

SHEETS

Longobard Kings of the Bavarian Dynasty

Like their founder Theodelinda, the sovereigns of the Bavarian bloodline (**Agilolfing** Dynasty) sought to bring their people into the fold of Roman Catholicism. In this they were opposed by the dukes who, on the other hand, favoured Arianism or remained faithful to the original Nordic traditions. These included, mainly, the dukes of Friuli, descendants of Alboin (and therefore belonging to the **Gaussian** Dynasty, linked through the female line to the Ostrogoth dynasty of the **Amali** of Theodoric), who also branched out into the duchy of Benevento during the reign of Theodelinda.

The various dynastic alliances - strategically created in the continuously boiling early medieval melting pot - combined the Bavarian lineage with the hereditary bloodlines of various Germanic peoples, among whom, excelling for the prestige of their conquests, were those of the Longobard **Lething** dynasty (descendants of Lethuc, one of the first mythical leaders of that people).

The first dynastic union between the two basic lines (Agilolfings-Lethings and Gausi-Amali) came about with the marriage (662 between King Grimoald I and the sister of the "Bavarians" Perctarit and Godepert.

THEODELINDA (589-627) began the series of Longobard kings of Italy of the **Bavarian** Agilolfings who, with a few interruptions, ruled the Longobard Kingdom of Italy between 589 and 712.

The noble line of the Agilolfings had been inaugurated by the first duke of the Bavarians, GARIBALD, father of Theodelinda and of Gundoald (future duke of Asti).

The mother of the two siblings was WALDRADA, who in turn was daughter of the Longobard King WACHO (Lethings) and of AUSTRIGUSA, daughter of King ARDARIC of the **Gepids**, and with **Ostrogoth** ascent on her mother's side.

Theodelinda's first husband was the Longobard King AUTHARI (589) and, after his sudden death (590), she married AGILULF, duke of Turin, of the **THURINGIANS** (Anawas dynasty), with whom she had two children: Adaloald and Gundeburga.

ADALOALD ascended to the throne (616-626) after his father's death, first only in name - under the regency of his mother - and then in person.

GUNDEBERGA married the duke of Turin ARIOALD (of the Caupu dynasty) and, when her Arian husband ousted Adaloald, she became queen (626-652). On the death of Arioald, Gundeburga ruled alone for a short time, then she married the duke of Brescia ROTHARI, of the line of the **JUTES** (Arudi dynasty), also an Arian.

On the death of Rothari, the throne passed for a short time to his son by Gundeburga, **RODOALD** (652-653) who died a few months later.

Since he died without heirs, the throne passed to **ARIPERT I** (653-661), son of Gundoald and therefore grandson of Theodelinda.

Aripert I was followed by his two sons **GODEPERT** (661-662) and **PERCTARIT** (661-662) who shared the role of King, a unique occurrence in Longobard history. It was almost inevitable that the two would quarrel, and the situation was solved with a coup by the duke of Benevento GRIMOALD I (son of Gisulf II of Friuli and of Ramhilde) who - begged for aid by Godepert - assassinated the latter, defeated Perctarit and married their sister Theodota, taking possession of the throne.

On the death of Grimoald I, the throne nominally passed to Garibald, the young son born of his marriage to Theodota. But Perctarit - returning from exile among the Franks - took back the kingdom (671-688).

Perctarit was succeeded by his son **CUNIPERT** (688-700). With him, the aim of the Bavarian Dynasty was accomplished, because he completed the acceptance of Catholicism by the Longobard sovereigns. In the Battle of Coronate (Cornate d'Adda) in 689, Cunipert defeated the duke of Trento Alahis and other dukes who were the last advocates of Arianism. Also under Cunipert, the Synod of Pavia (698) was held, which put an end to the long-lasting Schism of the Three Chapters that had separated the Patriarchate of Aquileia and its suffragan churches from the Church of Rome.



On his death, Cunipert was succeeded by his son **LIUTPERT** (700-701). His tutor was Ansprand, duke of Asti. The duke of Turin, Raginpert, another member of the Bavarian line, rebelled immediately.

Raginpert seized power, but he reigned only a few months, leaving the throne to his son Aripert II (702). Power was initially resumed by Liutpert's tutors, but Aripert defeated them and reigned until 712. LIUTPERT brings to an end the series of Longobard sovereigns of the Bavarian dynasty.