

Arnau de Vilanova: Opera, Reform, and Textual Transmission

Presentation: Dossier Description

This monographic dossier brings together a series of studies devoted to the work and reception of Arnau de Vilanova, with particular attention to his theological and spiritual writings, the historical and intellectual contexts in which they were produced, the doctrinal controversies within which they are situated, and the processes governing the textual transmission and reception of his thought. The contributions assembled here examine several of the fundamental components of the Arnaldian corpus from complementary historical, philological, doctrinal, and manuscript-based perspectives, while also analysing both the dissemination of Arnau's reformist and eschatological ideas and the diffusion and reinterpretation of his writings between the later Middle Ages and the Renaissance.

The research underlying the articles collected in this dossier has been carried out within the framework of two complementary projects: *Arnau de Vilanova between Medicine and Religion: Manuscripts, Edition and Database* (AVMedRel), funded by the Spanish State Research Agency (PID2023-146830NB-I00 / AEI / 10.13039/501100011033), and *Arnaldi de Villanova Opera Theologica Omnia* (AVOThO), incorporated into the *Corpus Philosophorum Medii Aevi* (vol. 9/5) and developed at the Institut d'Estudis Catalans in collaboration with the *Union Académique Internationale* (IEC-UAI; reference IEC-PR2023-1-PAT). Both projects have contributed substantially to the study of the manuscript tradition of Arnau de Vilanova's writings, to the preparation of new critical editions, and to the historical and doctrinal contextualisation of his theological production.

Taken together, the present dossier offers an articulated view of Arnau de Vilanova as an author situated at the centre of some of the principal religious and intellectual debates of the late medieval period, while also highlighting the persistence and transformation of his legacy in subsequent cultural contexts. The studies gathered here underscore both the complexity of the Arnaldian tradition and the enduring vitality of a body of work whose influence extended far beyond the immediate horizon of its original production.

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I

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Title: Eschatological Interpretations in Comparison: Arnau de Vilanova's *Gladius iugulans thomatistas* and the Doctrine of Thomas Aquinas

Abstract: This paper examines the eschatological controversy between Arnau de Vilanova and some exponents of the early Thomist tradition as presented in the *Gladius iugulans thomatistas* (1304). After outlining the historical context and aims of the work, it focuses on the central disagreement concerning the possibility of knowing in advance the time of the end and the coming of the Antichrist. Arnau's position, grounded in biblical exegesis and patristic authorities, is compared with the doctrine of Thomas Aquinas. The analysis shows that the polemic ultimately reflects two different conceptions of revelation and of its role in the history and the life of the Church.

II

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Títol: La *Philosophia catholica et divina* d'Arnau de Vilanova: sentit d'un tractat reformista i transmissió textual

Resum: Aquest article analitza la *Philosophia catholica et divina* d'Arnau de Vilanova (1302), un tractat reformista nascut de les seves previsions escatològiques que ofereix instruments per reconèixer i combatre l'Anticrist i els seus seguidors. L'estudi aprofundeix en el sentit teològic i l'estructura de l'obra, adreçada a les màximes autoritats del seu temps. Alhora, s'ofereix una profunda revisió de la transmissió textual a través de la tradició manuscrita, preparant el camí per a la seva futura edició crítica dins la col·lecció dels *Arnaldi de Villanova Opera Theologica Omnia*.

III

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Titolo: San Vittore di Marsiglia e Arnau de Vilanova: un primo percorso tra persone e documenti

Abstract: Il rapporto d'amicizia e forse collaborazione tra Arnau de Vilanova e l'abbazia di San Vittore di Marsiglia è noto, dalla composizione dell'*Expositio in Apocalypsi* all'elenco di testimoni nelle *Denunciationes Massilienses*. Questo contributo tenta di delineare le figure storicamente attestate di alcune persone citate in tali documenti, a partire da una ricerca condotta sulle fonti documentarie conservate nella serie 1 H 171-205 conservata nell'*Archives départementales des Bouches-du-Rhône*, mai precedentemente edite e/o ricondotte alle vicende arnaldiane a Marsiglia. Tra le figure individuate si discute di Marcellus Catalanus, Guillelmus Raynaudi, Petrus Picardi, Raymundus de Saunaco, Bertrandus de Relama e Hugo de Nivernis.

IV

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Títol: L'*Alia Informatio Beguinorum*, un exemple de literatura espiritual d'Arnau de Vilanova

Resum: En aquesta obra, escrita als darrers anys de la vida de l'autor, Vilanova palesa la vida espiritual del món beguï, tot fent esment a la pobresa dels captaires, així com al rebuig dels béns temporals, per a defensar una reforma espiritual amb què hom puga aprofundir en Crist, com a camí, però, que entén que ha de ser d'austeritat. En aquest sentit, estudiem la paraula de Vilanova a l'*Alia Informatio Beguinorum* (AIB), així com els lligams que hom pot establir en altres textos catalans de l'autor com són, per exemple, la *Confessió de Barcelona* (CB) o la *Lliçó de Narbona* (LN).

