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978-0-521-19346-7 - Episcopal Power and Ecclesiastical Reform in the German Empire: Tithes, Lordship, and Community, 950–1150

John Eldevik

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EPISCOPAL POWER AND ECCLESIASTICAL REFORM IN THE GERMAN EMPIRE

Focusing on the way bishops in the eleventh century used the ecclesiastical tithe – church taxes – to develop or reorder ties of loyalty and dependence within their dioceses, this book offers a new perspective on episcopacy in medieval Germany and Italy. Using three broad case studies from the dioceses of Mainz, Salzburg, and Lucca in Tuscany, John Eldevik places the social dynamics of collecting the church tithe within current debates about social change in the eleventh century and the so-called feudal revolution, and analyses a key economic institution, the medieval tithe, as a social and political phenomenon. By examining episcopal churches and their possessions not in institutional terms, but as social networks which bishops were obliged to negotiate and construct over time using legal, historiographical, and inter-personal means, this comparative study casts fresh light on the history of early medieval society.

JOHN ELDEVIK is an assistant professor of history at Hamilton College in Clinton, New York. In addition to articles and reviews in a range of international journals, he is the author of *Medieval Germany: Research and Resources*, a reference guide to medieval German history published by the German Historical Institute in Washington, DC.

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The ecclesiastical tithe was a debt owed in the Middle Ages by all members of a Christian community to their priests and bishops. Tithing provided for the material infrastructure that allowed the clergy to confer its spiritual benefits upon a community. As my family and those who have known me since graduate school can testify, this project has gestated for many, many years through shifting professional and personal fortunes and across several states and continents. Along the way, I have accumulated many debts of my own to those who conferred the benefits of their wisdom upon me. I can only hope that the present study offers something of value to repay those efforts and remind the reader that despite the sage advice and constructive criticism so many have offered over the years, the errors and infelicities that no doubt remain are my responsibility alone.

This book is based – very loosely – on my 2001 UCLA dissertation, supervised by Patrick J. Geary, which was titled *A Yoke We Could Not Bear: Episcopal Lordship and the Politics of Submitting Tithes in Medieval Germany*. Completed in the emotionally and politically charged weeks following the September 11 attacks, it retained something of the rawness and uncertainty of the time in which it was written. Looking back, I probably could have chosen a more suitable – and marketable – subject on which to write than tithe disputes in medieval Germany. One eminent European scholar told me flat out that ‘he would not have given me that topic’. Yet Pat Geary, with his inimitable appreciation for the idiosyncratic, was willing to take a chance on not only a young, somewhat rakish student with mediocre Latin skills, but also on a dissertation that in scope and subject did not fit the mould of what one was supposed to write on. I will always be grateful for his judicious advice, incisive criticism, and generous support over the years, and for never losing faith in this project and my career, even when my own confidence faltered at times. I also could not have completed this project without the training, guidance,

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In 2002–3, I was able to further refine and revise my thesis while pursuing a licentiate degree at the Pontifical Institute for Mediaeval Studies with a post-doctoral fellowship from the Mellon Foundation. There I first decided to expand my project to include the tithes of the diocese of Lucca and produced a licentiate thesis that would become the fifth chapter of this book. My work in Toronto benefited immeasurably from the close critical and editorial attention of my readers James K. Farge, C.S.B., and Isabelle Cochelin of the University of Toronto History Department. Roger Reynolds and Edouard Jeanneau placed their formidable expertise in theology and canon law at my disposal as well, sharing both their knowledge and wonderful anecdotes and insights gleaned from decades of experience in their fields. The late and deeply missed Virginia Brown was at the Pontifical Institute for what seemed an all-too-brief semester during my fellowship year, but in that time was a gracious and learned source of information, insight, and delightful encouragement on all matters Italian and paleographical. On research trips to Italy, the staff of the Dipartimento di medievistica at the University of Pisa (now within the Dipartimento di Storia) kindly allowed me access to their reading room and to the unpublished editions of the Lucchese charters kept there, and the Bibliotheca and Archivio archivescovile in Lucca likewise provided a congenial setting in which to examine the medieval manuscripts and charters of the diocese.

