THE SOCIAL LIFE OF HAGIOGRAPHY IN THE MEROVINGIAN KINGDOM

This book charts the influence of Christian ideas about social responsibility on the legal, fiscal, and operational policies of the Merovingian government, which consistently depended upon the collaboration of kings and elites to succeed, and it shows how a set of stories transformed the political playing field in early medieval Gaul. Contemporary thinkers encouraged this development by writing political arguments in the form of hagiography, more to redefine the rules and resources of elite culture than to promote saints’ cults. Jamie Kreiner explores how hagiographers were able to do this effectively, by layering their arguments with different rhetorical and cognitive strategies, while keeping the surface narratives entertaining. The result was a subtle and captivating literature that gives us new ways of thinking about how ideas and institutions can change, and how the vibrancy of Merovingian culture inspired subsequent Carolingian developments.

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HAGIOGRAPHY IN THE
MEROVINGIAN KINGDOM

JAMIE KREINER
University of Georgia
To Bang, Flank, and Chuck
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Chapter 3 began as an article, ‘About the Bishop: The Episcopal Entourage and the Economy of Government in Post-Roman Gaul’, *Speculum* 86 (2011): 321–60, and some of that material is reprinted here with permission from *Speculum* and from Cambridge University Press. I’ve changed the focus of that article in some important ways, to address more directly the concerns of this book.
NOTE ON THE TEXT

ABBREVIATIONS

AASS  *Acta Sanctorum*


BNF  Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale de France

CCSL  Corpus Christianorum Scriptorum Latinorum


CSEL  Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Latinorum


LHF  *Liber historiae Francorum*, ed. B. Krusch, MGH SS rer. Merov. 2 (Hanover, 1888)


MGH  Monumenta Germaniae Historica

Auct. ant.  *Auctores antiquissimi*

Epp. sel.  *Epistolae selectae*

LL nat. Germ.  *Leges nationum Germanicarum*

SS  *Scriptores (in folio)*

SS rer. Germ.  *Scriptores rerum Germanicarum in usum scholarum*

SS rer. Merov.  *Scriptores rerum Merovingicarum*

ÖNB  Vienna, Österreichische Nationalbibliothek
List of abbreviations

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