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Tassilo III.

Tassilo III. (* 741, † 796) was the last Baierische duke from the family of Agilolfinger . He was a cousin of Charlemagne and is not officially a saint of the Catholic Church.

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Duke Tassilo III. with the model of
the collegiate church Kremsmünster
, around 1600

Life

Tassilo was the son of Duke Odilo and the Frankish princess Hiltrud , the daughter of Karl Martell . After the death of his father in 748, Tassilo and his mother were abducted by Grifo , Hiltrud's younger half-brother, who himself wanted to become Duke of Bavaria . One year later, in 749, Hausmeier Pippin Grifo drove away and appointed seven-year-old Tassilo to the Duke. The guardianship took over his mother, the Bavarian dowager Hiltrud, and after her death in 754 his uncle Pippin. In 757 Duke Tassilo III took over. the sole government in Bavaria.

Tassilo took on church life in his duchy at the Tassilo Synods of Aschheim (756?), Dingolfing (769/70 or 776/77?) And Neuching (771) strong influence. The Synod of Neuching issued one of the earliest Bavarian school laws ever. Tassilo donated monasteries (see below) and participated in the founding of noble monasteries to build a ducal church. The most precious monument of Duke Tassilo is the so-called Tassilo chalice . The inscription reads: *Tassilo dux fortis - Liutpirc virga regalis*, in German: mighty Duke Tassilo - royal scion Liutberga. The Tassilo chalice worked in Salzburg is with its ornaments a Bavarian, not a Carolingian work. ^[1] He expanded his sphere of influence to the east, where he in the year 772 Carantanians submitted. Tassilo III. achieved a territorial power position, which had owned before him no other Agilolfinger. At the same time, dependency on the franc reached its peak.



Bavaria among the Agilolfingers in 772

The ties between the Lombards and Bavarians had always been strong for political and economic reasons. So Tassilo stayed several times since the 760s in Italy, where he allied in the years 768/69 with Desiderius and the Pope. Tassilo was married to Liutberga , the daughter of the last Lombard King Desiderius . In 772, Pope Hadrian I baptized Tassilo's son Theodo in Rome. The alliance with the Longobards brought him into conflict with Charlemagne. With the conquest of the Lombard kingdom by Charlemagne in 774 Tassilo lost his most important ally.



Tassilo rides in the company of three farmhands (Master of the Polling Tables, 1444)

The Franconian Reichsannalen reported that Tassilo, who is said to have been the Franks since the year 757 , refused in the year 763, to give the Franks in a campaign in Aquitaine army success, to which he had committed by oath, thus he had guilty of desertion (Old High German harisliz). The report, which dates back to around 790, has been called into question in modern research and is very likely an afterthought. ^[2]

Duke remained Tassilo III, until he was relegated in 787 by Charles for political reasons (planned alliance with the Lombards to safeguard the baierischen independence, later alleged cooperation with the Avars) to the feudatory . In 788 Tassilo was sentenced to death by a process of felony in the Ingelheimer Palatinate because of the events of the year 763 and his (alleged) alliance with the Avars in the presence of his compatriots, later pardoned and finally in the abbey of Jumièges banished. The whole was probably only a prelude to the campaign against the Avars, Karl wanted to create a secure staging area and avoid that he fell in the event of a possible defeat in the hands of his powerful cousin. Evidence of the duke's guilt has never been provided; in modern research, the process is considered a political fictitious process. ^[3]



Tassilo chalice

Charlemagne spent two consecutive winters (791-793) in the old Bavarian ducal town of Regensburg to personally secure the incorporation of Bavaria into the Frankish Empire . As successor in the Bavarian rule, he then appointed one of his brother-in-law, the Franconian-Alemannic Count Gerold , the brother of his third wife Hildegard as prefect.

In 794 the monk Tassilo was again taken out of the monastery cell. Before the imperial synod in Frankfurt am Main forced one the former Bavarian duke, again to put off a repentance. At the same time he had to renounce publicly for himself and his descendants to the Duchy of Bavaria. This act served to give the verdict of 788 the appearance of law after all. ^[4]

His life data is estimated to be from 741 to 11 December 796. However, there are no reliable findings; it is uncertain when and where Tassilo died. He may have spent the last years of his life at Lorsch Abbey as a simple monk. "*First ruler, then king, last monk*" so it was said in the epitaph for Tassilo III. in the now destroyed basilica of the monastery Lorsch. ^[5] This inscription is preserved in the medieval annals of the monastery Kremsmünster. The historian Georg Helwich († 1632) also holds them in the "*Antiquities Laurishaimenses*" firmly and claims to have seen and written off on 10 September 1615 in Lorsch. According to him, the inscription had the addition: "*died on the third day before the Ides of December (Dec. 11) and was buried in this grave. Grant this, kind Christ, the bliss.* " ^[6] The romantic poet Albert Ludewig Grimm wrote in the 19th century a ballad about Tassilos stay in Lorsch. ^[7]

Monasteries

- around 750: according to legend, the monastery Polling
- 769: Pin San Candido in today's South Tyrol : Tassilo appeared in a certificate issued in Bolzano as founder of the Abbot Atto of Freising in appearance.^[8] He gave him the area of San Candido in Pusteria where this monastery for proselytizing the Slavs should build.
- 777: Kremsmünster Abbey
- between 777 and 784: Stift Mattsee
- 782: Kloster Frauenchiemsee
- around 788: Monastery Münchsmünster
- 788: Stift Niedermünster
- Thierhaupten Monastery

Aftermath

After Tassilo was named in 780 donated by him Tassilokelch . The historical Tassilopsalter was dedicated to him and his family . His life became the subject of the first time in 1709 opera Tassilone by Agostino Steffani . The Tassilolinde in Wessobrunn and the Tassiloquelle in Bad Hall bear his name, as well as the Tassilo-Gymnasium Simbach am Inn founded in 1948 and the Tassilo streets in Aschheim and Gars am Inn and the Tassilo Prize, which has been awarded since 1999 for services in the field of culture.

He is considered Blessed, his feast day is December 11, although he was never formally canonized.

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- Herwig Wolfram : *Tassilo III. Highest prince and lowest monk* . Pustet, Regensburg 2016, ISBN 978-3-7917-2792-9 .

Web links

 **Commons: Tassilo III.** (https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Tassilo_III,_Duke_of_Bavaria?uselang=de) - Collection of images, videos and audio files

- Literature by and about Tassilo III. (<https://portal.dnb.de/opac.htm?method=simpleSearch&query=118801414>) in the catalog of the German National Library
- Tassilo III. in the ecumenical holy lexicon (http://www.heiligenlexikon.de/BiographienT/Tassilo_III.html)

Comments

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3. Tassiloprozess website in Ingelheim (<http://www.ingelheimer-geschichte.de/index.php?id=82>)
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predecessor	office	successor
<u>Odilo</u>	<u>Duke of Bavaria</u> 748-788	<u>Charlemagne</u>

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