

Medieval Women and the Rule of St. Benedict: Miscellaneous Documents

Prepared: April 2002

J. Frank Henderson

Frank Henderson's Site on Liturgy and Medieval Women

<http://www.compumart.ab.ca/fhenders>

© J. Frank Henderson 2002

This brief catalogue includes documents that have to do with the use of the Rule of St. Benedict by medieval women, *other than* the feminine versions and masculine vernacular versions considered in the accompanying bibliographies:

Feminine Versions of the Rule of St. Benedict: Bibliography.

Masculine Vernacular Versions of the Rule of St. Benedict: Bibliography.

See also the complete texts of some feminine versions of the Rule of St. Benedict on the website: Feminine Versions of the Rule of St. Benedict, <http://www.osb.org/aba/rb/feminine>.

The following types of documents are included here:

1. Statutes of individual communities of Benedictine women
2. Commentaries on the Rule of St. Benedict written by women
3. Illustrated manuscripts of the Rule of St. Benedict that were prepared in or for women's communities or were owned by them.
4. Customaries of Benedictine Congregations and Related Documents. These may or may not refer explicitly to women. Even if they do not do so, they may have influenced women's communities or have been adopted by them.
5. Constitutions of Other Religious Orders that Used the Rule of St. Benedict. In one case a feminine version of such Constitutions exists. Another Constitution refers explicitly to women. In all cases they applied to women members of those Orders, at least in part.

This listing will be updated as additional references are identified.

Statutes of Individual Communities of Women

Statutes of the Monastery of Marienberg-Lez-Boppard

Manuscript:

Treves, Bibliotheque de la ville de Treves, MS 1258-1819, fol. 1-9 (latin), fol 11-25 (allemand). [1437]

Edition and Bibliography:

Philippe Hofmeister, "Les statuts du monastere des benedictines de Marienberg-Lez-Boppard (1437)," *Revue Benedictine* 46 (1934) 439-455 [statutes 441-455].

Statutes of the Monastery of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Brussels

Early Printed Book:

Mary, the Blessed Virgin, Monastery at Brussels. *Statutes* compiled for the better observation of the holy rule of the most glorious father and patriarch S. Benedict . . . delivered to the English religious women of the monastery of our blessed lady the perpetual Virgin Mary in Bruxelles and to all their successours. Gant: Jan Doods 1632 [STC 1860]

Edition:

Statutes compiled for the better observation of the holy rule of the most glorious father and patriarch S. Benedict ..delivered to the English religious women of the monastery of our blessed lady the perpetual Virgin Mary in Bruxelles and to all their successours. English Recusant Literature 1558-1640, vol. 278. London: The Scolar Press, 1976. Microfilm: Early Enlgish Books, 1475-1640, reel 1077.08 (Ann Arbor: UMI)

Bibliography:

Suzanne W. Hull, *Chaste Silent & Obedient: English Books for Women 1475-1640*. San Marino: Huntington Library 1983, p.186

Commentary

Hildegard, “Regulae S. Benedicti Explanatio,” in *Patrologia latina*, vol. 197: 1053-1066

Explanation of The Rule of Benedict, by Hildegard of Bingen. Translated with introduction and commentary by Hugh Feiss. Toronto: Peregrina Publishing, 1990.

Illuminated Latin Manuscripts

Regelsbuch von Niedermunster

Manuscript:

Bamberg, Staatsbibliothek, Msc. Lit. 142 [Regensburg, ca 990]

Description and Bibliography

Regensburger Buchmalerei: Von fruhkarolingischer Zeit bis zum Ausgang des Mittelalters.

Munchen: Prestel-Verlag, 1987, pp 31-32.

Adam S. Cohen, *The Uta Codex: Art, Philosophy, and Reform in Eleventh-Century Germany.*

University Park, PA: Penn State Press, 2000, pp. 14, 17-22

Contains the Rule of Benedict and the Rule of Caesarius of Arles. Made for the women’s monastery of Niedermunster in Regensburg. Illustrations include a portrait of Abbess Uta and one of Caesarius giving his Rule to two nuns.

