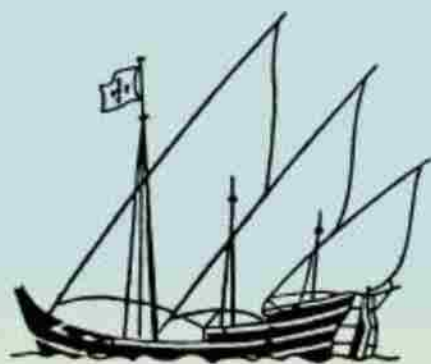




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Sorores

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Preface

Chronica Mundi è una rivista scientifica a vocazione internazionale nata con l'idea di creare una piattaforma dove studiosi e anche semplici appassionati di storia possano trovare spunti di riflessione e dibattito. Gli studi pubblicati sulla rivista sono originali, hanno un'ampia copertura temporale e geografica e vengono valutati attraverso il metodo del peer-review. Chronica Mundi ha pubblicazione annuale.

Chronica Mundi is a journal with an international vocation founded with the idea of creating a platform where experts, but also history enthusiasts, can find food for thought and discussion. Studies published in the journal are original, have broad geographic and temporal coverage and are evaluated through the method of peer review. Chronica Mundi is published once a year.

Chronica Mundi es una revista científica de enfoque internacional con miras a crear una plataforma en la que estudiosos y aficionados a la historia puedan encontrar elementos de reflexión y debate. Los estudios publicados en la revista son artículos originales de investigación histórica, tienen una amplia cobertura geográfica-temporal y se evalúan a través del método de revisión por pares. Chronica Mundi aparece una vez al año.



Immagine tratta da: Hippolyte Hélyot, *Histoire des ordres monastiques, religieux et militaires, et des congrégations séculières de l'un & de l'autre sexe, qui ont été établies jusqu'à présent....* 6e et dernière partie, contenant toutes les congrégations séculières de l'un et l'autre sexe et les ordres militaires et de chevalerie qui ne sont soumis à aucune des règles de religion (Paris: N. Gosselin, 1714-1719), tab. VIII p. 10.

Sorores

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‘Devout Sisters’ and ‘Tertiaries’ around German Franciscan Convents at the End of the Middle Ages. A Contribution to the History of ‘Mixed Life’

Ludovic Viallet (Université Clermont Auvergne)

Abstract: The paper covers several late medieval obituaries from convents in the Franciscan province of Saxony: those of Görlitz, Mühlhausen, Bremen, Coburg and Hamburg. Fragments of the *Totenbücher* of Erfurt and Lüneburg, an extract from that of Wittenberg and, outside the province, the obituary of the Franciscan convent of Regensburg have been added. The aim is to gain a better understanding of the realities covered by the words and expressions used in these sources to describe the position and role of women close to male communities: at the end of the Middle Ages, what did it mean to be a ‘prebendary’ (*prebendaria*)? ‘devout sister’? Perhaps even more intriguing, what did it mean to be a *procuratrix*? In this way, we seek to avoid the pitfall, all too often identified in historical studies, of systematically using the term ‘beguine’ in a quasi-generic way, while being attentive to the malleability of the categories of the time (as well as the realities they were supposed to designate).

In a second section, we broaden the range of sources to look at how the processes of regularisation of women’s communities at the turn of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries were described, which gives us an even better grasp of the weight of words and the degree of fluidity or malleability that accompanied their use. Finally, the aim is to highlight the part played by ‘semi-religious’ women in inventing forms of the *vita mixta*.

Keywords: Obituaries, Franciscan Order, Third Order, Tertiaries, Lay movements, Beguines.

Non-Cloistered Religious Women in the Kingdom of Seville at the End of the Middle Ages (15th-16th Centuries)

Silvia Pérez González (Universidad Pablo de Olavide)

Luis Cabeza Delgado (Universidad Pablo de Olavide)

Abstract: In the late Middle Ages, the kingdom of Seville represented a highly dynamic geohistorical space. Indeed, it was the main protagonist of all the processes that the conquest and colonization of America involved. This led to the development of several urban phenomena in this privileged setting. Among them are the *mulieres religiosas*, who were the indisputable protagonists of societies which they gave innovation and new vital dynamics. In this article, we will analyse the groups of the walled-in, devout and honest women, tertiaries and maids based, above all, on Public Notaries' official records. This archival material will be completed with other sources such as the councils. At the same time, we will study the bonds of sorority within and outside these groups, a dynamic that gave them strength. This will allow us to make valuable contributions to the definition of these communities, as well as enriching the universe of their *modi vivendi*.

