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978-0-521-42018-1 - Holy Rulers and Blessed Princesses: Dynastic Cults in Medieval Central Europe

Gabor Klaniczay

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Holy Rulers and Blessed Princesses

Dynastic Cults in Medieval Central Europe

Medieval dynasties frequently relied upon the cult of royal saints for legitimacy. After the early medieval emergence of this type of sainthood, in the Central Middle Ages most royal dynasties had saints in their family: Edward the Confessor, Olaf, Canute, Louis IX, Charlemagne, the Emperor Henry II, and Wenceslas are some of the best-known examples.

Within this context the saints of the Hungarian ruling dynasty – the Arpadians – constitute a remarkable sequence: St Stephen, the ‘apostle king’ converting his people, St Emeric, the virtuous young prince preserving his virginity, St Ladislav, the ‘knight saint’, St Elizabeth, St Margaret, and other central European blessed princesses, whose mendicant convents mirrored the Court of Heaven. This sequence of dynastic saints provides a unique example of the late medieval evolution of royal and dynastic sainthood, an important category in the medieval cults of saints. Building upon a series of case studies from Hungary and central Europe, and complementing it with a wide-ranging set of comparative data, analysing political, cultural, ritual, and literary aspects of these religious cults, Gábor Klaniczay proposes an original new synthesis of the multiple forms and transformations of royal and dynastic sainthood in medieval Europe.

GÁBOR KLANICZAY is Rector of Collegium Budapest, and Professor of Medieval Studies, Central European University and Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest.

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To the memory of my father

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Holy Rulers and Blessed Princesses

*Dynastic Cults in Medieval
Central Europe*

GÁBOR KLANICZAY

Translated by
ÉVA PÁLMAI



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Abbreviations

AASS *Acta Sanctorum* (Socii Bollandiani, Brussels–Antwerp, 1643–1940), 68 vols.

BHL *Bibliotheca Hagiographica Latina Antiquae et Mediae Aevi*, ed. Socii Bollandiani (Brussels, 1898–99; 1986).

Caesarius Albert Huyskens (ed.), ‘Die Schriften über die heilige Elisabeth von Thüringen’ in Alfons Hilka (ed.), *Die Wundergeschichten des Caesarius von Heisterbach* (Hanstein, Bonn, 1937), III, pp. 329–90.

CC *Corpus Christianorum* (Brepols, Turnhout).

Chronici *Chronici hungarici compositio saeculi XIV*, ed. Alexander Domanovszky, *SRH* I, pp. 217–505.

Fejér Georgius Fejér, *Codex Diplomaticus Hungariae ecclesiasticus ac civilis* (Buda, 1829–1844), XI + prodromus; 43 vols.

FRB *Fontes Rerum Bohemicarum* (ed.) Joseph Emler (Prague, 1873–).

Gombos F. Albin Gombos, *Catalogus fontium historiae Hungariae* (Budapest, 1937–39).

Inquisitio Fraknói Vilmos (ed.), *Inquisitio super vita, conversatione et miraculis beatae Margarethae virginis, Belae IV. Hungarorum regis filiae, sanctimonialis monasterii virginis gloriosae de insula Danubii, Ordinis Praedicatorum, Vesprimiensis diocesis*, in *Monumenta Romana episcopatus Vesprimiensis* (Budapest, 1896), I, pp. 162–383.

Legenda Emerici *Legenda Sancti Emerici ducis* (ed.) Emma Bartoniek, *SRH* II, pp. 441–60.

Legenda Ladislai *Legenda Sancti Ladislai regis* (ed.) Emma Bartoniek, *SRH* II, pp. 507–27.

Legendae Stephani *Legendae Sancti Stephani regis maior et minor atque legenda ab Hartvico conscripta* (ed.) Emma Bartoniek, *SRH* II, pp. 363–448; English version: ‘Hartvic, *Life of King Stephen of Hungary*’, translated by Nóra Berend, in Thomas Head (ed.), *Medieval Hagiography. An Anthology* (Garland, New York and London, 2000), pp. 375–98.

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Libellus Albert Huyskens (ed.), *Der sogenannte Libellus de dictis quatuor ancillarum s. Elisabeth confectus* (Munich and Kempten, 1911).

MGH *Monumenta Germaniae Historica* (AA: *Auctores antiquissimi*; *Const. Constitutiones et acta publica imperatorum et regum*; *Ep. Sel.: Epistolae selectae*; *SS: Series scriptorum*; *SS RG NS: Scriptores rerum Germanicarum. Nova series*; *SS RG US: Scriptores rerum Germanicarum in usum scholarum separatim editi*; *SS RM: Scriptores rerum Merovingicarum*).

MPH *Monumenta Poloniae Historica*, IV (Lwów, 1884).

PG *Patrologiae cursus completus. Series Graeca* (ed.) J.-P. Migne

PL *Patrologiae cursus completus. Series Latina* (ed.) J.-P. Migne

Quellen Albert Huyskens (ed.), *Quellenstudien zur Geschichte de hl. Elisabeth* (Marburg, 1908).

SC *Sources Chrésiennes*

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