

Título / Title: **O testamento de Pedro Domingues, 1335: a fundação de uma capela em honra de D. Branca, infanta de Portugal, na igreja de Santa Justa de Coimbra**  
/ **The bequest of Pedro Domingues, 1335: the foundation of a chapel in honour of Dona Branca, princess of Portugal, in the church of Santa Justa of Coimbra**

Autor(es): **Maria Amélia Álvaro de Campos**

Universidade / University: **Universidade de Coimbra / Universidade de Évora**

Faculdade e Departamento / Unidade de Investigação – Faculty and Department /

Research Center: **Centro de História da Sociedade e da Cultura / Centro Interdisciplinar de História, Culturas e Sociedades**

Código Postal / Postcode: **3030-482**

Cidade / City: **Coimbra**

País / Country: **Portugal**

Email: **melicampos@gmail.com**

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## Resumo

Em 1335, Pero Domingues, que se identifica como criado e escudeiro da Infanta D. Branca, faz o seu testamento, no qual funda uma capela para celebrar a sua alma, a alma dos seus familiares e a alma da infanta D. Branca de Portugal. Este artigo apresenta um estudo de caso e publica o referido testamento. Mais do que a análise da atitude do Homem medieval perante a morte, pretende-se problematizar a função desta capela na projecção social de uma família da aristocracia urbana. Para tal, problematizaremos especialmente a singularidade da associação do nome da infanta portuguesa à celebração da referida capela.

**Palavras-chave:** Sociedade medieval portuguesa, paróquia urbana, testamento medieval, família real portuguesa

## Abstract

In 1335, Pedro Domingues, who identified himself as servant and squire of Dona Branca, princess of Portugal, made his will in which founded one chapel to celebrate his soul, the soul of his family and the soul of the princess Dona Branca. This paper presents a case study and it publishes the palaeographic transcription of the original testamentary will. More than the analysis of the behaviour of medieval society towards the dead, we want to question the function of this chapel in the social mobility of one family from the urban oligarchy. For this purpose we will specially question the particularity of the association of the name of the princess to the chapel in analysis.

**Keywords:** Portuguese medieval society, urban parish, medieval testamentary will, Portuguese royal family



## **The bequest of Pedro Domingues, 1335: the foundation of a chapel in honour of Dona Branca, princess of Portugal, in the church of Santa Justa of Coimbra**

*Maria Amélia Álvaro de Campos*

This paper will explore how, in the second quarter of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, a chapel was founded, for the soul of a Portuguese *infanta* (princess), in an urban parochial church characterized by a very tenuous relationship with the nobility – a social group appearing very rarely among its parishioners and benefactors<sup>1</sup>. This work is part of a wider research project, the theme of my doctoral dissertation on the parochial church of Santa Justa of Coimbra, focusing both on its pastoral functions and on the commemoration of the dead<sup>2</sup>.

The first part of this paper introduces the church of Santa Justa of Coimbra (12th-15th century) and the social character of its clerics and lay parishioners; the testament of Pedro Domingues, who identifies himself as squire and servant of the princess Dona Branca; and the life and family relationships of the Princess. The second part discusses this information in detail with the aim of defining the social origins of the testator, questioning and refining the implications of the title "squire" and exploring the meaning behind his invocation of the Princess when writing his will and funding his family chapel. A paleographic transcription of the will of Pedro Domingues is added as appendix. Beyond its evident relevance to this study and to the typology of chantry chapels such as this, the

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<sup>2</sup> See CAMPOS, Maria Amélia Álvaro de – *Santa Justa de Coimbra na Idade Média: o espaço urbano, religioso e socio-económico*. Coimbra: Faculdade de Letras, 2012. Doctoral Dissertation.

full publication of medieval testaments is useful for the wealth of information found in them and particularly for the patron-client relationships they invoke.

