elites

Yaniv Fox

Frontmatter

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## POWER AND RELIGION IN MEROVINGIAN GAUL

This study is the first to attempt a thorough investigation of the activities of the Columbanian congregation, which played a significant role in the development of Western monasticism. This was a new form of rural monasticism, which suited the needs and aspirations of a Christian elite eager to express its power and prestige in religious terms. Contrary to earlier studies, which viewed Columbanus and his disciples primarily as religious innovators, this book focuses on the political, economic and familial implications of monastic patronage and on the benefits elite patrons stood to reap. While founding families were in a privileged position to court royal favour, monastic patronage also exposed them to violent reprisals from competing factions. Columbanian monasteries were not serene havens of contemplation, but rather active foci of power and wealth, and quickly became integral elements of early medieval statecraft.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AASS	Acta sanctorum
AASS OSB	Acta sanctorum ordinis sancti Benedicti
AB	Analecta Bollandiana
BAR	British Archaeological Reports
Bede, <i>HE</i>	Bede, <i>Ecclesiastical History of the English People</i> , ed. B. Colgrave and R. A. B. Mynors (Oxford, 1969)
CCSL	Corpus Christianorum series Latina
CSEL	Corpus scriptorum ecclesiasticorum Latinorum
<i>DA</i>	<i>Deutsches Archiv für Erforschung des Mittelalters</i>
<i>DHGE</i>	<i>Dictionnaire d'histoire et de géographie ecclésiastiques</i> , 31 vols. To date (Paris, 1912– )
<i>Fredegar</i> , IV	Fredegar, <i>Chronicarum liber quartus cum continuationibus</i> , ed. and trans. J. M. Wallace-Hadrill (London, 1960).
Gregory of Tours, <i>LH</i>	Gregory of Tours, <i>Libri historiarum X</i> , MGH SRM 1.1, ed. B. Krusch and W. Levison (Hannover, 1951)
<i>LHF</i>	<i>Liber historiae Francorum</i> , MGH SRM 1.2, ed. B. Krusch (Hannover, 1888), pp. 215–328
MGH	Monumenta Germaniae Historica
AA	Auctores antiquissimi
Capit.	Capitularia regum Francorum
Conc.	Concilia
DD	Diplomata
LL Nat. Germ.	Leges nationum Germanicarum
Mer.	Merowinger
Necr.	Necrologia Germaniae
SRM	Scriptores rerum Merovingicarum
SRG	Scriptores rerum Germanicarum in usum scholarum separatim editi
SS	Scriptores (in folio)

*List of abbreviations*

Paul the Deacon, <i>HL</i>	Paul the Deacon, <i>Historia Langobardorum</i> , ed. and trans. L. Capo (Milan, 1998)
PL	Patrologia cursus completus, series Latina, ed. J.-P. Migne, 221 vols. (Paris, 1844–65)
<i>PLRE</i>	J. R. Martindale, <i>The Prosopography of the Later Roman Empire</i> , 4 vols. (Cambridge, 1992)
SC	Sources chrétiennes
<i>VC</i>	Jonas of Bobbio, <i>Vitae Columbani abbatís discipulorumque eius, libri II</i> , MGH SRG 37, ed. B. Krusch (Hannover, 1905), pp. 1–294
<i>VPJ</i>	<i>Vie des pères du Jura</i> , ed. and trans. F. Martine, SC 142 (Paris, 1968)