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978-0-521-51517-7 - The Languages of Gift in the Early Middle Ages

Edited by Wendy Davies and Paul Fouracre

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The Languages of Gift in the Early Middle Ages

This is a collection of original essays on gift in the early Middle Ages, from Anglo-Saxon England to the Islamic world. Focusing on the languages of gift, the essays reveal how early medieval people visualized and thought about gift, and how they distinguished between the giving of gifts and other forms of social, economic, political and religious exchange. The same team, largely, that produced the widely cited *The Settlement of Disputes in Early Medieval Europe* (Cambridge, 1986) and *Property and Power in the Early Middle Ages* (Cambridge, 1995) has again collaborated in a collective effort that harnesses individual expertise in order to draw from the sources a deeper understanding of the early Middle Ages by looking at real cases, that is at real people, whether peasant or emperor. The culture of medieval gift has often been treated as archaic and exotic; in this book, by contrast, we see people going about their lives in individual, down-to-earth and sometimes familiar ways.

WENDY DAVIES is Professor of History Emerita at University College London, and an associate member of the History Faculty, University of Oxford. She has wide interests in early medieval social and economic history and her books include *Wales in the Early Middle Ages* (1982), *Small Worlds: The Village Community in Early Medieval Brittany* (1988) and *Acts of Giving: Individual, Community, and Church in Tenth-Century Christian Spain* (2007).

PAUL FOURACRE is Professor of Medieval History and currently Head of History at the University of Manchester. With interests in the political and social history of the Franks, his publications include *Late Merovingian France: History and Hagiography 640–720* (with R. Gerberding, 1996), *The Age of Charles Martel* (2000) and, as editor, *The New Cambridge Medieval History*, volume I (Cambridge, 2005).

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PAUL FOURACRE is Professor of Medieval History and currently Head of History at the University of Manchester. With interests in the political and social history of the Franks, his publications include *Late Merovingian France: History and Hagiography 640–720* (with R. Gerberding, 1996), *The Age of Charles Martel* (2000) and, as editor, *The New Cambridge Medieval History*, volume I (Cambridge, 2005).

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Preface

This book has been written by a group which has been meeting regularly for the past thirty years. In the preface to *Property and Power in the Early Middle Ages* we wrote ‘We plan a third volume and trust that it will be ready more quickly than the second.’ This third book, however, has taken an even longer time to get to press, although we have continued to meet for regular weekends of concentrated charter talk and of constructive criticism of our individual contributions. The problem is perhaps that the more we talk, the more we find we need to discuss. We no longer meet in Bucknell, which gave an informal name to the group, since WD moved from there to Woolstone (in the shadow of the White Horse) more than ten years ago, but the physical context of garden, kitchen and dinner table is similar. When we began to talk about gift, Tim Reuter and Patrick Wormald were still with us and their insights influenced our decisions and our planning; we continue to miss them acutely, although a strong sense of their distinctive approaches is always present. For most of this gestation time we have also had the benefit of Leslie Brubaker’s and Ann Christys’s expertise, which has stimulated a welcome extension of our perspectives. We remain committed to the quest for deeper understandings of what early medieval people thought and did. It was this that drew us to the languages of gift, as it first did to the settlement of disputes and then to the question of how property generated power. It is our hope now, as it was in our first two books, that collective thinking will have brought some fresh insights into areas that are much discussed but not always well understood.

WOOLSTONE

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Abbreviations

AAL	Archivio arcivescovile di Lucca, fondo diplomatico
<i>Atti privati</i>	<i>Gli atti privati milanesi e comaschi</i> , ed. C. Vittani, C. Manaresi and C. Santoro, 4 vols. (Milan, 1933–69)
ARF	<i>Annales regni Francorum</i> , ed. F. Kurze, <i>MGH SRG</i> , vol. VI (Hannover, 1895)
<i>Basil.</i>	<i>Basilicorum Libri LX</i> , ed. H. J. Scheltema, N. van der Wal and D. Holwerda, <i>series A: Textus</i> (Groningen, 1955–88), <i>series B: Scholia</i> (Groningen, 1953–85)
BMFD	<i>Byzantine Monastic Foundation Documents</i> , ed. J. Thomas and A. Constantinides, 5 vols., <i>Dumbarton Oaks Studies</i> , vol. XXXV (Washington DC, 2000)
C1, C2 etc.	<i>Colección documental del monasterio de San Pedro de Cardeña</i> , ed. G. Martínez Diez (Cardeña/Burgos, 1998)
CC	<i>Corpus Christianorum Series Latina</i>
Cel1, Cel2 etc.	<i>O Tombo de Celanova</i> , ed. J. M. Andrade, 2 vols. (Santiago de Compostela, 1995)
CDA	<i>Codex diplomaticus Amiatinus</i> , ed. W. Kurze, 2 vols. (Tübingen, 1974–82)
CDL	<i>Codice diplomatico longobardo</i> , vols. I–II, ed. L. Schiaparelli (Rome, 1929–33)
CI	<i>Corpus Iuris Civilis</i> , ed. P. Kreuger, T. Mommsen, R. Schoell and G. Kroll, 3 vols. (Berlin, 1895), vol. II: <i>Codex Iustinianus</i>
CSEL	<i>Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Latinorum</i>
D/DD	<i>MGH Diplomata Karolorum</i> , vol. I, ed. E. Mühlbacher (Hannover, 1906)
DACL	<i>Dictionnaire d'archéologie chrétienne et de liturgie</i>