## I

### The church and the parish of Santa Justa of Coimbra

Study and contextualization of the act of foundation must begin by introducing the parochial church in which it took place, set in the wider framework of Coimbra's parochial network<sup>3</sup>. The church of Santa Justa de Coimbra is mentioned in the city's documents from as early as 1098. In the year 1101/1102, it was donated to the Cluniac priory of *Sante Marie de la Charité sur Loire* with the obligation to pay a yearly tribute in perpetuity to the structures of that order. This tribute was to be delivered, once a year, to the Monastery of S. Pedro de Rates (in the diocese of Braga)<sup>4</sup>.

It is known that, in 1139, this church was already playing a parochial role, functioning as the parish seat of the northernmost district of the city – a territory marking the transition between the urban centre and the surrounding countryside<sup>5</sup>. As early as the first quarter of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, we observe in this district the constitution of a chapter of *beneficiados* – recipients of benefices – gathered around the figure of the prior. The

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<sup>3</sup> Regarding medieval Coimbra and its parochial network, see VENTURA, Leontina – "Coimbra Medieval: Uma cidade em formação" and COELHO, Maria Helena da Cruz – "Coimbra Medieval: Uma cidade em maturação". in ALARCÃO, Adília (coord.) – *Inventário do Museu Nacional Machado Castro. Coleção de Ourivesaria Medieval. Séculos XII-XIV*. Lisboa: Instituto Português de Museus, 2008; GOMES, Saul – "Coimbra: Aspectos da Sua Paisagem Urbana em Tempos Medievos". *Biblos*, IV (2006), pp. 125-163; CAMPOS, Maria Amélia Álvaro de – "O rural e o urbano nas freguesias de Coimbra nos séculos XIII e XIV". *Revista Portuguesa de História*, LXI (2010), pp. 157-174 and Idem – "Coimbra's parochial network: aspects of its definition in the 12<sup>th</sup> century". in *The Ecclesiastics and the Political State Building of Iberian Monarchies, 13th-15th centuries*, e-book. Évora: CIDHEUS, in press.

<sup>4</sup> Santa Justa of Coimbra was donated by the Bishop of Coimbra, D. Maurício (a former Cluny monk) to the *Prieuré de la Charité-sur-Loire* shortly after the donation of the Monastery of S. Pedro de Rates (diocese of Braga) by the Count D. Henrique. These donations must be understood within the context of the *Gregorian Reform* of the Catholic Church, as well as the context of countship autonomy policies, in a territory which would later become the Kingdom of Portugal, see COSTA, Avelino de Jesus da – *A Ordem de Cluny em Portugal*. Braga: Cenáculo, 1948; BISHKO, Charles Julian – "The Cluniac Priors of Galicia and Portugal: their acquisition and administration". *Studia Monastica*, VII/2 (1965), pp. 305-356; RICHE, Denyse – *L'ordre de Cluny à la fin du Moyen Âge. "Le vieux pays clunisien". XII-XV siècles*. Saint-Étienne: Publications de l'Université de Saint-Étienne, 2000; REGLERO DE LA FUENTE, Carlos Manuel – *Cluny en España. Los prioratos de la provincia y sus redes sociales (1073-ca. 1270)*. León: Caja España de Inversiones y Archivo Histórico Diocesano de León, 2008 and CAMPOS, Maria Amélia Álvaro de – *Santa Justa...*, v. I, pp. 69-76.

<sup>5</sup> See CAMPOS, Maria Amélia Álvaro de – "População e família na freguesia de Santa Justa de Coimbra nos séculos XIII a XV". in *Actas do I Congresso Histórico Internacional as Cidades na História: População, 24 a 26 de outubro de 2012, Cidade Medieval*. Guimarães: Câmara Municipal, 2012, pp. 227-252.

prior was head and representative of the chapter, was charged with supervising and managing economic issues which concerned the church, and was required to ensure that its pastoral and spiritual duties were carried out properly. From that time on, until the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Santa Justa de Coimbra functioned as a collegiate church, with a chapter composed of slightly more than ten *beneficiados*. It was one of seven collegiate churches in the city<sup>6</sup>. Together with the cathedral church<sup>7</sup> (*Sé*) and the church of S. João dependent on the Monastery of Santa Cruz<sup>8</sup>, they handled the parochial issues of Coimbra's nine parishes.

