

Work Package 2

Historical Documentation: Census and Analyses

Task_2.1 Archive research on historical records: develop accurate research on historical records produced by or related to Franciscan Order in Portuguese, Italian and Castilian archives.

Task_2.2 Historical reconstruction and definition of a timeline: identify the main bibliographic references, analyze, study, digitalize and catalogue the historical archive documentation in order to identify the main evolutionary stages of the Order between Italy, Spain and Portugal.

Task_2.3 Identification of case studies to be deepened: through the study of the history and evolution of the architecture of the order, to identify the case studies that need an adequate deepening.

Output O4 - Digitisation of archival material (catalogue), O5 - Historical reconstruction (publication), O6 - Identification of case studies (list)

[O4] The research carried out within WP2 aimed to provide historical and archival documentation and define the main phases of the evolution of Observant Franciscan architecture.

In Italy, the research activity involved archives and libraries in Tuscany and Umbria to identify bibliographic and documentary material on the Observant Franciscan convents in Umbria, selected as case studies. Part of the material was digitised for analysis and study, also to publish scientific articles on the history of the convents and their relationships with the surrounding environment. Specifically, the research focused on the Historical Archive of the Patriarchal Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli in Assisi and other institutions where documentation related to the studied convents is preserved. It is noteworthy that, even following the suppression of religious institutions during the Napoleonic and Unification periods, the documentation related to the selected Observant Franciscan convents remained at their respective locations, later converging — at different times and in different ways — in Assisi, at the Provincial Historical Archive. The same location also houses the Historical Archive of the Seraphic Province of St. Francis of Assisi of the Friars Minor in Umbria, established in 1946 through the merger of the two previous Observant provinces of Umbria: that of St. Francis and that of St. Clare. The reorganisation of the documents, started in 2004, resulted in a printed inventory (Maiarelli A. (ed.) *The Historical Archive of the Seraphic Province of St. Francis of Assisi of the Friars Minor in Umbria, Inventory of the Closed Convents Section (1230-2004)*, Assisi, Porziuncola Editions, 2005). This archive includes the Closed Convents Section, “comprising 49 archives from as many convents belonging to the Observant provinces of Umbria, also located outside the current administrative boundaries of the region”, which were concentrated at the provincial headquarters following the suppression of religious orders and closures that occurred during the 19th century. The documentation is extensive and covers a chronological span from 1230 to 2004. The research also extended to consulting library material at various libraries (National Central Library of Florence, Library of Santa Croce in Florence, Provincial Library of the Friars Minor in Florence, and the main public libraries of Perugia, Assisi, Foligno, and Gualdo Tadino), allowing the digitisation and sharing of relevant content for the compilation of information sheets and the production of scientific articles. In summary, the research activity provided access to a wide range of documentation related to the Observant Franciscan convents, enabling in-depth studies on the history and daily life over the centuries (particularly concerning the architectural complexes, such as construction, renovation, and expansion works, patrimonial states, and the relationships established by the convents with their environment and territory, especially regarding the use of modest patrimonial resources, communication routes, and urban settlements).

Project PCI2020-112005 funded by:



In Portugal, the research team at the Centre for the Study of Religious History at the Portuguese Catholic University (UCP-CEHR) undertook a thorough historical investigation into the origins of the Franciscan Observance in the Portuguese kingdom between 1390 and the last decades of the 15th century, according to the following phases:

a) Bibliographic research on the Franciscan Observance, its establishment in Portugal, and the convents studied within the project, using Zotero software;

b) Inventory of available printed sources, including chronicles and other commemorative or normative documentation produced in the context of the Franciscan Order in Portugal regarding the Observance;

c) Inventory of existing manuscript sources in Portuguese archives. In this context, both the systematic census of the scant surviving documentation in the archives of the studied convents or their respective provinces and the funds of other linked entities, secular or ecclesiastical, were considered. The documentary investigation covered the following archives and collections:

- Arquivo Nacional da Torre do Tombo (National Archives, Lisbon): the collections of Gavetas da Torre do Tombo and Chancelarias Régias, both integrated into the Crown Archive, for the reigns of João I, Duarte, Afonso V, João II, and Manuel I; the collections associated with the Order of Friars Minor and the processes of dissolution of the studied convents, preserved in the Historical Archive of the Ministry of Finance;

- Arquivo Distrital de Braga (Braga District Archive): the research focused on the collections of the convents of Santo António de Caminha, Nossa Senhora da Ínsua de Caminha, and São Paio do Monte de Vila Nova de Cerveira; the investigations conducted in the various drawers associated with the archives of the archdiocese and its chapter proved of little use;

- Arquivo Distrital do Porto (Oporto District Archive): the collections associated with the convent of Nossa Senhora da Conceição de Matosinhos and the provinces of Soledade and Conceição were examined.

- Biblioteca Pública Municipal do Porto (Porto Municipal Public Library): part of the handwritten chronicle by Friar José de S. Rosa, entitled *Aerario Chronologico*, which merits closer analysis in the future, was identified.

- To complete the research, the following archives were also consulted: Arquivo Histórico Militar, Arquivo Histórico Municipal de Viana do Castelo, Arquivo Distrital de Leiria, and Arquivo Distrital de Viseu, where some more dispersed documentary data were collected.

d) Transcription and edition of late-medieval commemorative texts produced within the Portuguese Observant Movement:

- Arquivo Distrital de Braga, Fundo Monástico-Conventual, Convento de Santa Maria da Ínsua, F5. This is described as an inventory of the Archive of Santa Maria da Ínsua, with records and inventories of the convent from the late 15th century.

