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978-0-521-79243-1 - Women as Scribes: Book Production and Monastic Reform in Twelfth-Century Bavaria

Alison I. Beach

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## WOMEN AS SCRIBES

*Book Production and Monastic Reform in Twelfth-Century Bavaria*

Professor Beach's book on female scribes in twelfth-century Bavaria – the first full-length study of the role of women copyists in the Middle Ages – is underpinned by the notion that the scriptorium was central to the intellectual revival of the Middle Ages and that women played a role in this renaissance. The author examines the exceptional quantity of evidence of female scribal activity in three different religious communities, pointing out the various ways in which the women worked – alone, with other women, and even alongside men – to produce books for monastic libraries, and discussing why their work should have been made visible, whereas that of other female scribes remains invisible. Beach's focus on manuscript production, and the religious, intellectual, social, and economic factors which shaped that production, enables her to draw wide-ranging conclusions of interest not only to paleographers but also to those interested in reading, literacy, religious and gender history.

ALISON I. BEACH is Assistant Professor of Religion, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia.

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For David

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*Abbreviations*

AASS	Acta sanctorum . . . editio novissima
CLA	Lowe, Elias Avery, ed. <i>Codices latini antiquiores: A Palaeographical Guide to Latin Manuscripts prior to the Ninth Century</i> . Oxford, 1934–1966
Clm	<i>Codex latinus monacensis</i>
CSEL	Corpus scriptorum ecclesiasticorum Latinorum
JL	Jaffé, Philipp, <i>Regesta pontificum romanorum ab condita ecclesia ad annum post Christum natum MCXCVIII</i> . Second edition, corrected and supplemented by Samuel Loewenfeld, Ferdinand Kaltenbrunner, and Paul Ewald. 2 vols. Graz, 1956.
<i>LThK</i>	<i>Lexikon für Theologie und Kirche</i>
MBKg	<i>Mittelalterliche Bibliothekskataloge Deutschlands und der Schweiz</i> , vol. IV/2. ed. Günther Glauche and Hermann Knaus
MBKf	<i>Mittelalterliche Bibliothekskataloge Deutschlands und der Schweiz</i> , vol. III/1. ed. Paul Ruf
MGH	<i>Monumenta Germaniae Historica</i>
ÖMBK	<i>Mittelalterliche Bibliothekskataloge Österreichs</i> , vol. III, ed. G. Möser-Mersky
PL	<i>Patrologiae cursus completus: series latina</i> , ed. J. P. Migne, 221 vols., Paris, 1841–1864
RB 1980	<i>RB 1980: The Rule of Saint Benedict in Latin and English</i> , ed. Timothy Fry. Collegeville, MN, 1981
<i>StM</i>	<i>Studien und Mitteilungen zur Geschichte des Benediktiner-Ordens und seiner Zweige</i>