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0521023874 - Noble Power during the French Wars of Religion: The Guise Affinity and the Catholic Cause in Normandy

Stuart Carroll

Frontmatter

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Noble Power during the French Wars of Religion

The Guise Affinity and the Catholic Cause in Normandy

Noble affinities were the essence of power in sixteenth-century France. This is the first book to analyse the development of a noble following during the whole course of the Wars of Religion and the first substantial study of the Guise – the most powerful family of the period – to appear this century.

The Guise, champions of the catholic cause, were the largest landowners in Normandy and used the province – the wealthiest in France – as a base for their support of catholicism in the British Isles. The family exploited religious dissension to build a formidable ultra-catholic party in Normandy which ultimately challenged the monarchy. This study breaks new ground by illuminating the relationship between high politics and popular confessional solidarities, especially the rise of radical catholicism. It exploits new archival sources to consider all groups in political society, reinterpreting court politics and discussing groups usually excluded from the traditional political narrative, such as the peasantry.

STUART CARROLL is Lecturer in History, University of York

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Abbreviations

ACR	Archives Communales de Rouen
ADC	Archives Départementales de Calvados, Caen
ADE	Archives Départementales de l'Eure, Evreux
ADSM	Archives Départementales de la Seine-Maritime, Rouen
AMC	Archives de la Musée Condé, Chantilly
AN	Archives Nationales, Paris
AP	Archives Privées
MC	Minutier Central
Anselme	Le P. Anselme, <i>Histoire généalogique et chronologique de la maison royale de France, des pairs, grands officiers de la couronne & de la maison du roy</i> (9 vols., Paris, 1726–33)
BM	Bibliothèque Municipale de Rouen
BN	Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris
MS Fr	Manuscrits Français
NA Fr	Nouvelles Acquisitions Françaises
Bouillé	R. de Bouillé du Chariol. <i>Histoire des ducs de Guise</i> (4 vols., Paris, 1849–50)
Brantôme	Pierre de Bourdeille, sieur de Brantôme. <i>Oeuvres</i> , L. Lalanne, ed. (11 vols., Paris, 1864–82)
Chenaye-Desbois	F. de La Chenaye-Desbois and Badier. <i>Dictionnaire de la noblesse</i> (19 vols., Paris, 1863–76)
Cimber and Danjou	L. Cimber and F. Danjou, eds. <i>Archives curieuses de l'histoire de France</i> , 1st ser. (15 vols., Paris, 1834–7)
CSPF	<i>Calendar of State Papers, foreign series, of the reign of Elizabeth</i> . J. Stevenson et al., eds. (London, 1863– 1950)
DBF	<i>Dictionnaire de biographie française</i>
Floquet	A. Floquet, <i>Histoire du parlement de Normandie</i> (7 vols., Rouen, 1840–2)
Frondeville	H. de Frondeville, <i>Les conseillers du parlement de Nor-</i>
<i>Conseillers</i>	

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Abbreviations

- mandie au seizième siècle, 1499–1594* (Paris and Rouen, 1960)
- Présidents* H. de Frondeville, *Les présidents du parlement de Normandie, 1499–1790* (Paris and Rouen, 1953)
- Michaud and Poujoulat J.-F. Michaud and J.-J.-F. Poujoulat, eds., *Nouvelle collection des mémoires sur l'histoire de France* (series 1, 13 vols.; series 2, 10 vols.; Paris, 1836–54)
- de Thou J.-A. de Thou, *Histoire universelle de 1543 jusqu'en 1607* (16 vols., London, 1734)
- Vindry F. Vindry, *Dictionnaire de l'état major au seizième siècle*, pt 1: *La gendarmerie* (Paris, 1901)

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A note on usage

Dates are in the old style until the calendar reform of 1583, except that the year is presumed to have begun on 1 January. French words have been italicised except for titles and commonly used words, such as *parlement*. I have retained the original orthography in order to convey the flavour of the language, adding accents and punctuation where necessary.

The capital value of *rentes* in Rouen was ten times the purchase value and paid 10 per cent interest per annum. In Paris capital value was twelve times the purchase value and yielded 8.33 per cent per annum. The *écu* fluctuated in value. For accounting purposes in the later sixteenth century it was worth 3 *livres tournois* (*l*).

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