

Jasmin Rubner, Heirat und Machterwerb. Die Darstellung von Hochzeiten und Ehen in der
Sachsengeschichte Widukinds von Corvey und welche Rückschlüsse diese auf die
Nachfolgeregelung Heinrichs I. zulässt

Abstract: Marriage and the acquisition of power. The depiction of weddings and marriages
in Widukind of Corvey's „History of the Saxons“ and what conclusions this allows us to draw
about Henry I's succession arrangements

The *Res gestae Saxonicae* of Widukind of Corvey are an important testimony of Henry I's
succession arrangements and are generally considered to provide evidence to be the basis for
dating Otto I's designation as King in 936, as the chronicler reports how Henry on his
deathbed declared his eldest son as his successor. However, since some sources suggest that
Henry had already begun to plan for his succession around the time of the marriage of Otto
and Edgith in 929/30, the discrepancy has led to several research controversies about the
credibility of Widukind's report. This article aims to show a different interpretation of
Widukind's text by demonstrating that the narrative contains a significant link between
wedding motifs and the acquisition of power which has not yet been recognised. It will be
shown that the chronicler specifically gave the three royal weddings of Edgith, Adelheid and
Theophanu central importance in the rise and legitimation of the Ottonian dynasty. This
enables a new perspective on Widukind's conception of kingship and the question of Henry
I's succession. Here I argue that the chronicler described both the Anglo-Saxon wedding and
the designation in the deathbed scene as constitutive acts of kingship and, further, that the
source should thus no longer be viewed as testimony to a succession decision made in 936,
but as a document of a complex and long-term process of the passing of kingship to Otto I.

Keywords: Widukind of Corvey – *Res gestae Saxonicae* – Ottonian Queens –

Historiography – Weddings – Otto I – Henry I

Schlagworte: Widukind von Corvey – *Res gestae Saxonicae* – ottonische Königinnen –

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