V

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Títol: Les fonts bíbliques al *De venenis* atribuït a Arnau de Vilanova

Resum: El *De venenis* és una obra atribuïda fins al moment a Arnau de Vilanova de principis del s. XIV. És possible que fos editada per Pedro Cellerario, el seu deixeble, que a partir dels seus apunts hauria ordenat el tractat. Ara bé, és una compilació mal organitzada en quatre parts en què es tracten diferents temes al voltant de les triagues. Les fonts primàries són extenses però en aquesta ocasió descobrirem les referències bíbliques, totes incloses dins de l'Antic Testament.

Paraules claus: *De venenis*, Arnau de Vilanova, Antic Testament, serps, bèsties mitològiques

Abstract: The *De venenis* is a work attributed to Arnau de Vilanova from the early 14th century. It is possible that it was edited by Pedro Cellerario, his disciple, who, from his notes, would have organised the treatise. However, it is a poorly organised compilation in four parts in which various topics concerning poisons are dealt with. The primary sources are extensive, but on this occasion, we will uncover the biblical references, all contained within the Old Testament.

Key words: *De venenis*, Arnau de Vilanova, Old Testament, snakes, mythological beasts

VI

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Títol: The medical manuscripts of Arnau de Vilanova's corpus at the Bibliotheca Amploniana in Erfurt

Abstract: Since 2013 the database of the Arnau DB project, based at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, has systematically compiled records of the manuscripts of all works attributed to Arnau. Within the scope of this initiative, the present article examines one of the main collections preserving medical works from the Arnaldian medical corpus: the one originating from the Bibliotheca Amploniana, currently held at the library of Erfurt University (Universitätsbibliothek Erfurt). This review focuses on the authorship of the works of the Arnaldian corpus transmitted by 36 manuscripts of the Amplonian collection, as well as the identification of some of them, particularly with regard to their proper cataloguing. The appendix provides a comprehensive list of all the codices and the works contained within each.

VII

Títol: La transmissió arnaldiana desde Giovanni Villani hasta Giovanni Francesco Pico della Mirandola

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Resumen: En época medieval, el cronista florentino Giovanni Villani mencionó las profecías de Arnau y su obra *De adventu Antichristi*. Antonino de Florencia fue el principal receptor de estas informaciones, aunque reprobó la posibilidad de conocer los tiempos finales. En época renacentista, el filósofo Giovanni Pico della Mirandola criticó a Arnau por la astrología, recibiendo las alabanzas de Girolamo Savonarola, y su sobrino Giovanni Francesco Pico della Mirandola rechazó las predicciones arnaldianas incluidas en la obra *De mysterio cymbalorum*. La difusión de los mencionados autores influyó en la recepción de Arnau de Vilanova y de su obra en Europa.

Palabras clave: Arnau de Vilanova; Giovanni Villani; Antonino de Florencia; Giovanni Pico della Mirandola; Girolamo Savonarola; Giovanni Francesco Pico della Mirandola.

Abstract: In medieval times, the Florentine chronicler Giovanni Villani mentioned Arnau's prophecies and his work *De adventu Antichristi*. Antoninus of Florence was the main recipient of this information, although he disapproved of the possibility of knowing the end times. During the Renaissance, the philosopher Giovanni Pico della Mirandola criticized Arnau for his astrology, receiving praise from Girolamo Savonarola, while his nephew Giovanni Francesco Pico della Mirandola rejected Arnau's predictions included in his work *De mysterio cymbalorum*. The dissemination of these authors' work influenced the reception of Arnau de Vilanova and his writings in Europe.

Keywords: Arnau de Vilanova; Giovanni Villani; Antoninus of Florence; Giovanni Pico della Mirandola; Girolamo Savonarola; Giovanni Francesco Pico della Mirandola.

VIII

Títol: Un cas de plagi: Pietro Galatino i la *Philosophia catholica et divina* d'Arnau de Vilanova

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Resum: Aquest article analitza la relació textual entre la *Philosophia catholica et divina* d'Arnau de Vilanova i el *De cognoscendis pestilentibus hominibus* de Pietro Galatino, redactat l'any 1524. A partir d'una comparació sistemàtica de diversos passatges, s'hi mostra que l'obra de Galatino constitueix un cas de plagi, atès que s'apropia del text arnaldia —estructura, tesis i nombrosos fragments literals— sense esmentar-ne la font ni l'autor. L'estudi examina els procediments d'aquesta apropiació i n'avalua les implicacions per a la transmissió i recepció del pensament escatològic arnaldia en època renaixentista.