Analyzing the social origin of this church's *beneficiados* during the late Middle Ages<sup>9</sup>, we see that they came mostly from within the diocese of Coimbra. With the exception of the odd element descending from urban noble families<sup>10</sup>, the vast majority of these clerics in fact came from underprivileged groups in the Portuguese social pyramid. In their activities and social relationships, both within and outside the ecclesiastical structure to which they belonged, they were not very different from the lay community of parishioners<sup>11</sup>.

Turning briefly to the origins of this larger group, this community of parishioners and donors based in Santa Justa de Coimbra – men and women, lay and ecclesiastical, who bequeathed their estates in exchange for perpetual memorial ceremonies, entrusting to the church their hopes for the salvation of their souls, requesting intercession with God in exchange for the donation of a large portion of their possessions – analysis shows that scarcely any parishioners or donors were members of the nobility. Lay parishioners in

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<sup>6</sup> Inside the walls, were the collegiates of S. Pedro [VARANDAS, Carla Patrícia Rana – *A colegiada de S. Pedro de Coimbra das origens ao final do século XIV: estudo económico e social*. Coimbra: Faculdade de Letras, 1999. Masters Dissertation.], S. Cristóvão [MATOS, João da Cunha – *A Colegiada de São Cristóvão de Coimbra (sécs. XII e XIII)*. Tomar, 1998. Academic study.], S. João de Almedina and S. Salvador. Outside the walls, besides Santa Justa, there were the collegiates of Santiago and S. Bartolomeu [GUARDADO, Maria Cristina Gonçalves – *A colegiada de S. Bartolomeu de Coimbra em tempos medievais: das origens ao início do séc. XV*. Coimbra: Faculdade de Letras, 2000. Masters Dissertation.].

<sup>7</sup> See MORUJÃO, Maria do Rosário Barbosa – *A Sé de Coimbra: a instituição e a chancelaria (1080-1318)*. Lisboa: Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, 2010.

<sup>8</sup> See MARTINS, Armando Alberto – *O Mosteiro de Santa Cruz de Coimbra na Idade Média*. Lisboa: Centro de História da Universidade, 2003 and GOMES, Saul António – *In limine conscriptionis: documentos, chancelaria e cultura no Mosteiro de Santa Cruz de Coimbra: séculos XII a XIV*. Viseu: Palimage Editores/ CHSC, 2007.

<sup>9</sup> See CAMPOS, Maria Amélia Álvaro de – *Santa Justa...*, v. I, pp. 221-226.

<sup>10</sup> Mostly at the end of the 13th century, see CAMPOS – *Santa Justa...*, v. I, pp. 223 and 224.

<sup>11</sup> See CAMPOS, Maria Amélia Álvaro de – *Santa Justa...*, v. I, pp. 221-255.

the late Middle Ages were for the most part craftsmen – potters, for example – agricultural workers and servants, some of them in the service of clergymen in this and other churches in the city (Figure 1). Taking those who were specifically donors we can identify a significant set of donations coming from the urban oligarchy, including municipal officials and local representatives of the king (Figure 2). Taking parishioners and donors together, however, we have to conclude that the connection between Santa Justa and the nobility is practically nonexistent<sup>12</sup>.

