

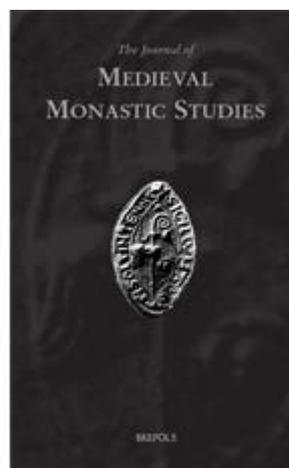
The material and artistic impact of monasticism in Europe

One of the aspects which will be looked at in one or several articles of the encyclopaedia EHNE is the material and artistic impact of monasticism in Europe. At first it was decided that it would form the base of one of the 'structuring' article defined within the themes of axis 7. However, for reasons of coherence within the architecture of the axis it was removed, but the issues and questions relating to it will be studied. Monasticism is much too wide a subject to be contained in the structuring notice of one theme; it is more of a transversal theme, which has as much to do with aspects of artistic geography and transfers than with heritage questions, with the numerous monastic remains scattered across the continent.



Couvent franciscain de Timoleague, Co. Cork, Irlande.

In the Middle Ages religious houses rapidly became an important physical presence all over Europe. The Benedictines, Cistercians, Augustinians, and later the mendicant orders were among the first transnational organisations, establishing an impressive network of stone buildings across the continent. From the diffusion of architectural styles and techniques to the impact of their presence on the and urban landscapes of medieval Europe, it is necessary, in a project such as the Labex EHNE, to look at the role monasteries and friaries may have had in the development - beyond regional particularities - of a common artistic and cultural European history, and in the construction of a shared material heritage.

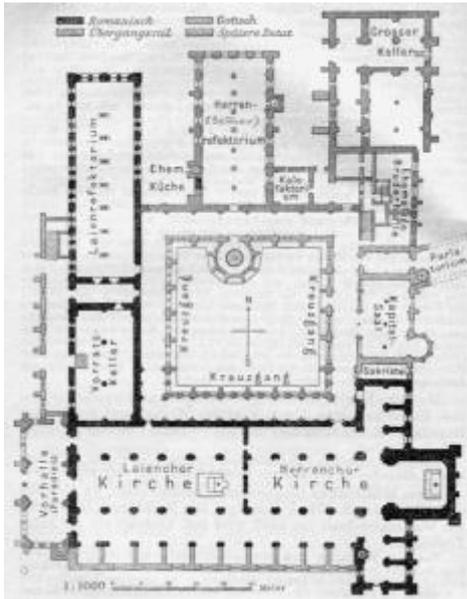


In this perspective, a proposal for three sessions, around the theme of European monasticism and under the sponsorship of the *Journal of Medieval Monastic Studies* was successfully submitted for the International Medieval Congress, which will take place in Leeds from the 7th to the 10th July 2014. The first two sessions, prepared by Leonie Silberer of the *Institut für Europäische Kunstgeschichte, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg* and myself, will deal in particular with the theme of the material and artistic impact of the religious orders in the Middle-Ages. The first session, to which we will both participate, is entitled “Negotiating Monastic Space, I: Monasteries in the Landscape”. In my paper “The Material Impact of Monasticism in Europe, 10th-15th Centuries: Architecture and Landscape context”, I will present an overview of the questions relating to this theme. In “Spaces of Secular Power and Patronage in Franciscan Friaries”, Leonie Silberer will attempt to localize the material presence of benefactors within Franciscan friaries. Finally Niamh NicGhabhann, of the Irish World Academy of Music & Dance, University of Limerick, will discuss the different interpretations of medieval, monastic and mendicant ruins in 19th century Ireland in “Ruins in the Landscape: Different Views from 19th-Century Ireland”, interpretations that manifested themselves through the use of these buildings and the manipulation of the landscape around them.



“Franciscan Abbey with Manor House in the Distance”, Plate 20, Memorials of Adare Manor.

The second session is entitled “Negotiating Monastic Space, II: Monasteries and Material Culture”. In “Frames and Thresholds: Franciscan Friaries in Ireland and the Imagery of Transition Spaces”, Malgorzata Krasnodebska-D’Aughton, of the School of History, University College Cork, will analyse transition spaces in Franciscan friaries through the iconography that survives there, especially between choir and nave. Celia Haller, PhD student at the *Institut für Europäische Kunstgeschichte, Universität Heidelberg*, will attempt in her paper “Late Gothic Architectural Changes at the Cistercian Monastery of Maulbronn” to place these changes within the regional and stylistic context of the time, and within that of the ecclesiastical and secular powers. Finally Keith Smith from the Discovery Programme, Dublin, will present in “Politics, practicality and patronage: secular benefaction and protection of mendicant houses in Ireland” what we can learn from the material culture of mendicant friaries about their benefactors.



Kloster Maulbronn Plan – Public Domain – Quelle: Baedekers Süd-Deutschland von 1913.

These two sessions were prepared in collaboration with Karen Stöber, *Departament d’Història, Universitat de Lleida*, who is in charge of the organization of the three sessions. The third and last session “Negotiating Monastic Space, III: Monasteries and *Auctoritas* in Medieval Europe”, will look at the different aspects of *Auctoritas* in medieval monastic life. Janet Burton, School of Archaeology, History & Anthropology, University of Wales Trinity Saint David, will present “Authority and Conflict at the Cistercian Abbey of Strata Florida”, Karen Stöber, “Having the Final Word: Negotiating Authority in a Catalan Cistercian Nunnery” and finally Emilia Jamroziak, School of History, University of Leeds, will talk about “Saints and Cistercians: Identity and Authority in Late Medieval Communities”.

In the perspective of the EHNE project, the interest of these sessions is of course the possibility that these papers might be turned into articles of the online encyclopedia, or that their authors write articles based on some of the questions tackled in the IMC sessions. It is indeed – and obviously – essential in a project such as the Labex EHNE that European scholars be involved in its implementation, producing writings that will best embody the European dimension and transnational approaches to which the Labex EHNE aspires.