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Summary

CULTURAL DYNAMICS OF THE SOCIETY IN THE CONTEXT OF PROCESSES OF FORMATION AND DISINTEGRATION OF BENEDICTINE PROPERTIES IN RIO DE JANEIRO STATE (*BENEDICTINOS FLUMINENSES*) IN 1590–1820

Thanks to Edith Stein's phenomenology, philosophy (including philosophy of culture) cannot be perceived as a static knowledge, unconnected with other fields of life and science. Based on such an assumption, research on cultural dynamics associated with functioning of the Benedictine order, which is presented in this article, has been divided according to three theoretical problems. One of them is the appearance of Benedictines (the first ones in Brazil) in Rio de Janeiro state, treated not only in literal, physical sense, but also as a spiritual phenomenon. The next part focuses on territorial borders – the area belonging to the order and connected with its functioning. It describes donations which contributed to the creation of cohesive area of the order's properties as well as its activity. The last aspect that enables depiction of Benedictines' presence in a social as well as territorial and cultural context is existence and functioning of the house of slaves (*la casa de esclavos benedictina fluminense*). What is particularly worth describing in this respect is a specific relationship between "a master" and "a slave" (*señor y siervo*) and an opportunity for individual development of some slaves in accordance with their interests, as was the case of a master of painting, Antonio Teles, or organists, Matias (known only by his first name) and José Campistas. Without emphasizing a relationship between human actions and the area of a social group's activity, it would be impossible to point at the contribution of an institution to the heritage of the region to which it belonged. Dynamic presence of the order is illustrated with photos of São Bento church as well as a Benedictine monastery in Rio de Janeiro, being one of the most distinguished monuments of the metropolis, which is not only the evidence of bygone splendour, but also a centre of present Benedictine activity.