- Arquivo Distrital do Porto, Convento de Nossa Senhora da Conceição de Matosinhos, Livro 3. This book refers to the Observant convent of S. Clemente das Penhas, later Nossa Senhora da

Conceição, near Matosinhos and the activity of Friar João da Póvoa, who governed the Observant province for several decades in the second half of the 15th century.

The innovative character of these records lies in the richness and specificity of the information they contain. They include inventories of liturgical objects, vestments, and books, information on the foundation of convents and their benefactors, lists of friars who took vows or professed, lists of observant vicars and records of their acts, as well as other events related to the convents or their surroundings, such as attacks, confiscations or raids, thefts of goods or fires, storms, and other natural incidents.

In Spain, research was conducted in close collaboration with municipalities, regional deputations, and other institutions responsible for the custody and preservation of both the built structures and the rich archival heritage: Municipality of Chelva, Franciscan Province of Valencia, Diputació de Tarragona, Catalan Agency for Cultural Heritage of the Generalitat of Catalonia, Archive of the Franciscan Province of Valencia, Archive-Library of the Franciscans of Catalonia.

[05] List of scientific articles published on the specific topic “Historical documentation: census and analysis”:

- Cottini, A., Guarducci, A., & Salvestrini, F. (2023). I frati Minori e la regolare Osservanza: storia, diffusione, insediamenti. Primi report da una ricerca in corso. In R. Ravesi, R. Ragione, S. Colaceci (eds.) *Rappresentazione Architettura Storia — La diffusione degli ordini religiosi in Italia e nei Paesi del Mediterraneo tra Medioevo ed Età Moderna*, tomi I-II, Atti del Convegno Internazionale 10-11 maggio 2021.
- Bertocci, S., Ferrari, F., & Cioli, F. (2023). L’architettura dell’Osservanza Francescana: il caso studio del Convento di San Bartolomeo di Marano. In R. Ravesi, R. Ragione, S. Colaceci (Eds.), *Rappresentazione Architettura Storia — La diffusione degli ordini religiosi in Italia e nei Paesi del Mediterraneo tra Medioevo ed Età Moderna*, tomi I-II, Atti del Convegno Internazionale 10-11 maggio 2021.
- Salvestrini, F. (2024). Franciscan Observance in Italy. In S. Bertocci & F. Cioli (Eds.) *Franciscan Landscapes: Conservation, Protection and Use of Religious Cultural Heritage in the Digital Era. Proceedings of F-ATLAS Conference*. didapress.
- Soler Sala, M., Jornet Benito, N., & Garì de Aguilera, B. (2024). Promoting the Franciscan Observance. Reformist models in the Crown of Aragon between the middle ages and the modern time (14th-16th century). In S. Bertocci & F. Cioli (Eds.) *Franciscan Landscapes: Conservation, Protection and Use of Religious Cultural Heritage in the Digital Era. Proceedings of F-ATLAS Conference*. didapress.
- Andrade, M. F., Ingles Fontes, J. L., & Teixeira Alves, C. F. (2024). Looking at the origins of the Franciscan Observant communities in medieval Portugal: the testimony of their first known written memories. In S. Bertocci & F. Cioli (Eds.) *Franciscan Landscapes: Conservation, Protection and Use of Religious Cultural Heritage in the Digital Era. Proceedings of F-ATLAS Conference*. didapress.
- Guarducci, A. (2024). New contents on the convents of the Franciscan Observance in Umbria (Italy): examples from an ongoing research on the historical archival documentation. In S. Bertocci & F. Cioli (Eds.) *Franciscan Landscapes: Conservation, Protection and Use of Religious Cultural Heritage in the Digital Era. Proceedings of F-ATLAS Conference*. didapress.

Project PCI2020-112005 funded by:



[O6] The most paradigmatic case studies for each country were subsequently selected: Convento del Sacro Speco di San Francesco (Narni, Umbria, Italy); Convento della Porziuncola in Santa Maria degli Angeli (Assisi, Umbria, Italy); Convento della Santissima Annunziata (Gualdo Tadino (PG), Umbria, Italy); Convento di San Bartolomeo (Foligno (PG), Umbria, Italy); Convento di San Damiano (Assisi (PG), Umbria, Italy); Convento di San Francesco del Monte o Monteripido (Perugia (PG), Umbria, Italy); Convento di San Francesco di Monteluco (Spoleto (PG), Umbria, Italy); Eremo delle Carceri (Assisi (PG), Umbria, Italy); La Romita di Cesi (Narni (TR), Umbria, Italy); Convento Nossa Senhora da Ínsua (Caminha, Norte, Portugal); Convento Santa Maria de Mosteiró (Valença, Norte, Portugal); Convento Sao Francisco do Monte (Viana do Castelo, Norte, Portugal); Convento São Paio do Monte (Vila Nova de Cerveira, Norte, Portugal); Castell Monestir de Sant Miquel d'Escornalbou (Riudecanyes, Catalonia, Spain); Convento de San Francisco (Chelva, Valencian Community, Spain). The research activities conducted on the listed convent complexes are described in the subsequent WPs.

Project PCI2020-112005 funded by:

