Abstract

The author examines the presence and activity of librarians in the Benedictine abbey of Saint-Sépulcre in Cambrai in northern France, at the end of the fifteenth century. During this period, in the southern Low Countries, the monastic world was undergoing a wide-ranging process of renewal, related to the Observance, which was accompanied by a new production and circulation of books intended for the reformed abbeys. As a result, many monasteries increased the size of their libraries and needed to re-organize them. By examining traces of ownership and use (summaries, ex libris, tags etc.) found in the fifteenth-century manuscripts belonging to Saint-Sépulcre, the author defines the tasks of the armarius of the abbey and his role within the community. The article sheds light on two librarians who worked in succession in the abbey between the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries and described the signs of their activity in the library at the end of the medieval period.