

News from Fanjeaux

☎/fax + 33 468788760
shop.fanjeaux@orange.fr
http://fanjeauxproject.op.org

S.H.O.P.
Boîte Postale n° 7
11270 FANJEAUX
France

N° 3

AUTUMN 2008

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Women historians	2
OP Holidaymakers	2
OP Anniversaries	2
Peruvian adventures	3
St Dominic's House	3
Book review	3
SHOP publications	4

Transatlantic collaborations for S.H.O.P.

At Fanjeaux we were very flattered to receive an invitation from Janet Welsh op, director of the Mc Greal Centre at Dominican University Chicago, to provide a keynote speaker at the 9th "In Our Keeping" symposium in June 2008.

As the Mc Greal Centre is very much a sister organization, we had always been keen to have a good working relationship with these transatlantic partners. They are working on the OPUS project and progressively publishing a detailed history of the Dominican family in the United States of America.

So in early June this year, Sr Barbara flew off to Chicago and the splendid Dominican University campus at River Forest, founded by the Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters. Her talk was entitled "The Study of History in

the Transmission of Dominican Values.," in which she stressed the importance of history as a means of accessing the full Dominican identity. The Mc Greal Centre plans to publish Sr Barbara's talk in booklet form; it is also on the Dom-life website.

The participants (sisters, friars and laity) were a mixture of archivists, historians and people simply interested in our history.

During the course of the week, Sr Barbara also directed a workshop session on the activities of the S.H.O.P. project.

(For further transatlantic adventures, see p.3 inside.)



Srs Janet Welsh, Barbara Beaumont and participants at the "In Our Keeping" Conference, Chicago in June.



New sisters in residence at S.H.O.P. headquarters in Fanjeaux this autumn

In September Sr Patricia Hannan op, of New Zealand Dominican Sisters, arrived to join the SHOP team for three months. A highly qualified canon lawyer with a great interest in history, Sr Patricia has been working hard on revising and updating the catalogue of the ever growing library at the Fanjeaux study facility. It is hoped

that this catalogue will soon be published on the S.H.O.P. website.

In early October she was joined by Sr Gabrielle Sambre op of the Fichermont Congregation, Belgium. Her IT skills are being put to good use, as she has joined the team working on the transcription of the manuscript life of Mère Marguerite de

Jésus de Senaux, the 17th century foundress of the first two Dominican monasteries in Paris. Sr Gabrielle is also acting as guide at the House of St Dominic in Fanjeaux. (see page 3).

Sr Marie Bruno Imbert op of the Gramond Congregation (France) continues to visit regularly and helps in a multitude of ways.



Sisters Gabrielle (above) and Patricia (below)



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *New publications*
- *Become a member of the S.H.O.P. Association*
- *The international dimension of Dominican history*

The Monasticon Matrix Project and a symposium for women historians of monasticism in Brittany

An unusual symposium was organized in July this year by the Department of Religion, History and Gender Studies of the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, which originated the Monasticon Matrix on-line bibliographies, for the study of the history of monasticism.

Firstly the location was out of the ordinary: a fairytale castle in the middle of a lake, in the beautiful Breton countryside. The 10 women scholars who participated were, in equal numbers, Europeans (English, Belgian, Italian and Macedonian) and Americans, and specialists in the history of either Buddhist or Christian female monasticism in the pre-modern period.

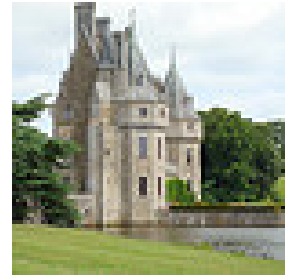
This very special occasion was generously funded by the Borchard foundation, Southern California, which regularly sponsors such international scholarly exchanges. The title of the symposium was “Religious Women in the Pre-modern world—new vocabularies for cross-cultural study.” Each participant prepared a paper which was distributed in advance to the others, and the time at La Bretesche was spent in discussion of each other’s work, with Professor Lisa Bitel in the chair.

Sr Barbara of S.H.O.P. spoke on “Historiography and mythology in the study of the medieval religious woman”, using Prouilhe as a case study. It is planned that these papers will be published.

