

Vol 6, Prell, *Comtes, vicomtes*, Abstract (English)

This book is the translation into French and publication in final form of a doctoral thesis presented at Manheim. To understand its importance, one need only note that, although it has been difficult to access up till now, it is the work most often cited by historians as the only reference work for the serious study of the Poitevin nobility of the Early Middle Ages. Jan Prell undertook painstakingly detailed research in order to identify the élites of one of the principal Frankish provinces at the turn of the year 1000. The precise identification of those who acted on behalf of the duke allowed him to trace in detail the politics of the first dukes of Aquitaine and the way in which they were able to exercise power. For if this is an outstanding work of prosopography, it is far more than that. It is a rich assemblage of data relating to the history of Poitou at the end of the Carolingian period and one that fills a void that until now has existed in the history of medieval France. The study of lineages and their interaction at the heart of Poitou – and also with other contemporary Frankish provinces – sheds new light on the history of a crucial period in the creation of regional identities.

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