Keywords: *Mulieres religiosas*, *Beatas*, Seville, Economy, Enclosure, Trading, Agency.

The Real Conservatorio de la Soledad: Female Religious Diversity and Assistance to Orphans of Tercio de Nápoles Soldiers (1580-1640)

Verónica Gallego Manzanares (Università di Padova)

Abstract: During the second half of the 16th century, Naples

underwent significant transformations driven by the creation of the ‘Tercio de Nápoles’ and the constant influx of soldiers and their families from Spain. This scenario fostered the development of a specific assistance system, which not only addressed the needs of this segment of the population but also enabled women who, despite not taking solemn vows or belonging to any religious order, were recognized as *sorores*. From this perspective, the Real Conservatorio de la Soledad emerges as a privileged space for analyzing this phenomenon, providing insights into processes that have been little studied in the post-Tridentine period. Based on the institution’s documentation and focusing the analysis on a key period for Naples and the Hispanic Monarchy, this article examines the history of the conservatory, the trajectory of the women who governed it, and external factors to understand the elements that influenced the consolidation of their religious authority.

Keywords: Real Conservatorio de la Soledad, Tercio de Nápoles, Assistance, Sorores, Early Modern Period.

The Multifaceted World of Sorores in Modern-Day Naples

Elisa Novi Chavarria (Università degli Studi del Molise)

Abstract: The essay offers an overview of what was the ‘multifaceted’ world of the *sorores* in early modern Naples. Despite the analysis being largely absent from historical and historiographical reflection, the phenomenon was strongly perceived and represented by contemporary observers. For example, foreign travelers, who were constantly present in Naples since the seventeenth century, often remarked on the large number of religious figures, priests and nuns seen in the streets and squares of the city. These included women who ‘wore religious habits’, but could not have been cloistered nuns given their presence in public spaces. This

phenomenon was especially noted by artists who often depicted women in religious dress in the streets and squares of the city. Who were these women? How many were they? Where and how did they live? Through an examination of various types of sources and the existing literature, this article aims to address these questions, with the goal of presenting the current state of research on the topic as well as some of the most recent findings.

Keywords: Early modern Italy, Unmarried, Women's work, Sexuality.

Non-Cloistered Women: The *monache di casa* in the Province of Lecce (XVII-XVIII Centuries)

Angela Carbone (Università degli Studi di Bari Aldo Moro)

Abstract: This essay presents the initial findings of an ongoing research study on *monache di casa* (house nuns) in Apulia, with a particular focus on Terra d'Otranto (the Province of Lecce) between the 17th and 18th centuries, based on archival research conducted in both diocesan and state archives. Alongside the analysis of sources traditionally considered essential for studying the phenomenon and the dialogue between them, the study of the mid-18th-century *catasto onciario* (a type of land and population registry) of Lecce offers new avenues for reflection. It seeks to reconstruct (while addressing the limitations and challenges of overly rigid classificatory and interpretative frameworks) the forms of cohabitation among house nuns, their familial and social *function*, their economic condition, and the strategies underlying a female destiny poised 'tra secolo e regola'.

Keywords: *Monache di casa*, *Bizzoche*, Province of Lecce, Early Modern Age.

The *Sorores* and Rome at the Aftermath of the Council of Trent. The Problem of Archives

Isabel Harvey (UCLouvain – UQAM)

Abstract: Recent historiography about *sorores* (non-cloistered religious women) is based above all on the luck of archives, as the wealth of an Inquisition trial or an autobiography, or on notarial institutional documentation of mainly economic nature. This documentation allows the reconstruction of interesting cases in order to contextualize them. However, there is the difficulty of moving away from the exceptionality of a person, a situation, or an institution rich enough to accumulate a number of notarial archives. I propose examining another archive: the voluminous documentation of the Congregation of Bishops and Regulars, which will allow us to identify and hear the voices of *others*, those non-cloistered religious women who are considered neither saints nor heretics, and who did not live in a wealthy community in a large urban center. This chapter will detail the archival and methodological path to identify them and to gather information about their singular existences and experiences.

Keywords: *Sorores*, Council of Trent, Congregation of bishops and Regulars, Papal States, Third Order, Bizzocche.

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