(The Monasticon Matrix website can be consulted at: <http://monasticmatrix.org>)



Historians of monasticism at work in the fairytale Château de la Bretesche



A gift of books from Parable, USA

It was with great regret that we learnt of the closure of the Parable office in Chicago. The Lands of Dominican pilgrims are such a familiar site in Fanjeaux during the summer months—they will be missed.

The staff generously offered to S.H.O.P. whichever of the books in their library we did not already have, and in due course a sizeable parcel arrived. Its contents have enhanced considerably the section on North American Dominican women in the S.H.O.P. library.

Dutch Dominicans holiday at SHOP

Sr Holkje van der Weer of the Congregation of the Holy Family, Neerbosch, Netherlands, spent vacation time in Fanjeaux this July with two young aspirants to Dominican life.

It was their first time visiting the Dominican holy places, and they thoroughly enjoyed the discoveries they made about our history, as well as the climate of the South West, to say nothing of local gastronomy!

Other holidaymakers are welcome!



Sr Holkje and Paula at Fanjeaux

Anniversaries and Jubilees

Obviously there has been much talk recently of the 800th anniversary of the founding of the monastery at Prouilhe, and rightly so. But other communities have also chalked

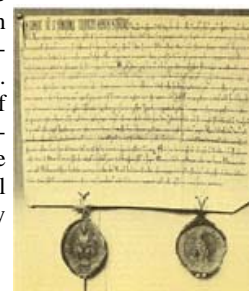
up significant landmarks this year.

In particular, this spring the monastery at Regensburg, Bavaria, in Germany celebrated the 775th anniversary of its foundation. And in contrast to Prouilhe, the sisters have been there without interruption since 1233. Not that they escaped persecution completely. To conform with demands of public utility they were required to found a school in the 18th century. The school still exists, and the monastery alongside it.

< Regensburg, Germany >

One of the monasteries in what we habitually call the New World celebrated its 300th anniversary this year—Sta Rosa in Lima Peru, founded on the site of a house where St Rosa spent her last years. These

sisters also have an unbroken record during this time., as do three other Dominican monasteries in Peru, the oldest of which is at Arequipa, founded in 1579. (See photograph of St Rose’s shrine, Lima, in the photo top right, p.3.)



Young Nuns of Peru Study Dominican History

Via the promoter of nuns, a request was received from the Federation of Dominican monasteries in Peru for a course on the early history of the Order of Preachers and the place of the nuns in the Order.

Once Fr Brian Pierce op agreed to act as interpreter, Sr Barbara accepted the idea of making such a long journey, as it was possible to combine it with the trip to Chicago.

The enthusiasm and attentiveness of the thirty-seven young sisters in the class made the whole undertaking eminently worthwhile. During the week subjects such as the history of the constitutions of Dominican nuns and the history of the form of profession were studied.

For the final day of the course, each monastery had prepared a presentation of its own history. These were excellently done and the sisters

promised to write them down. So we look forward to having them on the shelves of the S.H.O.P. library before too long.

Particularly interesting is the history of the monastery at Cuzco, built on the site of an Inca temple of virgins consecrated to the sun god. In all of these histories, mention was repeatedly made of how the monasteries had been destroyed by earthquakes over the course of the centuries. They remain an ever present danger.



Sisters from these 5 monasteries at Lima, Cuzco and Arequipa attended the Dominican history course with Sr Barbara in June.



SHOP sisters help with visits to the House of St Dominic



The SH.O.P. sisters are fortunate in being able to assist in the welcoming of pilgrims to the House of St Dominic. It is Sr Gabri-



elle who is particularly responsible for this ministry. Already for a good number of years she had been assisting Fr Elie-Pascal Epinoux op, guardian of the house, during the summer.

It is hoped that with a greater degree of co-ordination amongst all involved, including

the local tourist office, we will be able to offer inclusive visits of all the Dominican holy places at Fanjeaux and Prouilhe before too long.

It is surprising how many people are keen to visit these sites, even at this time of year. In the last week, for example, we have had visitors from Nigeria and Russia as well as a large group of young people from Toulouse.



New Book on op Women Saints by Spanish Nun

Sr Irene Benavente Eyriey op, born in Argentina and now a nun at the monastery of Orihuela, Spain, is to be highly congratulated on the magnificent volume she has compiled to mark the 800th anniversary of the beginnings of Dominican nuns at Prouilhe.

