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Regesta Ordinis Fratrum Minorum Conventualium, I: (1488-1494). Edited by Gustavo Parisciani. (Fonti e Studi Francescani, I, 1.) Pp. cvii+568. Padua: Centro Studi Antoniani, 1989. L. 95,000. 88 85155 04 9

Inventario e registri dell'archivio del Sacro Convento d'Assisi. Edited by Silvestro Nessi. (Fonti e Studi Francescani, III, 2.) Pp. liv+372. Padua: Centro Studi Antoniani, 1991. L. 90,000. 88 85155 09 X

Students of Franciscan history will welcome the publication of these two texts which illuminate the history both of the order at the end of the fifteenth century and of the rich archive of the Sacro Convento, the friary adjacent to the basilica of St Francis in Assisi. Gustavo Parisciani's edition of the register of Francis Sansone, minister-general of the Friars Minor Conventual, for the years 1488-94, is the first extant register of the ministers-general. (From an early date the friars were required to keep the official documents of the order in a secure place and the ministers-general compiled registers, which they presented to the general chapter.) Parisciani's introduction describes earlier research on Sansone's registers by Fr Abate and provides biographical information. He then discusses the government of the order with its various reforms, the life of the Poor Clares and the tertiaries, Sansone's administration and the life of the friars. The two registers record various appointments and permissions granted by the minister-general and these are arranged by provinces, first south and then north of the Alps. The cisalpine provinces generally have much fuller entries: for instance the Roman province has sixty-eight entries for the period 1488-91 while the province of Hungary has ten. Silvestro Nessi traces the origins of the archive of the Sacro Convento, the inventories made of charters in 1352 and 1593, the dispositions

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regarding the maintenance of the documents ordered by the ministers-general in 1597, 1600 and 1618, and the inventory made by Fr Papini. The main chapters contain a summary of the papal bulls issued between 1220 and 1820, legal instruments from the twelfth to the eighteenth centuries and the series of registers dealing with aspects of the administration of the friary. The archive contains 487 papal letters; 39 of these date from the pontificate of Gregory IX who issued several important documents respecting the life of the new order. The last letter in the series, dated 5 September 1820, confirms the recent rediscovery of the body of St Francis in the rock beneath the high altar. The collection of 1,059 notarial instruments had been bound together in the eighteenth century. The seventh text is of particular interest since it records Simon of Pucciarello's donation of the site for the new church on 30 March 1228. Many of the instruments were made in the churches of Assisi, including the new basilica, and record donations made to the friars. The collection is followed by some letters from cardinal protectors, Franciscan prelates and custodians of the Sacro Convento between the fifteenth and nineteenth centuries. The series of 471 registers covers diverse aspects of the friary's administration, such as episcopal jurisdiction in the diocese of Assisi, the cost of building works in the basilica, the preservation of the archive, churches dependent upon the basilica, confraternities, contracts, almsgiving, the infirmary, the novitiate, the celebration of masses, Rivotorto, the Portiuncula, the sacristy, funeral offices, sales, clothing and various miscellaneous items.