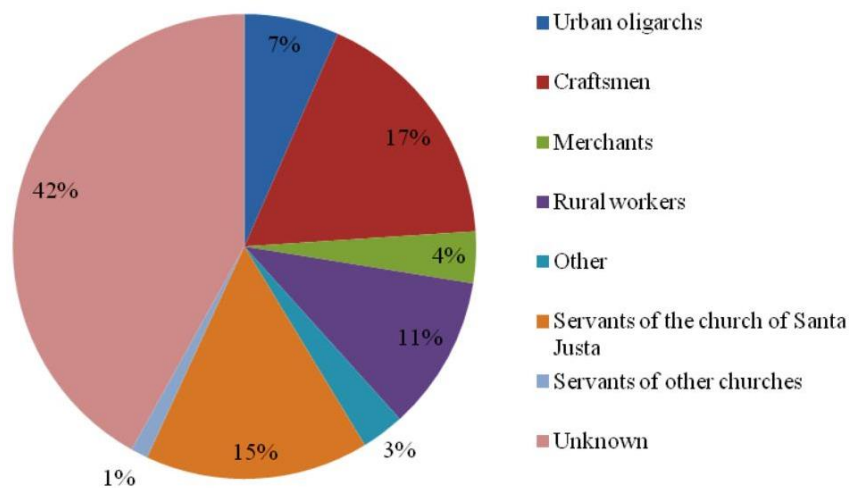


Figure 1 – Socio-professional profile of the lay parishioners of Santa Justa (1185-1451)

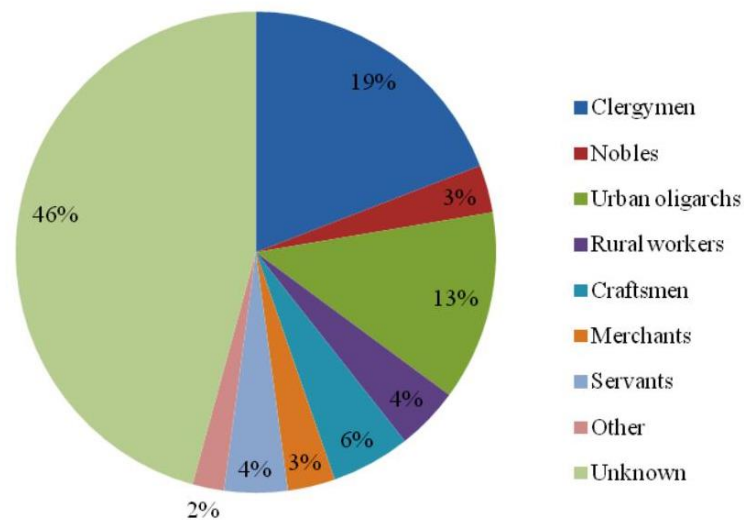


Figure 2 – Socio-professional profile of the donors of Santa Justa (1198-1451)

<sup>12</sup> On lay parishioners and donors of Santa Justa, see CAMPOS, Maria Amélia Álvaro de – *Santa Justa...*, v. I., pp. 126-164.

### The will of Pedro Domingues (1335)

Against this background of a parochial church run by a chapter originating in an urban, labouring society, and attracting donations from a lay and ecclesiastical community with similar characteristics, the will of Pedro Domingues *Corpo Santo*, dated June 8<sup>th</sup>, 1335, is unusual<sup>13</sup>. Under its terms was founded the Chapel of *Corpo Santo*, where daily prayers were to be said for the soul of its founder and his wife and for the soul of Dona Branca.

Until the day on which he signed his will the name of Pedro Domingues is completely absent from the corpus of records of those connected with the church and parish of Santa Justa. In this document, however, he prescribes that his tomb is to be located near that of his brother, whom he describes as a former cleric of the church. This was João Domingues, already known from a document of 1322<sup>14</sup>. Pedro's link with the collegiate church thus seems to be his family relationship with one of its clerics.

