ESSAYS ON LAY AND ECCLESIASTICAL COMMUNITIES

IN AND AROUND THE MEDIEVAL URBAN PARISH

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MARIA AMÉLIA CAMPOS

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This book gives a definite contribution to a wide-ranging reflection on the medieval parish and the secular clergy, considered within a long-term chronological framework and a wide geographical scope that allows the analysis and confrontation of case studies from the Iberian kingdoms, Northern France, Italian Piedmont, Lombardy, Flanders, Transylvania, and North of the Holy Roman Empire. The chapters published in this book tells of dynamics of social, religious, and cultural exclusion and inclusion within lay communities, of the constitution of family elites and parish confraternities; it shows the composition and the recruitment rationales of the parish clergy and of some ecclesiastical chapters with a duty of *Cura animarum*; it examines the relations of the churches and parochial clergy with more prominent – secular and regular – ecclesiastical institutions in the context of the establishment and exercise of the right of patronage; finally, it explores the role of the secular clergy in the application of justice, based on the characterization of their cultural and juridical formation.



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Coimbra Cathedral, sixteenth-century baptismal font. (c) Rita Campos Sé de Coimbra, pia baptismal do século XVI. (c) Rita Campos

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ESSAYS ON LAY AND ECCLESIASTICAL COMMUNITIES IN AND AROUND THE MEDIEVAL URBAN PARISH

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SUMMARY

PREFACE	
	Maria Amélia Campos, Tiago Viúla de Faria and Flávio Miranda 7
1.	REFLEXIONS ON URBAN PARISH COMMUNITIES IN MEDIEVAL
	EUROPE AND ITS RELEVANCE TO CURRENT HISTORIOGRAPHY
	Maria Amélia Campos9
2.	CITY CHAPTERS WITH CURA ANIMARUM. TERRITORIAL
	RECRUITMENT AND SOCIAL COMPOSITION OF THE CLERGY
	IN NORTH-WESTERN ITALY (TWELFTH-FIFTEENTH CENTURY)
	Francesco Cissello & Elena Corniolo
3.	BISHOPS AND DIGNITARIES OF COIMBRA IN THE
	THIRTEENTH CENTURY: A PROSOPOGRAPHICAL STUDY
	Maria do Rosário Morujão
4.	THE LEGAL EXPERTISE OF THE PARISH CLERGY IN LATE
	MEDIEVAL TRANSYLVANIA (LATE FOURTEENTH TO EARLY
	SIXTEENTH CENTURY)
	Adinel C. Dincă
5.	"QUI MISERIT MERDAM IN BOCCA ALTERIUS PECTET CCC
	SOLIDOS:" EPISCOPAL LAWCODES AND LORDSHIP IN
	TWELFTH CENTURY CASTILE AND LEÓN
	Kyle C. Lincoln 121
6.	A CHURCH UNDER INFLUENCE: THE CISTERCIAN
	CONVENT OF ODIVELAS AND THE PATRONAGE OF THE
	COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF SÃO JULIÃO DE SANTARÉM
	(IN THE THIRTEENTH AND FOURTEENTH CENTURIES)
	Mário Farelo & Luís Miguel Rêpas

7. THE EXERCISE OF PATRONAGE BY THE COLEGIADA DE
GUIMARÃES IN THE CHURCH OF SÃO MIGUEL DO CASTELO
DURING THE FOURTEENTH AND FIFTEENTH CENTURIES
Aires Gomes Fernandes 177
8. INCLUSION AND EXCLUSION BETWEEN CHURCH AND
COMMUNITY: THE CASE OF THE "LOMBARD" FINANCIERS
(THIRTEENTH-SEVENTEENTH CENTURIES)
Ezio Claudio Pia 199
9. MEDIEVAL JEWISH QUARTERS IN NORTHERN FRANCE AND
URBAN PARISHES (TWELFTH-FOURTEENTH CENTURIES):
PLACES OF IDENTITY AND COHABITATION
Manon Banoun 223
10. FROM NEIGHBOURS TO ENEMIES AND BACK.
JEWISH-CHRISTIAN RELATIONS IN NORTHERN EUROPE
Cordelia Heß 255
11. 'ARTIFICIAL FAMILIES' WITHIN THE PARISH: INTERTWINED
RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CONFRATERNITIES AND PARISH
CHURCHES IN MEDIEVAL COIMBRA
Ana Rita Rocha 279
12. EPILOGUE
Beat Kümin

A PREFACE TO RESEARCH IN MEDIEVAL STUDIES II

Following its first meeting in November 2020, the Research in Medieval Studies seminar series kept its aim of being a space for debate and discussion of research topics in the History of the Middle Ages, in a broad sense and chronology, allowing for the observation and comparison of evolution lines and trends in different geographical areas of Europe. The theme chosen for the second meeting was Urban Parish Communities in Medieval Europe, 1049-1545, and aimed to reflect on various dimensions of the life of urban populations, connected to each other by relationships of familiarity, sociability, solidarity and labour, as well as by the relationship linking them to the same parish church. The period between the Church Reformation, from the eleventh to the thirteenth century, and the beginnings of the Council of Trent in the mid-sixteenth century provided the motto for gathering research on (and around) the medieval city, the ecclesiastical presence in the urban world, and the more or less organic way in which parish communities were structured, creating bonds of cooperation or conflict, and dynamics of inclusion and exclusion.

Thus, in December 2021, we held our second meeting, this time at the University of Coimbra, with a view to reflecting upon the medieval parish in Western Europe. For this meeting, religious and social history approaches converged, brought together by researchers from different European universities, covering from the Iberian Peninsula to the North of the Roman-German Empire, through French, Flemish, Italian, and Transylvanian territories. These investigations were discussed in person during the event and then submitted for publication. Every chapter in this book was then subjected to double--blind peer review, resulting in the final selection of the works to be published. The process was time-consuming, but we believe it strengthened this book in that it gave it accuracy and a deeper, more specialized and international criticism.

The book you are about to read results from the effort of many people. Firstly, the authors of the chapters and the epilogue, who patiently entrusted us with their work; then, the experts who make up the Scientific Committee, who were responsible for the peerreview process, carried out *pro bono* and to a tight deadline; and finally, those responsible for the Editorial Committee and the Coordination of the Coimbra University Press, the publishers of this work. As the organizing committee of *Research in Medieval Studies*, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to all those who made it possible to publish this second outcome of RiMS, which will give it greater impact and reach. We would also like to thank our respective research centres – CHSC at the University of Coimbra, IEM at the NOVA University of Lisbon, and CITCEM at the University of Porto – for their support in organizing the event and completing this work.

We believe – and hope – that, in the future, it will be difficult to imagine an international scientific meeting held with mandatory distancing rules, permanent use of sanitary masks, rules and limitations for bars and restaurants. These were just some of the constraints of a meeting held during the COVID-19 health crisis, as was the case. It is fair to say, however, that this did not deter the participants from travelling and joining us, nor did it make scientific discussion which followed any less prolific and fruitful. The medieval parish in Western Christendom was the setting for various questions and issues raised about secular and ecclesiastical populations uniting and organising around an invisible but indelible web around their church.

This book tells us about it. We hope you enjoy it.

Maria Amélia Campos, Tiago Viúla de Faria and Flávio Miranda

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