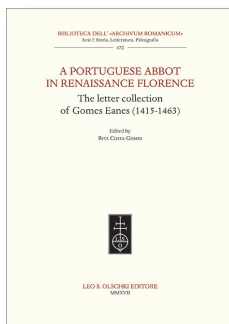


A PORTUGUESE ABBOT IN RENAISSANCE FLORENCE

THE LETTER COLLECTION OF GOMES EANES (1415-1463)

A CURA DI RITA COSTA-GOMES

This book is an annotated edition of the letters of Gomes Eanes, a Portuguese who lived for three decades in Italy and was head of the Badia Fiorentina (Monastery of Santa Maria of Florence) between 1419 and 1439. It includes the transcribed 550 original missives he received, currently kept in two Florentine archives (Biblioteca Laurenziana, Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale). The texts provide a detailed record of the abbot's activities and of his constant communi-



cation with men and women living in Italy, Portugal, and other parts of Europe, revealing a multilingual cultural world and a wide field of human relations. The book includes an introductory study of the abbot and his career, of the origins and evolution of the letter collection within the intellectual and institutional context of the Benedictine abbey, and of letter-writing as a cultural practice in Portuguese and Italian societies. A general index of the missives closes the volume.

Edizione annotata delle lettere ricevute in Italia dall'Abate Gomes Eanes, prelado portoghese a capo del Monastero di Santa Maria di Firenze (Badia Fiorentina) fra il 1419 e il 1439. I testi permettono di ricostruire nel dettaglio molte attività dell'abate e la sua comunicazione assidua con donne e uomini da diverse regioni d'Europa. Il volume include uno studio introduttivo proponendo una sintesi sulla vita e sulla carriera di Gomes Eanes, nuovi dati sulle origini archivistiche della collezione, e un approccio alla scrittura epistolare nel Quattrocento portoghese e italiano.

RITA COSTA GOMES is Professor of History at Towson University (USA), where she teaches Medieval and Renaissance history. A historian of Medieval Portugal with strong interests in Iberian and Mediterranean history, she published in book form the first complete study of the royal court of Portugal (Portuguese version 1995, English version 2003), two volumes on the history of the Portuguese frontiers, and a biography of king Fernando I (r. 1367-1383). She collaborates in the project for the English edition of the works of historian Fernão Lopes (c. 1380- c.1460). Some of her recent articles are available at www.academia.edu.

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