

**UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI SALERNO  
DIPARTIMENTO DI STUDI UMANISTICI  
DOTTORATO DI RICERCA IN:  
ITALIANISTICA. LA LETTERATURA TRA AMBITI STORICO-GEOGRAFICI ED  
INTERFERENZE DISCIPLINARI  
(XII CICLO)**



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**TESI DI DOTTORATO IN  
STORIA DEL MONACHESIMO BASILIANO IN CAMPANIA.  
ANALISI DEL PATRIMONIO FONDIARIO DI TRE ABBAZIE  
ATTRAVERSO LO STUDIO DELLE PLATEE DEI BENI  
(SECOLI XVII-XVIII)  
ABSTRACT**

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The research project entitled *History of the Basilian monasticism in Campania. Analysis of the estates of three abbeys by the study of the inventory of assets (XVII-XVIII centuries)*, is the natural continuation of a study on the events of the Basilian monastery of “San Giovanni a Piro”, located in the lower part of Salerno, in the Gulf of Policastro, topic treated in the dissertation for a Master.

So, we founded most of the documents and information about other Italian-Greek monastic institutions located nearby and we wondered if there really was a Basilian monasticism of the modern age implanted and developed in the Campania region, more precisely in the south of the Principato Citra.

Scrolling down the bibliography on the most authoritative and scientifically relevant works (Mario Scaduto, *Il monachesimo basiliano nella Sicilia medievale*; Biagio Cappelli, *Il monachesimo basiliano ai confini calabro-lucani*; Silvano Borsari, *Il monachesimo bizantino nella Sicilia e nell'Italia prenormanne*) they have focused on the study of the dynamics of the phenomenon in medieval times, related, mostly, to the regions of the extreme south of the peninsula: Sicily, Calabria and Basilicata. The objective of this work is to move forward the discussion, i.e. analyzing the “historical and geographical ambits” from a new point of view of time and space, in order to propose a study of the Basilian monasticism in Campania of the modern age.

The main sources chosen for the survey were the inventory of assets of the three monasteries, each of which is used as a case-study of a micro-area: the abbey of “Santa Maria di Pattano” for the Cilento, the monastery of “San Pietro a Tumusso di Montesano” for the Vallo of Diano and the cenoby of “San Giovanni a Piro” for the Gulf of Policastro. These documentary sources – all more or less of the same period, compiled between the late XVII and the early XVIII – have been used to develop a socio-economic profile, not only of the monasteries that have produced them, but also of the areas where these institutions arose and had landed holdings. From the inventory of assets, it was decided to extract the most significant informations to draw a comprehensive overview of the society and of those feuds that belonged to the monastic heritage.

In this work, we opted for a specific methodological choice: to examine inventory of assets, not only to reconstruct the richness and texture of the real estate assets – especially landed – of the three monasteries selected as case-studies, but to understand if and what influences had the three institutions on the surrounding social and agricultural reality. The comparison of the three inventory of assets looked as a good method to start a new research hypotheses, using as starting point the survey on religious bodies, and then broaden our vision on the investigation of the changes that the phenomenon Basilian monasticism has produced *tout-court*.

The sources examined were produced in the same period, in the period of the 26 years between the writing of the inventory of assets of the monastery of "San Giovanni a Piro" and that of the abbey of "Santa Maria di Pattano" (1696-1722). A homogeneity of the "historical- geographical areas" that helps the analysis of the data collected and that allows to reach some final conclusions that can be extended to the whole area under consideration. The data will help prove the thesis that, in the modern age, the Basilian monasticism still retained considerable economic strength, but also a real impact on the agricultural landscape of Campania and on the life of people living in the areas where the monastic institution had holdings.

The research, after a general introduction on the history of the Basilian monasticism and the history of its founder, aims to study the three monasteries object of our analysis: San Giovanni a Piro, Pattano and Montesano, located in the lower part of Salerno. The second part of the work is the focal and original point of the work focused on the documentary sources. By the analysis of the inventory of assets we reconstructed the extension and composition of the estates, the quantity and quality of the real estates and the management of the incomes of the three monasteries during the modern age. The thesis deals with disputes that arose as a result of usurpation of jurisdiction of some territories and the relationship between the "Basilian world" and the reality feudal. The central themes of this analysis are the definition of the structure and consistency of the income, the dialectic between abbots, bishops and barons in the scenario of Campania, the relationship between the ecclesiastical Basilian feudal and the broad category of its subordinates – tenants, farmers, peasants –, the managements of the monastic structures and the implications that they had in the formation and modification of the country of the Citra Principality.

The aim of this thesis is to address and clarify a shadow that enveloped the historiographical category "monasticism Basilian," investigating it in periods that have not yet been treated through archival sources inexplicably neglected by historians who have previously dealt with the matter. For the full achievement of the goal, it was decided to establish the existence – with completely original properties – of a new type of monasticism: a Basilian monasticism of the modern age.