
Sant Vicent Ferrer a Mallorca (1413–1414)

(Saint Vincent Ferrer in Mallorca, 1413–1414)

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Published as part of the celebration of the six centennial of the death of Saint Vincent Ferrer, this book pays tribute to the saint's preaching on the island of Mallorca, encompassing all types of testimony: historical, geographic, documentary, monumental and iconic. It seems incredible that the author was able to compile such a compact dossier comprising so few pages. He clearly drew from his knowledge of the historical geography of Mallorca, which enabled him to reconstruct what the Sant Domingo convent in Palma de Mallorca used to be like before and after in microscopic detail. He used the convent's accounts to document what lay behind the preaching, such as his companions' expenses, the preparation and dismantling of the scaffolds from which the saint preached and the cleaning of sites altered by events involving Saint Vincent. The minuteness of this study is on full display in the tables found on pages 69–74, where he lists the date and place of each sermon from 1 September 1413 until 22 January 1414, as well as his manuscript source.

The book is profusely illustrated with maps and drawings of the sites it mentions, in both Palma and other Mallorcan towns, including Pollença, Manacor and Binissalem. There are photographs of the cloister at Sant Domingo convent in Inca, a Vincentian reliquary in Sencelles, a painting of the saint in Sineu parish church, Vincentian woodcut prints by Guasp printers and even several pulpits from which Friar Vincent presumably preached. Thus, Rosselló offers an extensive array of information to complement the study of this historical and literary figure which will henceforth be essential when describing his actions on Mallorca. Furthermore, the detailed descriptions of how his missionary campaign was organised can serve as a guide for studying Saint Vincent's journeys through other towns in either the Catalan-speaking lands or further afield.