

### **Bishop Dado of Verdun's 'Memorial', 893**

*This text is translated from Richard de Wassebourg, [Antiquitez de la Gaule Belgique](#) (Paris, 1549), on which all subsequent editions have been based.<sup>1</sup> I have included de Wassebourg's introductory paragraph, which adds interesting contextual information.*

*CW, November 2016*

We find in the ancient registers of our church of Verdun that, to keep the peace and concord between bishops and the chapter, and also to preserve the rents and revenues of this chapter and to stop the alienations and dilapidations made by the bishops – poor administrators, as experienced before him and after him – this bishop Dado agreed and granted in his own time a division to be made of the properties, rents and revenues of the bishops and of the chapter. And he renewed the registers and terriers of each, so that one might be able to see and discern what belonged to the bishops on the one hand, and to the chapter on the other. And moreover, he added to the ancient catalogues of the bishops of his church the deeds of his two immediate predecessors, Hatto and Berhard his uncle, with the estimations of the times that these two predecessors had held our bishopric of Verdun, doing so in the terms and form as follows:

“In the 893rd year from the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ, in the fifth year of the reign of the most glorious king Arnulf, and in the thirteenth year of our ordination, the ninth indiction. I, Dado, the bishop of the Verdun church, began to consider in my heart the various events of the present world, and to recall to mind the deeds of previous pontiffs, and to investigate them carefully and healthfully with the faithful people of our church. Therefore I have set down in writing the deeds of the orthodox prelates, so that their memory might be with us forever, whose names we believe to be eternally written in the heavens.

So, our predecessor Lord Hatto lived in the days of the emperor Lothar, and of Lothar his son, and he continued up to the first year of King Charles. This venerable bishop gave to the church many things worthy of commemoration, of which we reckon it to be suitable to preserve a few by the pen. For he obtained from King Lothar property sited in many places, that is Aubréville in the county of Verdun, etc.

The same venerable bishop also began this new basilica, but it was honorably finished by his successor, that is our uncle lord bishop Berhard. He took the rule of this church in the time of Charles, and sollicitously guided it up to the time of King Louis the German. For – that we may recall to

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<sup>1</sup> Thanks to Jean-Pol Evrard for advice on this, in anticipation of his forthcoming edition of the acts of the bishops of Verdun.

memory a few of his happy deeds – this famous pastor lord Berhard, that is our uncle, was extremely fervent in matters of ecclesiastical discipline, more than could be believed. And, very greatly loving the episcopal ministry and the religious life, he gave very many things to this church, which now offer up testimony to his zeal in eternity. For he gave, etc.

He placed eight canons in the basilica of St Peter and St Vanne, and gave them the property that belongs to that church, as it now has them in its control, and also the tithe of the rams which are received at the appropriate time for our needs from the *centena* of Bras. He gave to that altar one sacerdotal vestment decorated with gold, that is a chasuble made from *dirotano cum guttis*, etc. He also placed a pallium upon the shrine of the holy patron.

We too, his successor by divine disposition and that of the lord king Louis, taking up the guidance of this church after our uncle, and after the death of lord Charles his brother and emperor, have come up to the time of lord Arnulf the most glorious king, that is their nephew. What I have been able to add (with God's help) to the church committed to me in property, servants and all ornaments of the church I think it very healthful to add to this work. He gave etc. All these things the lord Emperor Charles delegated to the aforementioned church in solemn fashion, and conceded for eternal possession. Also Arnulf the most glorious king through a precept of his authority gave in ownership to the aforementioned church an abbey which is called Montfaucon, built in honour of St Germanus and sited in the county of Dormois, with all its pertinences, etc.”