

**Steven A. Schoenig, *Bonds of Wool: The Pallium and Papal Power in the Middle Ages*, Washington DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 2016. Pages: xiii + 545. ISBN 9780813229225**

*Pallium*, symbol of an archbishop's authority over his suffragan bishops, is an important topic but one that has produced little literature in the Anglophone world. As a result, this scholarly account by Steven Schoenig, professor of History at Saint Louis University USA, is very welcome.

Sometimes translated into English as 'pall,' *pallium* is the band of woollen cloth worn around the neck and then dropping down – therefore Y shaped in appearance – which has been worn by archbishops ever since the early Church, with crosses embroidered on it to represent each of the bishoprics within the archdiocese. Downwards, so to speak, the *pallium* indicates the archbishop's authority over the bishops and dioceses within the archdiocese. Upwards it represents the archbishop's relationship with the papacy inasmuch as it came to be granted by the pope as a sign of his support for and authority over the archbishop. The *pallium* is ecumenical, too, inasmuch as its usage is customary among Orthodox, Anglican and various other Christian churches.

Schoenig focuses on the early and central Middle Ages. The three 'Parts' into which the book is divided cover respectively the periods 741-882, 882-1046 and 1046-1119; an Epilogue continues the story until towards the end of the thirteenth century. On account of the intermingling of Church and State throughout the Middle Ages – or, rather, the intermingling of ecclesiastical and civil authorities within Christian society – archbishops were important social and political figures in addition to their roles within the Church. This secular dimension of archbishops is well covered in the book.

As a Jesuit, the author will have promised not to seek bishoprics, archbishoprics or other church preferments, unless requested or ordered to accept them by the pope – as happened in the case of pope Francis when he was appointed archbishop of Buenos Aires by pope John Paul II. As a result, there is a welcome objectivity, or personal detachment, in the present fine study.

The extensive Bibliography (pp. 489-516), which is divided into primary sources and secondary works, helps the English-speaking reader to glimpse the wide range of relevant documentation and literature in many languages. There follow useful indices of papal letters and canonical works (pp. 517-24) and, finally, a copious 'General Index' (pp. 525-45). **Norman Tanner SJ** (tanner@unigre.it)