This book offers a novel perspective on one of the most important monuments of French Gothic architecture, the Sainte-Chapelle, constructed in Paris by King Louis IX of France between 1239 and 1248 especially to hold and to celebrate Christ's crown of thorns. Meredith Cohen argues that the chapel's architecture, decoration, and use conveyed the notion of sacral kingship to its audience in Paris and in greater Europe, thereby implicitly elevating the French king to the level of suzerain, and establishing an early visual precedent for the political theory of royal sovereignty. By setting the chapel within its broader urban and royal contexts, this book offers new insight into royal representation and the rise of Paris as a political and cultural capital in the thirteenth century.

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THE SAINTE-CHAPELLE
AND THE CONSTRUCTION
OF SACRAL MONARCHY

ROYAL ARCHITECTURE IN
THIRTEENTH-CENTURY
PARIS

MEREDITH COHEN
University of California, Los Angeles
To Raphæl
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ABBREVIATIONS

AN
du Breul
Budget
Layettes
Lebeuf
£/£p
Ordonnances
Registres
RHF
Sauval

Archives nationales de France
du Breul, Jacques, Le théâtre des antiquitez de Paris (Paris: Société des imprimeurs, 1639 [1612])
livres (tournois)/livres parisis