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problems related to my subject and sources, while others read and commented upon drafts of the book or various portions thereof. I wish to thank the two anonymous readers for Cambridge University Press who gave my manuscript a far more appreciative and thorough review than I could have hoped for and took the time to grapple in an intelligent way with both the strong and weak points in my work. I am equally grateful to Elizabeth Friend-Smith at Cambridge who showed tremendous patience and understanding as she guided me through the editorial process. Early on, Giles Constable and Stefan Weinfurter read and offered highly constructive comments on my dissertation manuscript that sharpened my understanding of the material and helped me avoid a number of careless blunders along the way. Chris Wickham and Maureen Miller diligently commented on early versions of my chapter on Lucca, offering cogent insights as well as astute critiques and suggestions for improvement. The wonderful group of scholars and students in the California Medieval History Seminar never failed to respond to the several chapter drafts I submitted there with both a sharp critical eye and warm encouragement.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AAL	Archivio Archievescovile di Lucca
AKKR	<i>Archiv für katholisches Kirchenrecht</i>
ANF	Ante-Nicene Fathers
AQ	Ausgewählte Quellen zur deutschen Geschichte des Mittelalters
<i>Atti del 5. Congresso</i>	<i>Atti del 5. Congresso Internazionale di Studi sull'Alto Medioevo</i> (Spoleto, Centro Italiano di Studi sull'Alto Medioevo, 1973)
CCCM	Corpus Christianorum Continuatio Mediaevalia
CCSL	Corpus Christianorum Series Latina
CDF	<i>Codex Diplomaticus Fuldensis</i>
<i>Dizionario</i>	Emanuele Repetti (ed.), <i>Dizionario geografico fisico storico della Toscana</i> , 6 vols. (1833–43) Florence
EME	<i>Early Medieval Europe</i>
FMS	<i>Frühmittelalterliche Studien</i>
HRG	Handwörterbuch zur deutschen Rechtsgeschichte
HZ	<i>Historische Zeitschrift</i>
<i>I ceti dirigenti</i>	<i>I Ceti dirigenti dell'età comunale nei secoli XII e XIII : Atti del II convegno: Firenze, 14–15 dicembre 1979</i> (1982). Pisa: Pacini Editore
LMA	Lexikon des Mittelalters
<i>Memorie e documenti</i>	Memorie e documenti per servire all'istoria del ducato di Lucca
MDC	Monumenta Historica Ducatus Carinthiae
MGH	Monumenta Germaniae Historica
AA	Auctores Antiquissimi
Capit.	Capitularia regum Francorum

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Capit. Episc.	Capitularia episcoporum
Capit., n.s.	Capitularia regum Francorum, nova series
Concil.	Concilia aevi Karolini
Const.	Constitutiones regum et imperatorum
DD	Diplomata regum et imperatorum
DD Karol.	Diplomata Karolinorum
DD Merov.	Diplomata regum Francorum e stirpe Merovingica
Epist.	Epistulae
Epist. Sel.	Epistulae Selectae
Form.	Formulae
LdL	Libelli de lite imperatorum et pontificum
LL	Leges
LL nat. Germ.	Leges nationum Germanicarum
Necrol.	Necrologiae et Libri Memoriales
Poet.	Poetae
SRM	Scriptores rerum Merovingicarum
SS	Scriptores in Folio
SRG	Scriptores rerum Germanicarum in usum scholarum
SSRG, n.s.	Scriptores rerum Germanicarum, nova series
MGM	Monographien zur Geschichte des Mittelalters
MGSLk	Mitteilungen der Gesellschaft für Salzburger Landeskunde
MIÖG	Mitteilungen des Instituts für österreichische Geschichtsforschung
MUB	Mainzer Urkundenbuch
NCMH	New Cambridge Medieval History
NPNF	Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers
PL	Patrologia cursus completus, Series Latina, ed. J.-P. Migne, 221 vols, Paris (1844–55).
QEBG	Quellen und Erörterungen zur Bayerischen Geschichte, Neue Folge
QFIAB	Quellen und Forschungen aus Italienischen Archiven und Bibliotheken
<i>Regesten Mainz</i>	Regesta archiepiscoporum Maguntinensium
SUB	Salzburger Urkundenbuch
TAF	Traditiones et Antiquitates Fuldenses
UB Fulda	Urkundenbuch des Klosters Fulda

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UB Hersfeld	Urkundenbuch des Klosters Hersfeld
VMPIG	Veröffentlichungen des Max-Planck Instituts für Geschichte
ZRG	Zeitschrift der Savigny-Stiftung für Rechtsgeschichte
g.A.	germanistische Abteilung
k.A.	kanonistische Abteilung

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A NOTE ON NAMES AND TRANSLATIONS

Unless clearly indicated in the text or in the notes, any translations from Latin or German are my own. In attempting to deal with the numerous personal names appearing throughout the text, I have applied the following norms: Names of kings, bishops, popes, and other prominent individuals are Anglicized to reflect how they generally appear in Anglophone literature, for example, Henry IV, Alexander II, Anselm of Lucca. Names of churches in Italy follow Italian convention, for example, S. Martino or S. Pietro, whereas in German-speaking lands, I retain the German/English spelling, as in St. Martin, St. Peter, etc. When referring to local individuals, especially actors or witnesses in charters, I have attempted to retain the spelling as it appears in the document, except, as noted above, in the case of well-known personalities, or when normalizing the name is necessary for the sake of continuity or clarity.

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Map 1 The German Empire under the Ottonians and Salians.