



PONTIFICAL INSTITUTE OF MEDIAEVAL STUDIES

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Donovan, Richard B. *The Liturgical Drama in Medieval Spain*. Studies and Texts 4. 1958; viii, 229 pp.; map. ISBN 0-88844-004-9 | 978-0-88844-004-4.

This work, the first comprehensive study of liturgical drama in medieval Spain, including its origins, is based on extensive and systematic research in the libraries of Spain and France and in the British Library in London.

The author presents not only the unedited dramatic texts which he has discovered in medieval Spanish manuscripts, but also any examples of Spanish liturgical drama known to him which have been previously edited, in the hopes of providing a convenient and relatively complete corpus of Spanish liturgical plays. It becomes apparent from this study that Catalonia was one of the great centres of liturgical drama in Europe; Castile was not. Donovan advances several hypotheses which might explain the failure of medieval liturgical drama to penetrate Castile on a large scale.

The bibliography includes a long list of over 500 liturgical manuscripts and a further 125 incunabula and early printed editions.

“Anyone undertaking to treat liturgical drama in its European context will be obliged to deal at length with its notable manifestations in northeastern Spain.”

– Ann Freeman, *Speculum*

“Ce livre est décidément important et marquera dans l’histoire du théâtre religieux.”

– A. Vermeylen, *Les lettres romanes*