



Queenship and Sanctity The Lives of Mathilda and the Epitaph of Adelheid Medieval Texts in Translation

By Sean Gilsdorf

The Catholic University of America Press. Paperback. Condition: New. 224 pages. Dimensions: 8.3in. x 5.3in. x 0.7in. At the dawn of the second millennium, authors from monasteries in Burgundy and northern Germany recorded the lives and deaths of two powerful and pious women, Mathilda (d. 968) and Adelheid (d. 999). Both were extolled as saints, exemplary figures guided by God and witnessing to His grace. Unlike most other holy women, however, Mathilda and Adelheid were not ascetic nuns, but queens. They were deemed worthy of praise not only for their devotion to God and their lives of faith, but for integrating these traditional virtues with more worldly attributes: noble birth, royal marriage, political power, and illustrious offspring. In turn, the saintly reputations of both women were used by their biographers to advance the interests not only of their own ecclesiastical communities, but of a new generation of secular rulers. Queenship and Sanctity brings together for the first time in English the anonymous Lives of Mathilda and Odilo of Clunys Epitaph of Adelheid. Richly annotated, with an extensive introduction placing the texts and their subjects in historical and hagiographical context, it provides teachers and students with a crucial set of sources for...



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