The possessions he leaves to Santa Justa were located mostly in Aveiro, residence of his nephew and executor Afonso Peres *Caçalão*, and Coimbra, probable residence of his servant Ildo Mendes, to whom he left an olive grove in the city. Given his extensive

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<sup>13</sup> See paleographic transcription of the document in the end of this study. Regarding the production of testamentary wills in medieval Portugal and the foundation of memorial ceremonies and chapels see, among others, COELHO, Maria Helena da Cruz – "Um testamento redigido em Coimbra no tempo da Peste Negra". *Revista Portuguesa de História*, XVIII (1980), pp. 312-331; SÁ-NOGUEIRA, Bernardo – "O testamento de Estêvão Anes, chanceler d'el-Rei D. Afonso III". *Revista da Faculdade de Letras*, 5<sup>a</sup>, n. 8 (1987), pp. 79-91; VILAR, Hermínia Vasconcelos – *A vivência da morte no Portugal Medieval: A Estremadura portuguesa (1300 a 1500)*. Redondo: Patrimonia, 1995; MATTOSO, José (dir.) – *O Reino dos Mortos na Idade Média peninsular*. Lisboa: João Sá da Costa, 1996; VENTURA, Leontina – "Testamentária Nobiliárquica (século XIII). Morte e sobrevivência da linhagem". *Revista de História das Ideias*, n. 19 (1997), pp. 137-156; ROSA, Maria de Lurdes – "As almas Herdeiras...". *Fundação de Capelas Fúnebres e a afirmação da alma como sujeito de direito. (Portugal, 1400-1521)*. Lisboa: Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas/ Universidade Nova e Paris: École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, 2005. Doctoral Dissertation; COELHO, Maria Helena da Cruz and MORUJÃO, Maria do Rosário – "Les testaments du clergé de Coimbra: des individus aux réseaux sociaux" and SARAIVA, Anísio – "The Viseu and Lamego clergy: clerical wills and social ties". in *Carreiras eclesíásticas no ocidente cristão (séculos XII-XIV)*. Lisboa: CEHR/UCP, 2007, pp. 123-140 and pp. 141-152; FERNANDES, Carla Varela; MORUJÃO, Maria do Rosário and SARAIVA, Anísio – "Mémoire au-delà de la mort: les évêques portugais et leurs monuments tumulaires au Moyen Âge". in BOCK, Nicolas, FOLETTI, Ivan and TOMASI, Michele (Ed.) – *L'évêque, l'image et la mort: identité et mémoire au Moyen Âge*. Roma: Viella, 2014, pp. 141-189. See also bibliography presented by ROSA, Maria de Lurdes – "Sociabilidades e espiritualidades na Idade Média: a historiografia portuguesa sobre os comportamentos religiosos dos leigos medievais". *Lusitania Sacra*, 2<sup>a</sup> série, n. 21 (2009), pp. 75-124 (particularly pp. 100-104).

<sup>14</sup> See ANTT, Colegiada de Santa Justa, m. 15, n. 323 or CAMPOS, Maria Amélia Álvaro de – *Santa Justa...*, v. II, document 5.

property in Aveiro one can infer that he was born there or, at least, that his ancestors had lived there. By his will, Santa Justa gains several urban properties in Aveiro, located on Rua Direita, in the Ribeira<sup>15</sup> and adjacent to the churchyard of the church of S. Miguel de Aveiro, as well as a saltworks and a tannery on the city's outskirts. Santa Justa also gains two houses on the Rua de Quatro Cantos in Coimbra<sup>16</sup>. These houses were on the northern edge of the parish of Santa Justa, close to the city boundary.

The ceremonies stipulated by Pedro Domingues for the benefit of his soul are typical of his times<sup>17</sup>. The accumulation of memorial services particularly evident from the 15<sup>th</sup> century onwards, which multiplied chantry duties of this type, was still in the future<sup>18</sup>. At this earlier period the usual stipulations were that memorial services should be repeated in perpetuity and should follow monthly and yearly cycles<sup>19</sup>. The religious underpinning for the establishment of chantries, in both periods, was as a set of ceremonies intended to save the soul of the departed through intercession with the deity<sup>20</sup>. It is nevertheless important to stress that these ceremonies were also intended to perpetuate the memory of the deceased and prevent his relegation, and possibly that of his family, to oblivion.

