

Copy

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91125

DIVISION OF THE HUMANITIES
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES 228-77

January 4, 1983

Professeur Anne-Marie Bautier
13, Rue de Sévigné
Paris (4^e)

Dear Mde. Bautier,

It was wonderful to speak with you at the American Historical Association Conference in Washington, DC, after having met you and enjoyed a lovely dinner with you at the Athenaeum at Caltech in Pasadena some weeks ago. I hope your travels have been pleasant and not too exhausting. (Please excuse my writing in English).

In Washington, at the session on "Medieval Kingship" chaired by your husband, we spoke about the rite of confirmation in connection with the "coming of age" ceremony of a king and of the king's anointing as a "second confirmation." I am interested in the rite of confirmation in association with the rite of baptism. In the Carolingian period, episcopal confirmation was supposed to follow immediately after baptism, all as part of one initiation ceremony, if a bishop celebrates. If not, the confirmation should take place as soon as a bishop is available. But it appears from some Carolingian sources that confirmation was not only postponed, but neglected altogether (Walafrid Strabo). You mentioned that you might have some references to this relation between baptism and confirmation in the Carolingian period and kindly offered to look this up for me-- not immediately but perhaps in February or later.

I would be extremely grateful for any references you could give me to baptism-confirmation in the Carolingian period, and I wish to thank you for your extremely kind offer to help me. In any case, please do not hurry about it. Hopefully, I myself will be able to return to France in the not too distant future.

You are a lovely inspiration to me as I know you are to many scholars who have met you, with your dedication to excellence in work and your gracious attention to fellow scholars and their problems. I am so honored to have met you. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Susan A. Keefe
Susan A. Keefe
Mellon Instructor in History