

The Medieval Chronicle 14 (2022) – Abstracts

Nicholas Coureas – The Phenomenon of the Divine in Medieval Cypriot Chronicles and Chronicles referring to Cyprus

This paper examines the incidence and uses of the divine in chronicles written on Cyprus during the period when it was a kingdom under the rule of the French Roman Catholic Lusignan dynasty (1192-1474), and in chronicles written elsewhere but referring to Cyprus. Although most incidences of the divine are those in which God is invoked or referred to, in some instances, notably in those cases where the chronicler has a clerical background, Satan is also referred to as an agent of harm. The majority of chronicles discussed, whether written on Cyprus or outside the island, are Western chronicles written in Old French or Italian. Two Greek chronicles, the fifteenth-century chronicle of Leontios Makhairas and the late fifteenth- or early sixteenth-century chronicle of George Boustronios, are also discussed. Among all these chronicles, that of Leontios Makhairas stands out inasmuch as it is the only one in which the divine, in this case the power of God, is expressed vicariously through the medium of icons
(*MedChron 14 (2022)*: 1-26)

Lynne Echegaray – Narratives of Poisoning in the Chronicles of Pedro López de Ayala

The four chronicles written by royal chancellor Pedro López de Ayala cover the reigns of Castilian kings from 1350-1396. During this period the unexplained or sudden deaths of those close to monarchs were often rumored to have resulted from the administration of poison. My study will examine a selection of narratives of poisonings attributed to kings and their physicians in Castilla and Navarra during the second half of the fourteenth century. These passages will be discussed in terms of their style, veracity and authorial intent. In addition, Ayala's skillful mastery of near-subliminal messages will be noted
(*MedChron 14 (2021)*: 27-46)

Catherine Emerson – Nicole Gilles's Presentation of the Death of Louis xi and the Collection of Symbols of Kingship

Nicole Gilles was above all a royal servant and a man of letters. A secretary in the royal court, he was acquainted with details of Louis XI's health and the internal workings of his household. He was also the author of an extensive Chronicle of the kings of France, which only circulated privately during the author's lifetime. His *Annales* has been dismissed as a derivative work, but this article examines the relationship between a putative source text and Gilles's *Annales* in its description of the death of Louis XI, which at first appears to be one of the most personal scenes of the text and one in which Gilles presents a portrait of sacred kingship. The resultant text is contrasted with that of Philippe de Commines, who appears to use the same source material, but to very different ends.
(*MedChron 14 (2022)*: 47-62)

Daniil Kotov – Transforming Eusebius: Continuity and Shifts in the Representation of Constantine in Socrates and Sozomen

This paper deals with the representation of the emperor Constantine I (306–337) in Greek historiography of Late Antiquity. I will draw on three sources. The first is Eusebius of Caesarea's *Life of Constantine* (c.337–341). The other two are church histories by Socrates and Sozomen, composed between AD 439 and 450. I will discuss difference and similarity in the representation of Constantine in these sources. Ultimately, I will argue that while in Eusebius Constantine is a sacralized ruler, in Socrates and Sozomen he is predominantly an earthly ruler. This transformation is emblematic of the transition from the struggle between Christianity and other cults in the early fourth century to a clash between different doctrinal versions of Christian faith and practice under Theodosius II.
(*MedChron 14 (2022)*: 63-84)

Frankish Annals

Bart van Hees and Sören Kaschke – Preface

(*MedChron* 14 (2022): 87-91)

Bart van Hees – Minor Annals and Frankish History Writing

This article aims to contribute to our understanding about the role (minor) annals played in Frankish history writing. It does so by examining what annals exactly are. Thereafter, it focusses on more practical applications of annals. It does so by assessing the textual witnesses of the *Annales Laureshamenses-Mosellani* in their codicological context in an attempt to disentangle the idiosyncratic message of the annals. In evaluating both present-day theory and the ninth-century practice of history writing, the article aims to pinpoint what (minor) annals exactly are in the Carolingian period and what role they played in Frankish history writing.

(*MedChron* 14 (2022): 92-112)

Sören Kaschke – Fluid Historiography: The Annales Petaviani and the (Re)Writing of History in the Eighth Century

The *Annales Petaviani* neatly illustrate complications when researching Frankish ‘minor’ annals. Transmitted in three manuscripts, each with a slightly different text, the nature of the core text has been hotly disputed. Some sections are clearly derivative, others appear to be independent and yet others show parallels with further annals, without there being a scholarly consensus on the most likely explanation for those parallels.

