



Papal and Imperial Travels

Introduction:

Looking at the whereabouts of Pope Benedict IX, Pope Leo IX and the German Emperor Henrich III during the 11th century, our plan was to map and track these movements over time. We used itineraries, imperial decrees, and other documents to provide a glimpse into their movements. However, the scholarship on this topic is limited due to the lack of primary sources.

Abstract:

The movements of German emperors and Popes of the Middle Ages have not been thoroughly studied by scholars; the limitations due to the lack of scholarship provided are exponential. The purpose of this study is to provide a visual representation of the two main types of figureheads during this era: Popes and Emperors. By following the itineraries and examining the correspondence from this period allows us to see the locations of the palaces and how the Popes and Emperor interacted with the nobles, and possibly each other, as they traveled around Europe. Our project will produce new itineraries and maps for further analysis of the networking of the Popes and German emperors of the Middle Ages.

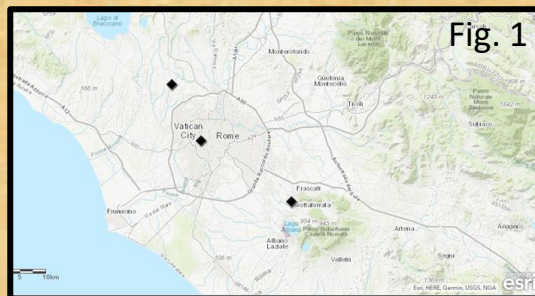


Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

Research Questions:

Our objectives were to see where the Emperors and Popes travelled, if there was any overlap between them, and whether they were ever in the same place at the same time.

Background:

Benedict IX became Pope in 1032. He was briefly forced out of Rome in 1036. He was forced out of Rome again in 1044 for his immoral lifestyle, making way for Pope Sylvester III. He returned in 1045, driving out Sylvester and regaining the Papacy. A year later, Benedict decided to resign the papacy, selling it to his godfather, who became Gregory VI (this was an illegal action). He later regretted his decision and tried to re-take the papacy – Sylvester vied for power as well. Emperor Heinrich III (14 April 1028 – 5 October 1056) came down from Italy to restore order, naming Clement II as Pope and deposing Gregory and Benedict. When Clement died, Benedict seized power again and was later excommunicated for his crimes. Heinrich decided to appoint his cousin Leo IX (12 February 1049 – 19 April 1054) as Pope in 1049.

Method:

Created a spreadsheet of our research to include content (such as locations, dates, and decrees), sources, and notes.

Figure 1 – 1037

Figure 2 – 1047

Figure 3 – 1051

Results

The map had over 150 points on it, with locations varying over Italy and Germany. Many of the points repeated. The German Emperor traveled on many campaigns and it is clear that his travels supported the unification of the Holy Roman Empire, although at the end of his life, he split up the empire again. The Popes moved around considerably less than the Emperor, with very minimal overlap.

Conclusion:

No substantial connections were made between Popes and Emperors. Although the Popes and Emperors were connected socially, their travels did not overlap. We did not have time to look at correspondence like we had planned or mapping known palace locations.