Regula Sancti Benedicti

Manuscript:

Berlin, Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Ms. theol. lat. qu. 199 [Regensburg, between 1024 and 1044]

Description and Bibliography:

Regensburger Buchmalerei: Von fruhkarolingischer Zeit bis zum Ausgang des Mittelalters.

Munchen: Prestel-Verlag, 1987, pp 35-36.

In addition to the Rule of Benedict, this manuscript includes calendrical materials and “einem Ordinationsritus fur Abtissinnen und einem Ordinationsritus fur Nonnen.” St Benedict is pictured giving the Rule to a nun.

Benedictine Customaries and Related Documents

Monastic Agreement

Regularis Concordia Anglicae Nationis Monachorum Sanctimonialiumque / The Monastic Agreement of the Monks and Nuns of the English Nation. Translated with Introduction and Notes by Thomas Symons. London: Thomas Nelson, 1953

Constitutions of Lanfranc

“Constitutiones S. Lanfranci” (1088), in *Codex Regularum*, II, 344-384

Beati Lanfranci, “Decreta pro ordinis S. Benedicti,” in *Patrologia latina* 150:443-516.

Customaries

Consuetudines Monasticae, ed. Bruno Albers, 5 vols (Stuttgart, 1911-1912)

Corpus Consuetudinum Monasticarum, ed. Kassius Hallinger, Siegburg, 1964 - present [vol 14 in 1999]

Peter Mauritius “Statuta Congregationis Cluiacensis,” in *Codex Regularum*, II, 177-191

Udalric, “Antiquiores Consuetudines Cluniacensis Monasterii,” in *Patrologia latina*, 149:635-778.

Willhelm, “Constitutiones Hirsaugienses,” in *Patrologia latina* 150: 1137-1146

Constitutions of Other Religious Orders that Used the Rule of St. Benedict

Cistercians

“Statuta Ordinis Cisterciensis” (1098), in *Codex Regularum*, II, 385-425

“Regula Conversorum Ordinis Cisterciensis,” in *Codex Regularum*, II, 426-428

“Consuetudines ,” in Philibert Guignard, *Les Monuments primitifs de la regle cistercienne, publiés d’après les manuscrits de l’abbaye de Citeaux.* Analecta divionensia, vol. 10. Dijon: J.-E. Rabutot, 1878, pp. 85-287

Feminine Version of the Cistercian Constitutions

“Ancienne traduction francaise des Ecclesiastica officia, Instituta generalis Capituli, Usus conversorum et Regula sancti Benedicti,” in Philibert Guignard, *Les Monuments primitifs de la regle cistercienne, publies d’apres les manuscrits de l’abbaye de Citeaux*. *Analecta divionensia*, vol. 10. Dijon: J.-E. Rabutot, 1878, 407-584 [excluding the Regula]. [In grammatically feminine Old French.]

Camaldolese

“In Regulam D. Patris Benedicti Declarationes, et Constitutiones Patrum Ordinis Camaldulensis” (1023), in *Codex Regularum*, II, 193-302

Vallombrosans

“Constitutiones Ordinis Monachorum Benedictinorum Vallis-umbrosae / Costituzioni della Congregazione di Vallombrosa,” (1038), in *Codex Regularum*, IV, 369-411

Sylvestrines

“Constitutiones Monachorum Sylvestrinorum Ordinis S. Benedicti / Costituzioni della Congregazione Silvestrina,” (1231), in *Codex Regularum*, IV, 423-475

Celestines

“Constitutionum Monachorum Ordinis S. Benedicti, Congregationis Coelestinorum,” (1264), in *Codex Regularum*, IV, 497-596

Chapter 13 (pp 515-516) is entitled De Monialibus.

Olivetans

“Constitutiones Monachorum Benedictinorum, Congregationis Montis Oliveti” (1344), in *Codex Regularum*, V, 11-118