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978-1-107-42348-0 - The Formation of Papal Authority in Late Antique Italy: Roman Bishops and the Domestic Sphere

Kristina Sessa

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THE FORMATION OF PAPAL AUTHORITY IN LATE ANTIQUE ITALY

This book is the first cultural history of papal authority in late antiquity. Whereas most traditional histories posit a “rise of the papacy” and examine popes as politicians, theologians, and civic leaders, Kristina Sessa focuses on the late Roman household and its critical role in the development of the Roman church from ca. 350 to 600. She argues that Rome’s bishops adopted the ancient elite household as a model of good government for leading the church. Central to this phenomenon was the classical and biblical figure of the steward, the householder’s appointed agent who oversaw his property and people. As stewards of God, Roman bishops endeavored to exercise moral and material influence within both the pope’s own administration and the households of Italy’s clergy and lay elites. This original and nuanced study charts their manifold interactions with late Roman households and shows how bishops used domestic knowledge as the basis for establishing their authority as Italy’s singular religious leaders.

Kristina Sessa is Assistant Professor of History and Associate Director for the Center of the Study of Religion at The Ohio State University. She was named a Fellow of the American Academy of Rome in 2001–2002 and a Fellow of the Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America at Columbia University in 2006–2007. She is the author of several articles on bishops, Christianity, and the domestic sphere.

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KRISTINA SESSA

The Ohio State University



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ABBREVIATIONS

Periodicals are abbreviated according to conventions in *L'Année philologique*.

AA	<i>Auctores Antiquissimi</i>
ACO	<i>Acta conciliorum oecumenicorum</i>
CAH	<i>The Cambridge Ancient History</i>
CC	<i>Corpus Christianorum, Series Latina</i>
CSEL	<i>Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Latinorum</i>
Epp.	<i>Epistulae</i>
ERPG	<i>Epistolae romanorum pontificum genuinae et quae ad eos scriptae sunt a S. Hilario usque ad Pelagium II</i>
ICUR	<i>Inscriptiones Christianae Urbis Romae</i>
ILCV	<i>Inscriptiones Latinae Christianae Veteres</i>
LCL	<i>Loeb Classical Library</i>
LK	The Council of Rome: Silvester with 275 Bishops, Laurentian Version
LP	<i>Liber Pontificalis</i>
MGH	<i>Monumenta Germaniae Historica</i>
PCBE	<i>Prosopographie chrétienne du Bas Empire</i>
PG	<i>Patrologia Graeca</i>
PL	<i>Patrologia Latina</i>
PLRE	<i>Prosopography of the Later Roman Empire</i>
RP	<i>Liber regulae pastoralis</i>
SK	The Council of Rome: Silvester with 284 Bishops, Version 1
SK2	The Council of Rome: Silvester with 284 Bishops, Version 2

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Map of Late Roman Italy from *CAH*, Vol. 13, p. 529

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ROMAN BISHOPS FROM PETER TO GREGORY I

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