

BISHOPS' IDENTITIES, CAREERS, AND
NETWORKS IN MEDIEVAL EUROPE

Edited by

Sarah E. Thomas



BREPOLS

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This collection of essays has its origins in the final conference of the AHRC project 'A Prosopographical Study of Bishops' Careers in Northern Europe'. The conference, 'Bishops' Identities, Careers and Networks,' held at the University of Aberdeen on 26 and 27 May 2017, brought together twenty-six scholars to discuss bishops, their identities, careers, and networks. We encountered bishops from as far afield as Iceland, Poland, the Iberian peninsula and Italy and from both the early and later Middle Ages. The variety and geographical and chronological range of papers prompted much vibrant discussion and comparisons which we might not otherwise have considered. As the majority of papers focused on later medieval bishops, we chose to restrict the conference volume to these papers.

For the conference organization, I am indebted to Jill Barber who did much of the administration including setting up the webpage for the conference and organizing the payment. Professor Stefan Brink and his team of PhD students — Michael Frost, Stefan Drechsler, Beñat Elortza Larrea, Deniz Cem Gülen, Blake Middleton, and Keith Ruitter — ensured that the sessions ran smoothly and essential supplies such as coffee and lunch arrived on time! Finally, I have to thank all the conference speakers and attendees who made it so worthwhile.

The volume itself has been a pleasure to edit with contributors who, for the most part, have kept to deadlines and willingly and patiently accepted editorial changes. I have learnt so much about bishops from across Europe. It has been very rewarding, not say revealing, to edit this geographically disparate group of papers and to reflect on the parallels and differences between these bishops and those I have been researching in Scotland and Norway.

PEDRO PÉREZ DE MONROY (1310–1324): A NEW BISHOP FOR A NEW ERA IN SALAMANCA

Fernando Gutiérrez Baños

In the chapel of San Nicolás of the Old Cathedral of Salamanca (i.e. the south apse chapel of this magnificent Romanesque building erected between the mid-twelfth century and the early thirteenth century and decorated in the Gothic period) there is an episcopal tomb that has no epitaph (see Figure 9.1). The book of anniversaries of the cathedral, compiled in its present form at the beginning of the sixteenth century, refers to it in the entry of 30 January in the following terms: ‘Por don Pedro, obispo de Salamanca, que yaze en la capilla de sant Niculás en vn arco como entran a la mano derecha, en vn monumento figurado’ (For don Pedro, Bishop of Salamanca, who lies in the chapel of San Nicolás beneath an arch to the right as one enters, inside a figured monument).¹ There were many bishops named Pedro in Salamanca in the Middle Ages, but since the seventeenth century this niche tomb has been ascribed to the one who flourished in the early fourteenth century. Stylistic comparisons not only of the architectural layout of the niche, but also of the sculptures of the sarcophagus and recumbent effigy and of the paintings displayed on the soffit of the arched niche, confirm this ascription.² But the question is: Who was Bishop Pedro?

¹ Salamanca, ACS, Caj. 67, leg. 3, núm. 1, fol. 60^v.

² About the tomb of Bishop Pedro, see Gómez-Moreno, *Catálogo monumental de España*:

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