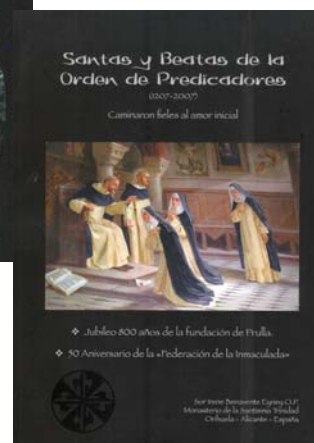
The book is entitled *Santas y Beatas de la Orden de Predicadores (1207-2007)* (Women saints and blessed of the Order of Preachers). With over 400 pages, it is a mine of useful information about our illustrious forebears. Sr Irene approaches the subject by the branch of the order to which the

saints belonged, and in chronological order.

There are a great number of very attractive coloured illustrations, so even if you have little Spanish, you will get a lot out of this beautiful book, published by the "Federation of the Immaculate" grouping of nuns in Spain, it is available from the bookshop at Prouilhe, price 60 €

Contact Sr Lioba op at:

magasindeprouilhe@wanadoo.fr





sister historians of the order of preachers

S.H.O.P.
Boîte Postale n° 7
11270 FANJEAUX
France

Phone / Fax: + 33 4 68788760
E-mail:
shop.fanjeaux@orange.fr

S.H.O.P. officeholders:

PRESIDENT

Sr Mary O'Driscoll op
(Cabra, Dublin, Ireland)

SECRETARY

Sr Patricia Dougherty op
(San Rafael, California, USA)

TREASURER

Sr Barbara Beaumont op
(Herne, Belgium)

**Become a member
of the S.H.O.P.
Association!**

It is easy! Send us a note of
your name and address (by e-
mail or by post) and send

20 € (by post — cash or
cheque, or by bank transfer).

You will then receive our
newsletter regularly and be
informed of publications and
events. You can also make use
of the facilities —
accommodation and library —
at Fanjeaux.

All donations are most
gratefully received — they go
towards acquiring new books
for the library devoted to the
history of Dominican women.

**The Association of Sister Historians of the Order
of Preachers is defined in its statutes as: “a re-
source for documentation, communication
and formation at the service of Dominican
women, religious and lay, through the study of
their histories.”**



We're on the web!
[http://
fanjeauxproject.op.org](http://fanjeauxproject.op.org)

*Would you be interested in an on-
line second hand book exchange?
Offer your duplicate copies to a
good home and find that book
you've been looking for!
If so, contact S.H.O.P.*

**S.H.O.P.'s first
publication is out!**

In response to interest expressed in the articles
that appeared monthly in IDI during the Prouilhe jubilee
year, it was decided to bring them out in volume form.

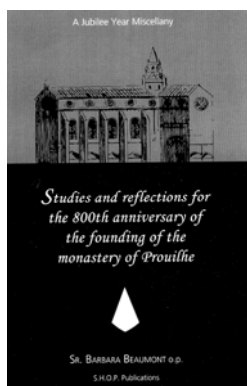
The texts were revised and completed and
several appropriate illustrations added, and to complete
the volume, a newly compiled bibliography for the study
of the history of the monastery of Prouilhe was included.

The production was entrusted to the CIACO
printers at Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, who have been
associated with *Mémoire Dominicaine* for the last ten
years.

Forthcoming Publication

**MÉMOIRE
DOMINICAINE**

Issue N° 23 of *Mémoire
Dominicaine* will come out
in November. It will be
devoted to the proceedings
of the historical colloquium
entitled “Prouilhe dans le
siècle de sa foundation”
(Prouilhe in the century of
its foundation) held at the
monastery in September
2008 to mark the jubilee of
its foundation. Price: 30€



*Studies and reflections for the
800th anniversary of the found-
ing of the monastery of Prouilhe*
by Sr Barbara Beaumont
S.H.O.P. publications

**Available
by post from
S.H.O.P.
price 10 €
+ p & p**

**SHOP is willing to pass
on orders.**

**For donations and subscriptions :
Sœurs Historiennes Ordre des Prêcheurs
La Banque Postale, Montpellier
IBAN : FR7520041010090990467R03054
BIC : psstfrppmon**