Pedro Domingues follows precisely the commonest pattern for memorial services in the Portuguese testaments of his time<sup>21</sup>. He begins by choosing the location of his burial, which is to take place inside the church precisely where the prior and chapter of Santa

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<sup>15</sup> See BRANCO, Maria João – *Aveiro Medieval*. Aveiro: Câmara Municipal, 1997 and Idem – "Aveiro". in MARQUES, A.H. de Oliveira, GONÇALVES, Iria and ANDRADE, Amélia Aguiar (coord.) – *Atlas de cidades medievais portuguesas: séculos XII-XV*. Lisboa: Centro de Estudos Históricos da Universidade Nova e INIC, 1990.

<sup>16</sup> See CAMPOS, Maria Amélia Álvaro de – "Marcos de referência e topónimos da cidade medieval portuguesa: o exemplo de Coimbra nos séculos XIV e XV". *Revista de História da Sociedade e da Cultura*, n. 13 (2013), pp. 157-176.

<sup>17</sup> See BASTOS, Maria do Rosário – "Prescrições sinodais sobre o culto dos mortos nos séculos XII a XVI". in MATTOSO, José (dir.) – *O reino dos mortos na Idade Média peninsular*. Lisboa: Edições João Sá da Costa, 1996, pp. 109-124 (particularly pp. 109-112).

<sup>18</sup> See ROSA, Maria de Lurdes – "As almas Herdeiras...", pp. 401-403.

<sup>19</sup> See VILAR, Hermínia Vasconcelos – *A vivência da morte...*, p. 215-227; PINA, Isabel Castro – "Ritos e imaginário da morte em testamentos dos séculos XIV e XV". in MATTOSO, José (dir.) – *O reino dos mortos...*, p. 129.

<sup>20</sup> For fuller explanation, see ROSA, Maria de Lurdes – "As almas Herdeiras...", pp. 400-419.

<sup>21</sup> See ROSA, Maria de Lurdes – "As almas Herdeiras...", pp. 407-422. In this period, decisions surrounding funeral rituals were commonly left to the heirs. This was not, however, the case in the testamentary will under analysis.



Justa held celebrations for of the souls of those who were not buried in the cemetery<sup>22</sup>. The implication is that a tomb was already reserved in the selected location, facing that of his brother, who had been a *beneficiado* of this church. Thus his choice of resting place depends primarily on proximity to his brother, emphasizing the relevance of family relations beyond death<sup>23</sup>; yet the recognition of a spatial hierarchy inside the church is equally noteworthy, since he chooses a space where prayers will be greater in number and more individualized<sup>24</sup>.

He then determines details of his funeral. He stipulates a monetary fund to accompany his body, that is, to be paid to those in charge of his body and its burial. He also prescribes an amount for the *pittance* meal to be served to those who attend his funeral service. He stipulates the presence of ecclesiastics from the Cathedral of Coimbra in the church of Santa Justa for the celebration of a mass on the day of his funeral. Still following the commonly adopted ceremonies for the salvation of the soul in 14<sup>th</sup> century Portugal, Pedro Domingues prescribes thirty masses in the first month following his death, a monthly mass until the first anniversary of his death and, subsequently, the celebration of an annual mass for the salvation of his soul<sup>25</sup>. After stipulating these cyclically repeating ceremonies for the salvation of his soul he specifies donations to ecclesiastical institutions to which he was devoted. Despite having partly lived in Aveiro, it is interesting to note that Pedro Domingues directs his generosity exclusively to the monasteries of Coimbra. Among them, the primary recipients are the mendicant

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<sup>22</sup> That was in churchyard.

<sup>23</sup> On the relatives' remembrance in Portuguese medieval testamentary wills, see among others, VILAR, Hermínia Vascelos – *A vivência da morte...*, pp. 107-110 and Idem – "Rituais da morte em testamentos dos séculos XIV e XV (Coimbra e Santarém)". in MATTOSO, José (dir.) – *O reino dos mortos...*, p. 167.

