

**STUDIES IN
CHURCH HISTORY**

VOLUME 33

**THE
CHURCH
RETROSPECTIVE**

EDITED BY R. N. SWANSON

**For the Ecclesiastical History Society
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STUDIES IN CHURCH HISTORY

Volume 33

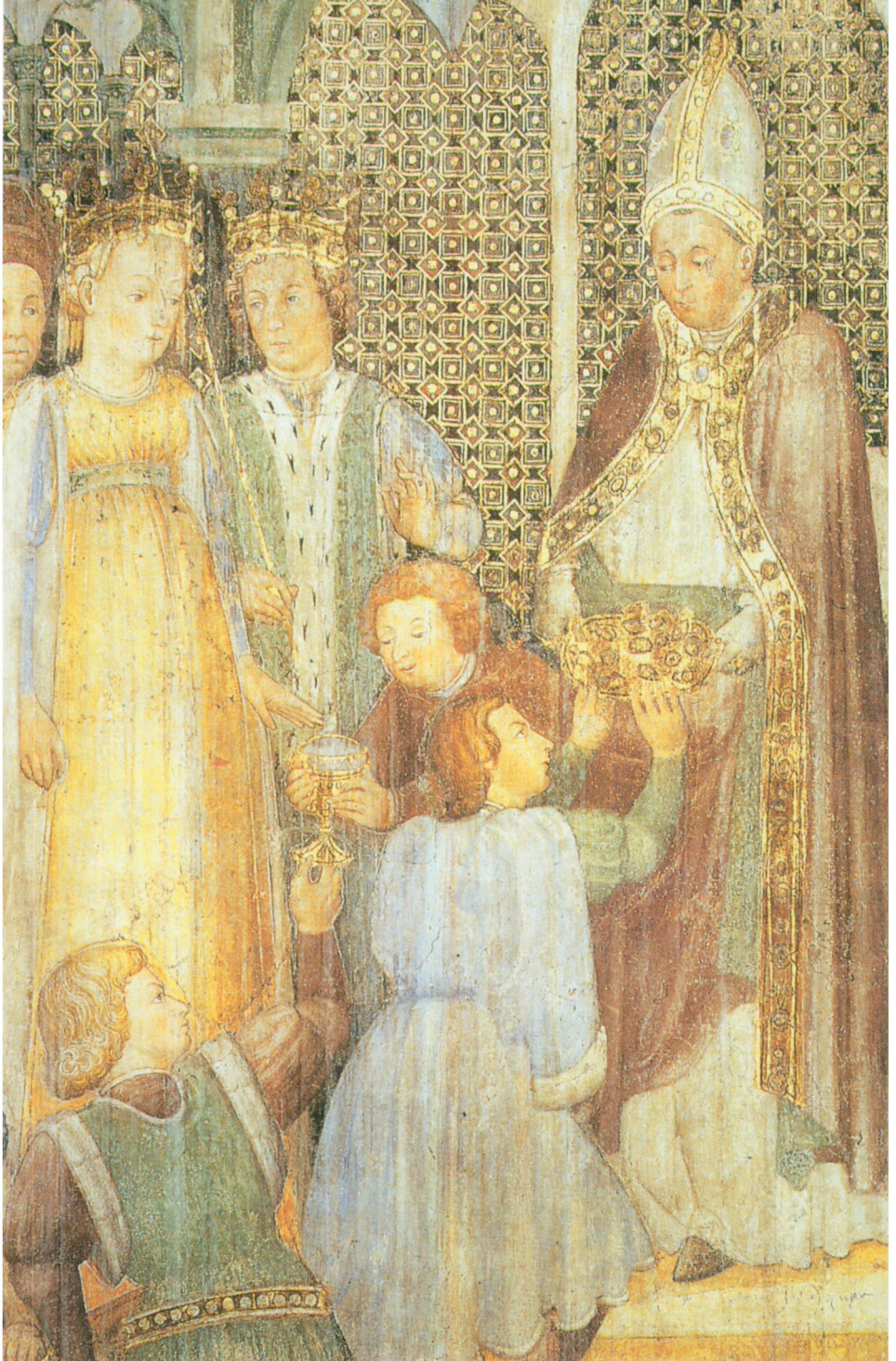
The Church Retrospective

Edited by R. N. Swanson

The unbreakable link between the Church and its past is the focus of this wide-ranging collection of thirty-one original essays contributed by scholars from across the world. They address the frequent ambiguity of the relationship between the past and the ever-changing present, as something which exerts an influence, as a source of authority, as something to be manipulated to affect current disputes and debates. Their concerns range from the insistent break with the pagan past to create a Christian identity in the first centuries of the Church, through to the impact in the twentieth century of appeals to the original ideals of St Clare as a means of redefining the mission of her Order; essays also investigate major periods of turmoil in the Church's history (notably the twelfth, sixteenth and nineteenth centuries) which entailed a reconsideration of its links with the past.