The article discusses examples from all sections demonstrating various practices of Frankish historiographers. It argues for the compilation, continuation and adaptation of the annals. Its textual fluidity, shared with other ‘minor’ annals, does not indicate a lack of scribal proficiency but is a trait of early Carolingian historiography keen on *correctio*, prioritising the transmission of ‘verified content’ over the faithful preservation of ‘immutable works’. Hence, older texts were regularly updated to meet the changing interests of their audiences, blurring the lines between copying and compiling in the process.

(*MedChron* 14 (2022): 113-138)

Robert Flierman – Hoc anno rex plures interfecit. The Year 782 in the Major and Minor Annals

Frankish annalistic writing is traditionally divided into two types: the expansive and overtly political major annals and the briefer, seemingly unassuming, minor annals. Whereas the major annals are thought to have been affiliated with the Carolingian court, the minor annals are considered local histories, though their precise origins remain elusive. Recent scholarship has started to re-examine this neat division and its underlying criteria, pointing out the sophisticated narrative strategies evinced in individual minor annals and their deep commitment to writing Carolingian history.

The present study continues this re-evaluation by taking a comparative approach to the Frankish annalistic corpus. It explores how different major and minor annalists responded to a controversial series of events that took place in 782: the Frankish defeat at the Süntel Mountains against the Saxons, followed that same year by the infamous Verden Massacre. While these events proved highly divisive among contemporary historians, the dividing lines did not run between the major and the minor annals, but right through them, suggesting that both were part of one and the same realm-wide debate

(*MedChron* 13 (2020): 139-158)

Robert Evans – Christian Language and the Frankish ‘Minor’ Annals: Narrative, History and Theology in the Late Eighth Century

This article explores how Frankish annalists in the late eighth century used Christian language to narrate recent events. It focuses especially on the so-called ‘minor’ annals and compares them to the longer and more widely copied histories, such as the *Annales Regni Francorum*. It discusses the importance of Incarnational dating, God’s agency, Christian behaviour and the use of the Bible. It shows that there was a division in these ‘minor’ annals between those who used little religious language in their content (as

opposed to the Incarnational structure) and those which did, which maps on exactly to a division in length and complexity. Once annals reached a certain length, they tended to include some religious motifs. There remained, however, considerable variety in the phrasing and themes chosen for religious statements. This suggests that these historians were responding to the importance of Christianity in contemporary discourse rather than imitating each other directly. This shows the growing importance of religion to Carolingian culture more broadly.

(*MedChron* 14 (2022): 159-183)

Jennifer R. Davis – Reframing the Carolingian Annals

This article aims to chart a new path forward for the study of the Carolingian so-called ‘minor annals’. Previous historiography on these texts has tended to get caught in endless discussion of problems of textual priority and interrelationships. One response to this situation is to use the entanglement of different minor annals as a starting point: rather than seeing the intersections among annals as a hindrance to scholarship, we can attempt to understand what these interrelationships mean. If we begin by taking the minor annals seriously as works of narrative history and by reconsidering the relationship between major and minor annals, we can examine the corpus of early Carolingian annalistic writing in terms of networks of communication, the chronology of annalistic writing and the shaping of political discourse, all of which can offer us ways to reframe our understanding of Carolingian annals.

(*MedChron* 14 (2022): 184-216)

Review

Baldric of Bourgueil: “History of the Jerusalemites”. A translation of the *Historia Ierosolimitana*.

Translated by Susan B. Edgington; introduction by Steven J. Biddlecombe (Carol Sweetenham)

(*MedChron* 14 (2022): 217-220)

Review

Bram Caers, *Vertekend verleden: geschiedenis herschrijven in vroegmodern Mechelen (1500-1650)*

(Sjoerd Levelt)

(*MedChron* 14 (2022): 221-225)

Review

Eric McGeer and John W. Nesbitt, *Byzantium in the Time of Troubles: The Continuation of the Chronicle of John Skylitzes (1057-1079)* (Daniel R.F. Maynard)

(*MedChron* 14 (2022): 226-229)

Review

Lisa Demets, *Onvoltooid verleden. De handschriften van de Excellente cronike van Vlaenderen in de laatmiddeleeuwse Vlaamse steden* (Bram Caers)

(*MedChron* 14 (2022): 229-233)

Edition

Trevor Russell Smith – The ‘Malmesbury Continuation’ (1332–1357) of the Anglo-Norman Prose *Brut*: A Previously Unknown Chronicle of England

(*MedChron* 14 (2022): 234-267)