

Walafrid Strabo – Prologue and Chapter Titles to Thegan, *Gesta Hludowici imperatoris*

(ca. late 840–842)

[ed. E. Tremp, MGH SSrG in usum scholarum, separatim editi 64 (Hannover, 1995), 168–174]

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–December, 2007–

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Thegan, a Frank by birth and chorbishop of the church of Trier, wrote this little work in the manner of annals, concisely and certainly more in accordance with the truth than in an elegant style. In several places his sentences seem very impetuous and his speech rather passionate, as this noble and astute man was unable to remain silent because pain regarding the baseness of lowly persons had compelled him [to speak in this fashion].
5 Moreover, his excessive love of justice and its dispenser, the most Christian Emperor, amplified the ardor of his natural zeal. Therefore, his work is agreeable on account of its good intention, and should not be disdained for its coarseness, however small. We also know that our man [Thegan], learned through much reading, but occupied with the pursuits of preaching and correction, laid bare the inner parts of Scripture from its outer covering.

I, Strabo, introduced certain divisions and chapters into this little work, so that by a collection of titles
10 specific things lie open more easily to those wishing to know [them], since I desire [either] to hear more frequently the deeds of, or to proclaim the praises of, Emperor Louis of holy memory.

1. The lineage of the kings of the Frankish people from the Blessed Arnulf to Charles the Great, and his consecration.
- 15 2. On Queen Hildegard and her three sons.
3. On the Young Louis and his goodness, with examples of the Ancients.
4. On Queen Ermengard and the sons born by her.
5. The death of Pippin and Charles, sons of the Emperor Charles.

6. In what way the Emperor Charles, with the consent of the Franks, entrusted the highest [office] of the realm to Louis.
7. What the same Emperor [Charles] did during [his] final days, and his death and burial.
8. In what way Louis, succeeding his father, distributed his father's goods.
9. He received various legates, especially [those] of the Greeks, and released them.
10. How he strengthened the decrees of his father.
11. A legation of the Beneventans promised [to pay] a tribute.
12. Bernard, son of Pippin, set himself under his uncle [Louis].
13. How, by sending [his] legates throughout the entire realm, [Louis] learned of and corrected those things that needed correction.
14. When he held an assembly in Saxony, he received and dismissed the legates of the Danes and Bernard.
15. He sent [his] army against the Slavs and conquered them.
16. In what way Pope Stephen, successor of Leo, came to Francia and met the king [Louis] at Reims.
17. How the same pope consecrated him emperor and [how] they honored one another with mutual gifts.
18. When [Pope] Stephen died, Paschal succeeded him.
19. On the habits and daily routine of the pious emperor, and his manifold glory.
20. On the unsuitable promotion of the low born to ecclesiastical high offices, and on [their] vices.
21. The father designated Lothar [as] emperor.
22. The conspiracy of Bernard against the emperor was discovered and overcome.
23. The repentance of the emperor for the death of Bernard.
24. The emperor made his brothers change their condition [and become monks].
25. Morman was killed in Brittany and Ermengard died.
26. The assumption of Judith to the [rule of the] realm.
27. The army is sent against Ljudovit.
28. How Lothar received Ermengard as [his] wife.
29. Lothar was sent to Italy.
30. The purgation of Pope Paschal of charges [against him] in the presence of the emperor's legates; [upon his] death, Pope Eugenius succeeded him.
31. The emperor again laid waste to Brittany.
32. The legates of the Bulgars were received and dismissed.
33. Harald the Northman with his [retinue] became a Christian.
34. The army was sent against the Saracens.
35. The emperor gave his son Charles Alemannia and Rhaetia.
36. What violence Pippin with his treacherous magnates committed to [his] father, and the degradation of Judith and her brothers.
37. By what authority the emperor overcame [his] enemies and received the queen.
38. Where Bernard purged himself of charges [against him].

39. The first uprising of Louis [the German] against [his] father, which was quelled by a reconciliation [between them].
40. Lothar wishes to prove himself innocent of instigating this uprising.
41. How Pippin, commanded by his father to go to Francia, [instead] fell back to flight.
- 60 42. The things that were done at the Field of Lies.
43. What hardships the most pious emperor greatly endured at Compiègne.
44. Invective against Ebbo and his like.
45. The legates of Louis [the German] are sent to Lothar for [his] father.
46. Their conference at Mainz.
- 65 47. The legates of Louis [the German] come to [his] father.
48. In what way the emperor was freed from Lothar and Ebbo was captured.
49. On the kindness and patience of the pious emperor.
50. On shunning and suppressing low-born counselors.
51. The recall of Empress Judith from Italy.
- 70 52. The deeds done by Lothar at the city of Chalon[-sur-Saône].
53. The admonition of the father sent by his legates to Lothar.
54. How Lothar consented to return to [his] father.
55. On which terms they separated from one another, and what the punishment of the traitors was.
56. Ebbo was deposed from the rank of bishop.
- 75 57. Legates of the emperor were sent from Lyons to Lothar.
58. The death of Berengar and the conclusion of the little book.