

the two Mendicant orders. The emphasis on legal studies seems to have been, at least in part, a response to the demand for men trained in the law to staff the growing Savoyard bureaucracy. Although it was not specifically established as an outgrowth of the government, Turin's University nonetheless served it by turning out a steady stream of trained men destined for official positions – a function it would long continue to discharge.

5. *The Fifteenth Century: A Slow Recovery.*

Prince Ludovico of Achaëa was the last of his line. When he died without legitimate heirs in 1418, Turin and his Piedmontese possessions reverted to the senior branch of the dynasty, in the person of Amadeus VIII, whom the emperor had promoted from the rank of count to that of duke two years earlier. Duke Amadeus at once secured oaths of fealty from all the cities and vassals in Piedmont that had owed allegiance to the princes of Achaëa. Now for the first time the Savoyard lands on both sides of the Alps were united under a single ruler. Amadeus VIII continued the expansionist policies of his father and grandfather in northern Italy, but he preferred to use the arts of diplomacy rather than the military force they had employed. Meanwhile he worked hard to weld his heterogeneous lands into a single political unit: the Statutes he promulgated in 1430 were intended to be a general law-code valid throughout his domains.

Amadeus VIII formally constituted Piedmont as a principality for his eldest son – also named Amadeus – in August 1424. In a splendid ceremony his father invested him with the newly-minted title of prince of Piedmont, which would henceforth be the title for the heir to the Savoyard throne. When the young Amadeus died in 1431 his brother Ludovico inherited the title of prince of Piedmont, and when Amadeus VIII abdicated three years later it was Ludovico who succeeded him as ruler of all the Savoyard lands, east and west of the Alps. As soon as he assumed power over the principality of Piedmont, Ludovico in 1433 issued a new Statute reorganizing Turin's city council into three equal classes of members: *nobiles*, *mediocres*, and *populares*. His aim was evidently to give greater weight to the commoners, in order to counter the influence of the urban elite. He also set up a small executive council, to deal with the city's business when the full council was not in session, made up of twenty-four members drawn from all three classes. This reform was not really successful. The oligarchy of old families still domi-