

Thesis Abstracts

Rollo-Koster, Joëlle. "The People of Curial Avignon. A Critical Edition of the *Liber Divisionis* and the Lists of Matriculation of the Confraternity of Notre Dame La Majour." Ph.D. dissertation, State University of New York at Binghamton, 1992. xi, 447 pp.

The general aim of the dissertation was to transcribe three major demographic documents concerning the population of Avignon in the fourteenth century: the *Liber Divisionis* (Vatican Archives, *A.S.V.*, *Reg. Aven.*, 204, fols. 428-507) and the two lists of matriculation of the confraternity of Notre Dame la Majour (Archives Départementales du Vaucluse, *Archives Hospitalières d'Avignon, Majour* E.4, fols. 1-113). These documents range chronologically from 1364 to 1381.

The dissertation also had three specific aims: (1) to publish the documents in one volume, (2) to cross-reference persons mentioned in the three documents with each other and with other biographical sources, and (3) to offer a critical diplomatic analysis of all three documents.

Together, the three documents contain some 6,500 entries, most of which consist of a first name, a last name (if existing), a place of origin (town or diocese) and, in some cases, a profession.

The diplomatic analysis consists of a background study of the Avignonese political, judicial, demographic and confraternal institutions as well as a detailed study of each document's recording procedure, dates, goals, and purposes.

The diplomatic analysis of Notre Dame La Majour starts with a presentation of its statutes and ends with the association's new set of purposes as it appears through a study of the record-

ing procedures for its membership lists. The various addenda annotated on the membership lists (cryptic Roman numeral copied after each entry, different types of crosses entered before some entries, addenda recording individuals' whereabouts) and the non-observance of the statutorial regulation that required successive membership lists to contain the names of all past and present affiliates, allow us to assert that the association shifted its aims. The confraternity's founding premise, to offer its affiliates devotional suffrages for "a safe passage" into the afterlife, was diverted from its initial course and the association became a charitable fund-raising agency investing its resources into two hospitals for poor pilgrims.

Each document's transcription is followed by abundant end-notes identifying individuals who left traces of themselves in existing literature. To keep the work within the scope of a doctoral dissertation, these notes have been limited to the location of the information. Nonetheless, they allow interested scholars to compile individual biographies with ease.

By bringing the three documents together into one volume, together with the supporting apparatus mentioned above, this edition offers interested historians a detailed and accessible entry into of the population of Avignon in the fourteenth century and the activities of one of its confraternities.