

André Vauchez

Profesor Emeritus of History of the Middle Ages, Université Paris Ouest Nanterre

2013 Balzan Prize for Medieval History

For his groundbreaking studies on medieval spirituality in Western Christianity and its central role in everyday life in the Middle Ages, for his research on the medieval conception of holiness and on the sacralization of space and time, for his contributions to research on monastic and women's piety, for his all-encompassing knowledge and masterly presentation of the life, work and influence of St. Francis of Assisi.

Institution Administering Research Funds:

Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-lettres, Paris

Adviser for the Balzan General Prize Committee: Karlheinz Stierle

The Cult of Saints in the West in the Latter Centuries of the Middle Ages. Research on Shrines and Religious Life in France and Italy

Under the overall theme of *The Cult of Saints in the West in the Latter Centuries of the Middle Ages*, Professor Vauchez plans to conduct research on two saints in Italian libraries and archives. With the collaboration of a number of post-doctoral students, a number of works on the process of medieval canonization will be published for the first time, as well as translations of medieval French texts concerning saints, visionaries and prophets or prophetesses of the time.

Three more projects are planned for *Research on Shrines and Religious Life in France and Italy*. The first will complete an inventory of French shrines and places of pilgrimage launched in 1997. A research group comprised of academics, curators and young researchers, historians, art historians, archaeologists and specialists from various historical periods will utilize various perspectives to reconstruct the history of each site. The research will be directed by André Vauchez and Catherine Vincent from the University of Paris Ouest Nanterre. The second, the "Prealp" programme (research on saint murals in the alpine regions), is currently directed by André Vauchez's former student Dominique Rigaux of the University of Grenoble. International in character,

it will encompass all countries of the southern Alpine region (France, Switzerland, Italy and Slovenia), combining field research with the investigation of relevant archives. Three young academics, two pursuing Masters programmes (in history and art history) and a post-doctoral student in medieval history, will be employed. The third project involves in-depth investigation into the Sabine territory and the region of Rieti, with a research programme that will employ two young researchers, one in religious history and another in art history, to conduct a thorough analysis of the links between shrines and sacred places over the centuries. This work is based on initiatives undertaken by Vauchez when he was director of the École française de Rome (*Lo spazio del santuario. Un osservatore per la storia di Roma e del Lazio*, 2008, and *Santuari d'Italia. Lazio*, 2010, published in the series «Censimento dei santuari cristiani d’Italia»), which is the basis of the research programme *Esperienze religiose, luoghi sacri e storia del territorio in Sabina e nel Reatino* directed by Sofia Boesch Gajano (Università di Roma Tre) and Umberto Longo (Università di Roma La Sapienza).