Contents

Preface vii Abbreviations ix

Introduction 1

I. Preparing the Drama

- I.1. Canonical Weapons: The Church's Regulations on Marriage from the Eighth to the Mid-Ninth Century 11
- I.2. A Cause Célèbre: The Divorce Case in the Sources 36

II. A Marital Drama in Six Acts

Act I. Lothar Ascends the Throne and Marries Theutberga, 855-857 51 The Accession: The Political Power of the King and Nobles 52 Lothar's Marriage to Theutberga: Marriage as an Alliance between Noble Families 59
Act II. An Unsuccessful Attempt at Divorce, 857-859 63 The First Attempt at Divorce 65 Ermengarde's Family: The Marriage Alliance Continued in the Children 69

Act III. A Second Attempt at Divorce and the Involvement of Hincmar of Reims, 859–860 73

> The Legal Status of Marriage 77 The Powers of the Bishops 86 Hincmar's Rules in Their Political Context 92

Act IV. Lothar's Allies and His Marriage to Waldrada, 860–862	100
The Legal Status of Marriage: The Arguments of Lothar's Bishops	105
The Powers of the Bishops 128	
Lothar's Bishops in Their Political Context 130	
Alliances and Family Ties 135	

Act V. Pope Nicholas Intervenes and Theutberga Is Reinstated, 863–867 149 Pope Nicholas and the Legal Status of Marriage 152 The Powers of the Pope 159 The Success of Nicholas's Claims to Power 164

Act VI. A New Pope and Lothar's Last Battle, 867–869 173 Pope Adrian's Rules for Marriage and His Claims to Power 176 Political Power and the Preservation of Lothar's Realm 179

Epilogue. Lothar's Reputation and His Descendants 182

Appendix 1. Map of Carolingian Europe in the Ninth Century 189

Appendix 2. Genealogies 193

- 1. The Carolingians
- 2. The Bosonids
- 3. The Descendants of Gerard, Count of Paris, and Beggo
- 4. The Etichonids
- 5. The Carolingians and Their Relatives, Present at the Treaty of Coblenz (860)
- 6. The Welfs

Appendix 3. Reigns of the Carolingian Kings 201

Selected Bibliography 203

Index 223