

Mañas, Vladimír. *Hudební aktivity náboženských korporací na Moravě v raném novověku* [Religious Brotherhoods and Their Musical Activities in Moravia in Early Modern Times]. Doctoral thesis, Masaryk University, Brno (CZ), 2008. Pp. 223.

Thesis Supervisor: Prof. Rudolf Pečman

Contact: vladimir.manas@seznam.cz

Abstract: The dissertation examines the musical activities of religious brotherhoods in Moravia in early modern times. It contributes to our knowledge of confraternities of Literati in Moravia from the fifteenth to the beginning of twentieth century. It expands the list of known confraternities of Literati from 30 (as had been presented by Jiří Fukač) to 55.

The complete thesis, in Czech, is available in pdf at http://is.muni.cz/th/13678/ff_d/

Pinho, Joana Maria Balsa Carvalho de. *The Confraternity of Mercy and the Portuguese Architecture of the Sixteen Century*. Doctoral thesis, University of Lisbon, in progress.

Thesis supervisor: Prof. Fernando Grilo.

Contact: joanabalsapinho@gmail.com

Abstract: The confraternities of Mercy were the most important confraternities in Portugal in the Modern Age, encourage assistance and charity, popular religiosity and artistic manifestations. This investigation examines the main artistic specificities of the architecture promoted by the confraternities of Mercy during the sixteenth century, its characterization, evolution, diffusion and significances.

Presciutti, Diana Bullen. *The Visual Culture of the Foundling Hospital in Central Italy, 1400–1600*. Doctoral dissertation, University of Michigan, 2008. Pp. 492.

Thesis supervisor: Prof. Megan Holmes.

Contact: dbullen@umich.edu

Abstract: This dissertation centres upon the visual culture of charitable institutions that cared for foundlings in fifteenth- and sixteenth-century Bologna, Florence, Rome, and Siena. It demonstrates how images and ritual acts shaped perceptions of abandoned children, their patrons and supporters (including confraternities), and the practice of foundling care in the early modern Italian city.

Snow, Emily. *The Lady of Sorrows: Music, Devotion, and Politics in the Burgundian Netherlands*. PhD. dissertation, Princeton University, currently in progress

Supervisors: Profs. Rob Wegman and Peter Jeffery

Contact: esnow@Princeton.edu

Abstract: Devotion to the Seven Sorrows of the Virgin flourished in the Low Countries in the late fifteenth century under the auspices of the Philip the Fair. Philip supported the devotion through various religious and civic means, including confraternities and chambers of rhetoric. His participation in the devotion was in fact part of the broader efforts of the Burgundian Habsburg court to restore its image following the fall of Charles the Bold. Through the court's initiatives, the devotion was transformed from a lay, grassroots movement to a highly structured political organization. This dissertation examines the liturgical and musical outgrowths of Philip's involvement in the Seven Sorrows devotion in this political context. It considers the court's participation in the activities of the Seven Sorrows confraternity as part of the Burgundian court tradition of state building through ritual and ceremony. The central chapter focuses on the political and musical significance of a plainchant competition, an innovative musical event sponsored by Philip to propagate the devotion. Finally, it examines art and music dedicated to the Virgin of Sorrows, in particular the surviving remnants of the chant competition, made possible by Philip's commitment to the devotion.