

The Cult of Saints in the West in the Latter Centuries of the Middle Ages. Research on Shrines and Religious Life in France and Italy

André Vauchez

2013 Balzan Prize for Medieval History

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Period: 2014-

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André Vauchez is Professeur émérite d'histoire du Moyen Âge at the Université de Paris Ouest Nanterre. The second half of his 2013 Balzan Prize in Medieval History is devoted to the endowment of the *Fondation André Vauchez pour le développement des recherches en histoire religieuse du Moyen Âge*, established under the aegis of the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres in Paris in 2014. It has the aim of assisting researchers in carrying out their projects and advancing their scientific programmes. It can also provide financial assistance for young researchers under thirty-five years of age who are engaged in doctoral or postdoctoral research.

As part of the research project *The Worship of Saints and Shrines in the West in the Last Centuries of the Middle Ages*, a number of scientific initiatives were supported or carried out through funds from André Vauchez's 2013 Balzan Prize, despite delays in the aftermath of the COVID pandemic.

I-André Vauchez Research Projects

1) The research project directed by Catherine Vincent (Professor Emerita, Université de Paris-Nanterre) entitled *Inventaire des sanctuaires et lieux de pèlerinage français*, has undergone significant developments since 2020: the Internet site became operational and the teams of researchers were able to compile a number of dossiers on the sanctuaries of Paris, Brittany, Provence, and its dioceses Lille, Rodez, Auch, and Strasbourg. Numerous files are being input and the proceedings of the Rome colloquium (2018) have been published. Research should be completed in 2025.

2) In Italy, the research project *Les lieux saints de la Sabine, des origines à nos jours*, uploaded, continued at the University of Rome - La Sapienza. In June 2023, it culminated with the launch of the *Atlante storico-religioso del Reatino e della Sabina*, online, which was also the subject of a publication, *Luoghi sacri e storia del territorio. L'Atlante storico dei culti del Reatino e della Sabina*, edited by Sofia Boesch Gajano, Tersilio Leggio, and Umberto Longo (Rome: Istituto storico italiano per il Medioevo, 2023). Sito: CReS (uniroma1.it)

3) André Vauchez published an overview of the history and role of Christian sanctuaries in Western Europe, *Sanctuaires chrétiens d'Occident: IVe-XVIe siècle* (Paris: Editions du Cerf, 2021), which was translated into Italian as *Sulle orme del sacro. I Santuari dell'Europa occidentale, IV-XVI secolo* (Roma-Bari: Laterza, 2023).

4) Funds from André Vauchez's 2013 Balzan Prize also supported Prof. Ludovic Viallet (Université de Clermont-Ferrand) for the editing and production of the *Totum* of the writings of Saint Colette de Corbie, foundress of the Colettine Poor Clares reform branch of the Order of Saint Clare in the fifteenth century. A preparatory symposium was held at the Monastery St. Clare in Poligny, a renowned sanctuary, and the proceedings have been edited. Support was also given to Martin Morard, Director of Research at CNRS, for

his production of an edition online of the Latin glossed Bible, in collaboration with the Institut de recherche et d'histoire des textes of CNRS, and an edition of the *Atlante delle Tebaidi* under the direction of Prof. Alessandra Malquori (Florence) and Prof. Nicole Bériou (Institut de France, AIBL).

II-Support for Publications

From the outset, another aspect of the project has been to provide financial support for publications considered to be important in the research sector defined above. With this in mind, grants have been offered to make the publication of various works possible:

- Sapin and Hébert-Suffrin, *L'architecture carolingienne en France et en Europe* (Paris: Picard, 2021).
- Marielle Lamy, *Les Vies de Jésus et de Marie en roman au XVe siècle* (Geneva: Droz, 2023).
- Immacolata Aulisa (dir.), *Culto dei santi e santuari. Omaggio a Giorgio Otranto* (Bari: Edipuglia, 2021).
- Pierre Bolle, *Saint Roch et les débuts de son culte au XVe siècle* (Turnhout: Brepols, 2023).
- Sonia Porzi and Céline Pérol (dir.), *La réception de l'oeuvre de Catherine de Sienne en France. Actes du colloque* (Editions de l'université de Clermont-Ferrand, forthcoming).

However, the main achievement in this area was the publication of Volume I of the *Procès de canonisation de Charles de Blois (+1364), duc de Bretagne (1371-1376)*, under the direction of André Vauchez, for the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres and the Presses universitaires de Rennes in May of 2023. After this first volume of about 900 pages dedicated to the edition of the Latin text and the French translation of the proceedings of the Angers Trial (1371), Volume II, which will be devoted to local inquiries into the cult and miracles of the saintly duke and to the examination of his dossier by the Curia of Avignon. In 2024, Luc Ferrier is due to complete his work on the edition of the process of canonisation of Philippe, Archbishop of Bourges (1261-1331), which will be published by the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres (Institut de France, Paris).

To date, it should be emphasized that the funding from the second half of the 2013 Balzan Prize has been used to develop research – both in France and in Italy – on the cult of the saints in the medieval West, and that it has made it possible to considerably renew our knowledge of the cult of the saints, their sanctuaries, and their role from the Middle Ages to the present day. These funds are now almost exhausted, and it is no longer possible to distribute new financial aid. However, sums have been set aside to enable current running scientific projects to be completed and their results published within a reasonable time frame.