

Cistercian Liturgy and daily practice in Alcobaça's manuscripts

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In recent decades the medieval liturgy has attracted growing scholarly attention as an area with great potential for yielding a wealth of information at a number of levels of historical research. Where the Cistercian liturgy is concerned, due to a preoccupation with uniformity of practice across the Order, investigation not only relies on analysis of the surviving manuscripts but also on scrutiny of the legislation produced by the Cistercian General Chapter which was convened annually from the first half of the twelfth century.

This paper examines the liturgical books, and books supplementary to the liturgy, which survive from the library of the Cistercian monastery of Alcobaça, comprising different sources that connect text with performance:

1. Breviaries and Missals, among other liturgical books, containing almost all of the texts, prayers and formulas necessary for the daily liturgical practice.
2. Liturgical books such as Processionals, Rituals (and composite books like Collectar-rituals), containing texts, prayers and formulas, but also clues/indications as to what to do, where and when to do it.
3. Books of Usages and Ordinaries of the Divine Office, carefully describing the liturgical feasts, setting rules, usages and proceedings in the commemorations.

Under the approach presented here, inquiry pivots on two essential questions: Can performances and gestures can be recovered and reconstructed through analysis of these different sources? And, is it possible to use these sources to study (local) liturgical identity?

Bio

A native of Lisbon, Catarina Fernandes Barreira holds a PhD in Art Sciences from the University of Lisbon and, since 2011 has been a researcher in the Institute of Medieval Studies (IEM), NOVA University of Lisbon, where, since January 2015, she has been coordinator of the Research Group *Images, Texts and Representation*. Presently she is conducting investigations into the illuminated liturgical codices produced in the *scriptorium* of Alcobaça between the end of the twelfth and the sixteenth centuries premised on contexts of production, circulation and use(s). She is Principal Investigator in the project *Cistercian Horizons. Studying and characterizing a medieval scriptorium and its production. Alcobaça. Local identities and liturgical uniformity in dialogue*, (ref. PTDC/ART-HIS/29522/2017) financed by FCT.