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- Dig.* *Corpus Iuris Civilis*, ed. P. Kreuger, T. Mommsen, R. Schoell and G. Kroll, 3 vols. (Berlin, 1895), vol. I: *Institutiones, Digesta*
- Ep. Eg.* Bede, *Letter to Ecgbert in Baedae Opera Historica*, ed. C. Plummer (Oxford, 1896), vol. I, pp. 405–23
- HA* *Historia Abbatum in Baedae Opera Historica*, ed. Plummer, vol. I, pp. 364–87
- HE* Bede, *Historia Ecclesiastica in Baedae Opera Historica*, ed. Plummer
- ÍF* *Íslenzk Fornrit*
- Inst.* *Corpus Iuris Civilis*, ed. P. Kreuger, T. Mommsen, R. Schoell and G. Kroll, 3 vols. (Berlin, 1895), vol. I: *Institutiones, Digesta*
- Li1, Lii259, Liii512 etc. *Colección documental del archivo de la catedral de León*, vol. I (775–952), ed. E. Sáez; vol. II (953–85), ed. E. Sáez and C. Sáez; vol. III (986–1031), ed. J. M. Ruiz Asencio (León, 1987, 1990, 1987)
- MGH* *Monumenta Germaniae Historica*
- MGH AA* *MGH Auctores Antiquissimi*
- MGH Capit.* *MGH Capitularia Regum Francorum*, ed. A. Boretius and V. Krause, 2 vols. (Hannover, 1883, 1897)
- MGH Epp.* *MGH Epistolae*
- MGH SRG* *MGH Scriptores rerum Germanicarum*
- MGH SRM* *MGH Scriptores rerum Merovingicarum*
- MGH SS* *MGH Scriptores (in folio)*
- Nov.* *Corpus Iuris Civilis*, ed. P. Kreuger, T. Mommsen, R. Schoell and G. Kroll, 3 vols. (Berlin, 1895), vol. III: *Novellae*
- OD1, OD2 etc. *Colección documental del monasterio de Santa Maria de Otero de las Dueñas*, ed. J. A. Fernández Flórez and M. Herrero de la Fuente, vol. I (León, 1999)
- ODB* A. Kazhdan *et al.* (eds.), *Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium*, 3 vols. (Oxford, 1991)
- Ov1, Ov2 etc. *Colección diplomática del monasterio de San Vicente de Oviedo (años 781–1200)*, ed. P. Floriano Llorente (Oviedo, 1968)

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<i>Pergamene milanesi</i>	<i>Pergamene milanesi dei secoli XII–XIII</i> , ed. M. F. Baroni, L. Zagni, L. Martinelli Perelli and A. M. Rapetti, 18 vols. continuing (Milan, 1984–)
PG	<i>Patrologia Graeca</i>
PL	<i>Patrologia Latina</i>
PMH xiv, PMH xv etc.	<i>Portugaliae Monumenta Historica a saeculo octavo post Christum usque ad quintum decimum, Diplomata et Chartae</i> , ed. A. Herculano de Carvalho e Araujo and J. J. da Silva Mendes Leal, vol. I (Lisbon, 1867–73)
Porro	<i>Codex diplomaticus Langobardiae</i> , ed. G. Porro-Lambertenghi (Turin, 1873)
RC	<i>Regesto di Camaldoli</i> , ed. L. Schiaparelli <i>et al.</i> , 4 vols. (Rome, 1907–22)
S1, S2 etc.	<i>Colección diplomática del monasterio de Sahagún, 857–1230</i> , vol. I: <i>Siglos ix y x</i> , ed. J. M. Mínguez Fernández; vol. II: <i>1000–1073</i> , ed. M. Herrero de la Fuente (León, 1976, 1988)
Sam1, Sam2 etc.	<i>El Tumbo de San Julián de Samos (siglos VIII–XII)</i> , ed. M. Lucas Álvarez (Santiago de Compostela, 1986)
SM1, SM2 etc.	<i>Cartulario de San Millán de la Cogolla</i> , ed. A. Ubieto Arteta (Valencia, 1976)
Sob1, Sob2 etc.	<i>Tumbos del monasterio de Sobrado de los Monjes</i> , ed. P. Loscertales de García de Valdeavellano, 2 vols. (Madrid, 1976)
T1, T2 etc.	<i>Cartulario de Santo Toribio de Liébana</i> , ed. L. Sánchez Belda (Madrid, 1948)
V1, V2 etc.	<i>Cartulario de Valpuesta</i> , ed. M. Desamparados Perez Soler (Valencia, 1970)
VC	<i>Vita Ceolfridi, Baedae Opera Historica</i> , ed. Plummer, vol. I, pp. 388–404