Recent Theses

The following theses touching on confraternities in Early Modern Europe are currently in progress or have been recently completed.

Thesis supervisor: Dr. Erin Jordan.
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Abstract: This study traces the origin and formative years of penitential confraternities through the examination of twelve confraternal rulebooks from the fourteenth to sixteenth centuries. This shows an idealized Sevillian society defined by religious affiliations based on confraternal membership requirements, processional structure, and services provided to members.

Supervisor: Prof. Herbert Kellman
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Abstract: In the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries, Paris was home to diverse liturgical chant traditions, which are represented in the surviving missals, manuals, processionals, and graduals used by ecclesiastical institutions and civic communities in the diocese. This study investigates the usage of Paris as represented in a group of service books produced by Parisian printers between 1480 and 1540, and manuscripts used in the cathedral, parish churches, and civic communities from the thirteenth through the sixteenth centuries. Additionally, the dissertation provides evidence that certain groups and individuals involved in different aspects of the book trade helped to shape liturgical practices in the city through their contact with ecclesiastical and civic communities, and the University. Through a detailed study of the music and texts for processions and offices performed during the feast of the Purification of the Virgin and Holy Week, which are found in diocesan service books, and twenty-five masses appearing in sources used by Parisian trade confraternities, whose liturgies have until now not been closely examined, this dissertation offers a more detailed conspectus than was hitherto available of the different liturgical practices in the diocese of Paris, and of the communities involved in shaping them in this period.