The subjects covered embrace a number of disciplines, from theology to art history, from the sociology of religion to the origins of a specifically Roman Catholic approach to archaeology. Throughout, the scope of the volume reflects the many and varied ways in which the legacy and heritage of the past has affected the life of the Church, and of individual Christians, over the centuries.

THE CHURCH RETROSPECTIVE



Theodolinda grants 'treasure' to the church of the Baptist with her son Adaloald. The *chioccia* is immediately recognisable, but note also the 'sapphire' cup on the left [reproduced by permission of the Museo del Duomo di Monza].

THE CHURCH RETROSPECTIVE

**PAPERS READ AT
THE 1995 SUMMER MEETING AND
THE 1996 WINTER MEETING OF
THE ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

EDITED BY

R. N. SWANSON

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IN MEMORY OF
ANDREW MARTINDALE

CONTENTS

Preface	xi
List of Contributors	xv
List of Abbreviations	xix
Introduction	xxi
Andrew Martindale	1
T. A. HESLOP	
'The faith of our fathers': the making of the early Christian past	5
RACHEL MORIARTY	
Past creeds and present formula at the Council of Chalcedon	19
STUART G. HALL	
Bringing the Holy Sepulchre to the west: S. Stefano, Bologna, from the fifth to the twentieth century	31
COLIN MORRIS	
Perceptions of the Anglo-Saxon past in the tenth-century monastic reform movement	61
SIMON COATES	
St Symeon the New Theologian (949–1022): Byzantine spiritual renewal in search of a precedent	75
JOHN ANTHONY MCGUCKIN	
The past and monastic debate in the time of Bernard of Clairvaux	91
CHRISTOPHER HOLDSWORTH	
A twelfth-century view of the historical church: Orderic Vitalis	115
MARJORIE CHIBNALL	

A thirteenth-century genealogy of heresy LUCY BOSWORTH	135
'Principium et origo ordinis': the Humiliati and their origins FRANCES ANDREWS	149
Ockham's vision of the primitive Church TAKASHI SHOGIMEN	163
Wyclif and the wheel of time MICHAEL WILKS	177
Theodolinda: the fifteenth-century recollection of a Lombard Queen †ANDREW MARTINDALE	195
European Calvinism: history, providence, and martyrdom ANDREW PETTEGREE	227
'By this mark you shall know him': clerical celibacy and Antichrist in English Reformation polemic HELEN L. PARISH	253
The importance of dying earnestly: the metamorphosis of the account of James Bainham in 'Foxe's <i>Book of Martyrs</i> ' THOMAS S. FREEMAN	267
Conciliar authority in Reformation Scotland: the example of the Kennedy/Davidson debate, 1558–63 MARTIN DOTTERWEICH	289
Impolitic pictures: providence, history, and the iconography of Protestant nationhood in early Stuart England ALEXANDRA WALSHAM	307
Laudian Foxe-hunting? William Laud and the status of John Foxe in the 1630s DAMIAN NUSSBAUM	329

Text before trowel: Antonio Bosio's <i>Roma sotterranea</i> revisited	343
SIMON DITCHFIELD	
Fontevrault looks back to her founder: reform and the attempts to canonize Robert of Arbrissel	361
J. M. B. PORTER	
'To let the memory of these men dye is injurious to posterity': Edmund Calamy's <i>Account</i> of the ejected ministers	379
DAVID L. WYKES	
Dutch Protestantism and its pasts	393
PETER van ROODEN	
'Standing in the old ways': historical legitimation of Church reform in the Church of England, c.1825–65	407
R. ARTHUR BURNS	
Benjamin Webb (1819–85) and Victorian Ecclesiology	423
J. MORDAUNT CROOK	
Victorian Nonconformity and the memory of the ejected ministers: the impact of the bicentennial commemorations of 1862	459
TIMOTHY LARSEN	
Christian civilization and Italic civilization: Italian Catholic theses from Gioberti to Pius XII	475
OLIVER LOGAN	
Reconstructing the Reformation: F. D. Maurice, Luther, and Justification	487
JEREMY MORRIS	
The Oxford Movement in late-nineteenth-century retrospect: R. W. Church, J. H. Rigg, and Walter Walsh	501
MARTIN WELLINGS	
The study of the catholic tradition of the Kirk: Scoto-Catholics and the worship of the reformers	517
DOUGLAS M. MURRAY	

A pre-modern interpretation of the modern: the English Catholic church and the 'social question' in the early twentieth century	529
BARBARA WRAITH	
St Clare of Assisi and the Poor Clares: a new spring	547
PAUL M. GERRARD	
Index	563