



MEDIEVAL WOMEN, MATERIAL CULTURE, AND POWER

MATILDA PLANTAGENET AND HER SISTERS

by
JITSKE JASPERSE

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MEDIEVAL WOMEN, MATERIAL CULTURE, AND POWER

Gender and Power in the Premodern World

Gender and Power in the Premodern World showcases cutting-edge research into issues of gender and power across a broad temporal and geographic spectrum. It fills key lacunae in the field, broadening conversations about gender and power by addressing constructions and performances of masculinity as well as engaging with women's roles, expanding beyond a European framework of analysis, and breaking down conventional barriers between premodern periods. It examines not only rulers and elites in positions of political or religious authority but also others who exerted power in economic, cultural, and symbolic forms.

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USAGE AND CONVENTIONS

FIRST CITATIONS IN footnotes contain full information, whereas the bibliography consists of selected works, including the main primary sources. The articles published in Dietrich Kötzsche, ed., *Das Evangeliar Heinrichs des Löwen. Kommentar zum Faksimile* (Frankfurt am Main: Insel, 1989) and Jochen Luckhardt and Franz Niehoff, eds., *Heinrich der Löwe und seine Zeit. Herrschaft und Repräsentation der Welfen 1125–1235*, 3 vols. (Munich: Hirmer, 1995) appear in the footnotes but have been omitted from the bibliography. The focus in the select bibliography is on material culture, women, and power.

I have anglicized most names, including German emperors and places like Braunschweig (as Brunswick) and Hannover (Hanover), but have made some exceptions, including Marie (of Champagne) and Alix (of Blois). The name Leonor of Castile is preferred over that of Eleanor in order to avoid confusion between the queen of Castile and her mother, Eleanor of Aquitaine. To enhance readability, dates of death of major figures are largely absent in the introduction; instead these are given in the subsequent chapters.

PREFACE

MY MATILDA BOOK, as I have been calling it over the years, has accompanied me from Amsterdam to Madrid, only to be finished in Berlin. It was my former PhD supervisor and dear friend Wendelien van Welie who introduced me to Duchess Matilda when I was her student in Amsterdam. Her interest in Matilda has never ceased and I am happy that she read some of my findings. My scholarly journey would have been impossible without my mentor, good friend, and eagle-eyed editor Therese Martin, with whom I closely cooperated in Madrid. She has inspired and supported my research from the start, and generously offered to read my manuscript, for which I am immensely grateful. I sincerely hope that one day I will be able to reciprocate all that she has done for me.

Many others have also contributed to the arrival of this publication and I want to express my deepest thanks to all of them. I found a stimulating environment at the Universität Bonn in 2018 when I presented some of my findings from the first chapter at the workshop “Macht und Herrschaft: Pre-Modern Configurations in a Transcultural Perspective,” organized by Emma O’Loughlin Bérat and Irina Dumitrescu. Cartographer Sebastian Ballard created the fabulous map that accompanies the first chapter. My colleague and sister-in-arms Marije Osnabrugge carefully read the chapter on coins and seals; small objects that she knows how to appreciate. Marie-Adélaïde Nielen kindly sent me a copy of her book on the seals of the French queens and their offspring, and Clément Blanc-Riehl and Jean-Luc Chassel equally kindly gave me free use of the images at the Archives nationales in Paris. And I much appreciate Brigitte Bedos-Rezak’s extensive reply to my enquiries about some seal issues. Amanda Dotseth, Laura Cleaver, Amanda Luyster, Therese Martin, and Chris Woolgar were so good as to discuss with me possible approaches to the gospel book of Henry and Matilda during IMC Leeds 2018. Although the chapter on Matilda’s manuscripts is different from what I had at first envisioned, and probably deviates from what we discussed together, I am happy that they agreed to meet and share their knowledge. The chapter on textiles has greatly benefitted from the invaluable expertise of Ana Cabrera Lafuente, María Judith Feliciano, and María Barra Rios. Justine Moreno, from the Département de Maine-et-Loire, kindly responded to my inquiries into the will of Joanna Plantagenet in which textiles are mentioned. And with their insightful comments Martin Aurell and Laurent Macé helped shape this chapter as well. My colleague and dear friend Annika Rulkens read the draft of my epilogue and for that I am grateful, as I am to Heidi Gearhart and Stephanie Pearson, who generously shared their ideas on the index. I also want to express my thanks to Barbara Klössel-Luckhardt for sharing with me her article on German noblewomen’s seals as well as for digging up the photo of the so-called *Mathildenbändchen* kept at the Niedersächsisches Landesarchiv at Wolfenbüttel, of which Julian Hartig provided me with photos. My thanks are due to student assistant Edouard Compere for kindly checking the footnotes and bibliography.

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