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**Review Essay: Frederic J. Baumgartner, *Henry II, King of France: 1547-1559***

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lust for her) led Henry to select Anne for his next queen after Catherine of Aragon. After a stormy courtship, adversative relationships persisted in the marriage of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. Yet despite the writer's evidence suggesting that affection and mutual distaste alternately characterized their marriage, Warnicke concludes that genuine love dominated their relationship until Anne's miscarriage of a deformed male child caused Henry VIII to think that she had bewitched him. Next, in a notably incisive chapter, Warnicke shows how contemporary social mores confirmed for Henry VIII his judgment of Queen Anne and helped him to justify executing her. Warnicke pictures Anne Boleyn as a queen who respected social traditions and religious conventions and abided by their constraints, but who became a tragic figure. Warnicke's Anne is a woman whose femininity, fair-mindedness, and gentle human impulses were exploited by relatives and Henrician courtiers. In short, Warnicke recounts an old story lucidly, usually sustains her new historical judgments, and tempts readers to reassess traditional thinking about Anne Boleyn's place in Tudor state affairs. In fact, in spite of the author's dogmatism at points, her volume's best qualities include substantive historiographical discussions. For instance, Warnicke skillfully analyzes sources like Eustace Chapuy's diplomatic dispatches; she exposes Wolsey's and Cromwell's untruths and distortions of fact that have sometimes misled historians; and she persuasively criticizes "modern argument[s]" (154) about the influence of Aragonese factions at the Henrician court and purported alliances between Cromwell and Anne Boleyn to manipulate English state affairs.

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Frederic J. Baumgartner, *Henry II, King of France: 1547-1559*, Duke University Press, 1988, xiv, 358 pp., biblio., index, \$39.95.

Biography has been an unfashionable form of historiography in the era of the *Annales* school, but recent years have seen the appearance of several distinguished biographies of French kings by scholars such as M. G. A. Vale (Charles VII), R. J. Knecht (Francis I), and David Buisseret (Henry IV). Frederic Baumgartner's study of Henry II is a welcome addition to this list and fills a large void in the literature of Renaissance France. It is the first scholarly biography of Henry II in over seventy-five years.

Henry II, second son of Francis I, was born at the height of the French Renaissance. The famed "roi-chevalier" and "père des lettres" would no doubt be relieved that he is more remembered as "père des lettres" than as "père

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de Henri II," for it was his son's destiny, if not achievement, to open the route to the great civil wars that almost destroyed the kingdom and precipitated the collapse of the cultural and political greatness of Renaissance France. Heir to the Italian ambitions and Habsburg enmities of his ancestors, Henry II quickly learned his responsibilities by serving several years of his childhood as hostage for his father in Spain. After an active apprenticeship in arms and governance, Henry assumed the throne in 1547 at the age of twenty-eight. The next twelve years were years of steady bureaucratic modernization and intermittent victory and defeat as the focus of the Habsburg-Valois Wars shifted northward. Henry recovered Calais and acquired Metz before concluding the unfavorable treaty of Cateau-Cambrésis in 1559. His absurd death of a tournament wound that year precluded his addressing the domestic problems of religious and aristocratic factionalism that had reached crisis proportions during his reign, and his successors' failures have left the impression of a disastrous legacy.

At first glance, Henry II has much to answer for in his stewardship of the Valois kingdom, and Baumgartner offers a plausible if not altogether persuasive *apologia* for his hero. Traditional in approach, the study offers a lucid narrative and well-informed analysis. As an expert on ecclesiastical history, Baumgartner provides a good treatment of religious policy, though his discussion of the medieval origins of Gallicanism is too cryptic. Renaissance monarchs are best understood when their policies are presented firmly in the context of precedent, and Baumgartner does a better job with his discussion of the fifteenth-century Burgundy-Orleans feuds, which formed the underpinnings of Valois diplomacy. The entire study is based on a firm command of the secondary literature, but the focus is narrowly political. The many socio-cultural studies of Natalie Davis are neglected, and the recent works of M. G. A. Vale and Maurice Keen on late medieval chivalry are disregarded, though they potentially offer much to a study of such a militaristic monarch.

The end result is a thoroughly competent, highly useful work. It succeeds admirably in describing the man and his reign. It will be read by all students of Renaissance France and repeatedly referred to thereafter. It may be another seventy-five years before anyone again feels the need for a new biography of Henry II.

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Ruth Martin, *Witchcraft and the Inquisition in Venice, 1550-1650*, Basil Blackwell, 1989, 263 pp., ill., biblio., index, \$55.00.