

## MAKING THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE HOLY

How did the Holy Roman Empire (*sacrum imperium*) become Holy? In this innovative book, Vedran Sulovsky explores the reign of Frederick Barbarossa (1152–1190), offering a new analysis of the key documents, artworks and contemporary scholarship used to celebrate and commemorate the imperial regime, especially in the imperial coronation site and Charlemagne's mausoleum, the Marienkirche in Aachen. By dismantling the *Kulturkampf*-inspired view of the history of the Holy Roman Empire – which was supposedly desacralised in the Investiture Controversy, and then resacralised by Barbarossa and the *Reichskanzler* Rainald of Dassel – Sulovsky, using new evidence, reveals the personal relations between various courtiers which led to the rise of the new, holy name of the Empire. Annals, chronicles, charters, forgeries, letters, liturgical texts and objects, relics, insignia, seals, architecture and rituals have all been exploited by Sulovsky to piece together a mosaic that shows the true roots of *sacrum imperium*.

VEDRAN SULOVSKY is the first Saunders Research Fellow in History at Gonville and Caius College, University of Cambridge, and the recipient of the Göppinger Stauferpreis for 2023. This is his first book.

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# MAKING THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE HOLY

*Frederick Barbarossa, Saint Charlemagne and the sacrum  
imperium*

VEDRAN SULOVSKY  
*University of Cambridge*



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*Familiae sacrum*

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## ABBREVIATIONS

- AA SS* – *Acta Sanctorum*  
*CC* – *Corpus Christianorum*  
*CCCM* – *Corpus Christianorum Continuatio Mediaevalis*  
*MGH* – *Monumenta Germaniae Historica*  
*MGH Briefe d. dt. Kaiserzeit* – *Monumenta Germaniae Historica Briefe der deutschen Kaiserzeit*  
*MGH Conc.* – *Monumenta Germaniae Historica Concilia*  
*MGH DD* – *Monumenta Germaniae Historica Diplomata*  
*MGH Epp.* – *Monumenta Germaniae Historica Epistolae (in Quart)*  
*MGH Ldl* – *Monumenta Germaniae Historica Libelli de lite*  
*MGH Poetae* – *Monumenta Germaniae Historica Poetae*  
*MGH SS* – *Monumenta Germaniae Historica Scriptores*  
*MGH SS rer. Germ.* – *Monumenta Germaniae Historica Scriptores rerum Germanicarum*  
*MGH SS rer. Germ. N. S.* – *Monumenta Germaniae Historica Scriptores rerum Germanicarum, Nova series*  
*PL* – *Patrologia Latina*  
*ZAGV* – *Zeitschrift des Aachener Geschichtsvereins*