
COMMENTARIES

INNOVATIVE CLASSIFICATION

The book *From page to page: catchwors in handwritten and printed books from the 16th to the 19th centuries*, by the doctor Elizangela Dias, is an important contribution to studies in the area of Philology and Codicology, as it deals with a subject little addressed with the depth that is observed in this work. The care in the selection of printed and manuscript texts, as well as the thorough analysis of the object in question, the claims, culminates in an innovative classification proposal. It is a fundamental work those who deal with handwritten and printed texts and who are interested in the history of writing more broadly. Answer also to an audience made up of undergraduate students from the áreas related to Philology, such as Letters and History, for example. It is worth highlighting the excellent selection and the treatment given to the images in the volume, in addition to the contributions brought to the field of Codicology, which has few works in Portuguese.

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SOURCES OF HISTORICAL INFORMATION

It is possible to know the past by reading books of History. But, after all, where the authors of these books learned what do you know about the past? In the “handwritten texts” it would be the right answer. For scholars of Brazilian history and also for the less conformed onlookers, those who do not are content with the reported speech of the books, the manuscripts represent the source of our past, where our ancestors left their legacy. Our colonial history is all written hand. That’s because until the arrival of the Royal Family to Brazil, here there were no authorized printers. Handwriting assumed more than that knowledge of writing, required the scribe to organize with accurately the material where the text was carefully drawn with the tip of a bird’s feather soaked in boiling ink. For (that) maintain the correct order of the pages, organized in a different from the current one, they used the “advertisements”, cunning pieces of words that can confuse unwary readers. Understand this artisanal resource of the writers of the past is indispensable to who wants to know history through the voices of those who no longer live in flesh and blood, but continue to speak by the design of their hands.

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THE KEYNOTE OF THIS WORK

From survey in handwritten and printed texts from the 16th to the 19th centuries, Elizângela Dias emerges when looking of the modern reader graphic expedients prior to the pagination that aimed to contribute to the organization of the book: the signature and the claim, accurately studying the latter.

To do so, part of the focus based on Codicology and Material Bibliography, tabulate the occurrences of the corpus and describe them, contextualizing them codicologically and bibliographically. Besides presenting the signature concept, reviews in this work the conceptualization general complaint, graphic element widely used in clipping proposed time limit and establishes a typology of the occurrences found in the analyzed corpus.

Here is the keynote of his work: in addition to offering to the specialist a typologization of complaints, contributes at the same time for the intellectual increase of those who are interested by written culture.

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