

MANCHESTER MEDIEVAL STUDIES



SLAVE TRADING IN THE EARLY MIDDLE AGES

Long-distance connections in northern
and east central Europe

Janel M. Fontaine

Slave trading in the early Middle Ages



Manchester University Press

MANCHESTER MEDIEVAL STUDIES

Series editor

Professor S. H. Rigby

The study of medieval Europe is being transformed as old orthodoxies are challenged, new methods embraced and fresh fields of enquiry opened up. The adoption of interdisciplinary perspectives and the challenge of economic, social and cultural theory are forcing medievalists to ask new questions and to see familiar topics in a fresh light.

The aim of this series is to combine the scholarship traditionally associated with medieval studies with an awareness of more recent issues and approaches in a form accessible to the non-specialist reader.

To buy or to find out more about the books currently available in this series, please go to: <https://manchesteruniversitypress.co.uk/series/manchester-medieval-studies/>

Slave trading in the early Middle Ages

Long-distance connections in
northern and east central Europe

Janel M. Fontaine

MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY PRESS

Copyright © Janel M. Fontaine 2025

The right of Janel M. Fontaine to be identified as the author of this work has been asserted in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

Published by Manchester University Press
Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL

www.manchesteruniversitypress.co.uk

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data
A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN 978 1 5261 6009 6 hardback

First published 2025

The publisher has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for any external or third-party internet websites referred to in this book, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

FRONT COVER: Gniezno Cathedral Door, Poland (detail).
St Adalbert of Prague pleads with Boleslav II of Bohemia
for the release of enslaved Christians from Jewish owners.
Public Domain via Wikimedia Commons.
RIGHT: Figures from the Luttrell Psalter
Courtesy of the British Library (Add. 42130, fols 68 and 70v)
Please confirm receipt and the schedule.

Typeset by Newgen Publishing UK