

Interdisziplinäres Symposium

Zur Typologie
liturgischer Bücher
des westlichen
Mittelalters
Regensburg
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Universität Regensburg
FAKULTÄT FÜR KATHOLISCHE THEOLOGIE

Large-scale digitization has lent urgency to an old and persistent question: the typology of liturgical books. The inadequacy of both medieval and modern labels to describe complex liturgical book types has rendered their succinct and accurate description in printed and online catalogues and repertories difficult, and this in turn has impeded systematic analysis and comparison of manuscript sources. The problem is not only a matter of scientific nomenclature however:

Focused studies of particular types of content in liturgical books (cycles of readings, calendars, prayer formulae, chant texts, musical notation) have borrowed and developed typologies with little attention to the relationships between different textual elements in single codicological units.

Theories regarding the relationship between book types and changes in liturgical performance or ecclesiology have been developed that at times seem to lack a clearly articulated relationship to the material evidence itself, and have rested upon too simple an understanding of the relationship between book design and book use.

A lack of clarity (or the imposition of an artificial clarity) about the typology of diverse sources has made it difficult to describe accurately chronological and regional developments in the organization and use of liturgical books as found in extant witnesses. While liturgical books are a fundamental source for the study of liturgical history, we have at times struggled to describe accurately what these books are.

It is to these questions that the proposed Symposium is addressed. Liturgical scholars and musicologists have been asked to identify problems and questions in the typology of liturgical sources, and to propose new directions in their particular areas of research. Special attention will be paid to composite sources and to the relationship between liturgical and literary tradition.

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