<sup>24</sup> Regarding the symbology of funerary space, see among others COSTA, Adelaide Pereira Millán da – "O espaço dos vivos e o espaço dos mortos nas cidades da Baixa Idade Média". in MATTOSO, José (dir.) – *O Reino dos mortos...*, pp. 177-185 and ARIÉS, Philippe – *O Homem perante a morte*. Lisboa: Europa-América, 1988, pp. 98-104.

<sup>25</sup> See ROSA, Maria de Lurdes – "*As almas Herdeiras...*", pp. 422-426. For more examples of the stipulation of memorial ceremonies in the other Iberian kingdoms, see BALDACÓ ALCOZ, Julia; GARCÍA DE LA BORBOLLA, Ángeles; PAVÓN BENITO, Julia – "Registrar la muerte (1371-1512). Un análisis de testamentos y mandas pías contenidos en los protocolos notariales navarros". *Hispania*, LXV/1, n. 219 (2005), pp. 15-226; RODRIGO ESTEVAN, Maria Luz – "Muerte e sociabilidade em Aragón (siglos XIV-XV)". in MARTÍN CEA, Juan Carlos (coord.) – *Convivir en la Edad Media*. Burgos: Editorial Dossoles, 2010, pp. 285-320.

orders<sup>26</sup> – the monasteries of Saint Francis and of Saint Dominic –, at that time believed throughout Western Europe, and particularly among city-dwellers, to be the best spiritual intercessors<sup>27</sup>. He also favours the monasteries of Santa Cruz das Donas, Celas da Ponte and São Jorge<sup>28</sup> – three monasteries belonging to the order of the Canons Regular of Saint Augustine – as well as the monastery of Celas of Guimarães (a district in Coimbra), of the Cistercian Order<sup>29</sup>. Apart from the mendicant orders he designates female convents only, both as recipients of his monetary legacy and as intercessors with God for the salvation of his soul. It is interesting to note that, within this donation logic, he did not contemplate the Monastery of Santa Cruz, which was, undoubtedly, the most powerful monastery in the city. Still more difficult to understand is the absence of the Monastery of Santa Clara<sup>30</sup>, as this was a mendicant and female monastery.

Pedro Domingues stipulates very clearly that a chapel be founded for his soul<sup>31</sup>, the soul of his late wife and that of the princess Dona Branca. The choice of the Santa Justa church as the location both for his burial and for the foundation of this chapel suggest that Pedro Domingues lived and would die in Coimbra, where he also made his will. At any rate he appears to have lived in more than one city in the course of his life. His chapel, known in later documents<sup>32</sup> as the Capela do *Corpo Santo* – thus immortalizing the particular and pious by-name of its founder – is characterized by a certain liturgical complexity. Among all the documents relating to the foundation of chapels in the 14<sup>th</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> Regarding the arrival in Coimbra of mendicant orders, see GOMES, Saul – "As ordens mendicantes na Coimbra medieval: notas e documentos". *Lusitania Sacra*, 2ª série, n. 10 (1998), pp. 149-215.

<sup>27</sup> See LAWRENCE, C. H. – *The Friars. The impact of the Mendicant orders on Medieval Society*. London/ New York: I. B. Tauris, 2013, pp. 110-126.

<sup>28</sup> See GOMES, Saul António – "Um registo de contabilidade medieval do Mosteiro de S. Jorge de Coimbra (1257-1259)". *Medievalista* [Online]. N. 10 (Julho-Dezembro 2011). [Last consulted 15 Sep. 2015]. Available at <http://medievalista.revues.org/118>

<sup>29</sup> See MORUJÃO, Rosário – *Um Mosteiro Cisterciense Feminino: Santa Maria de Celas: séculos XIII a XV*. Coimbra: Biblioteca Geral da Universidade, 2001.

<sup>30</sup> See SANTOS, Ana Paula Figueira – *A fundação do Mosteiro de Santa Clara de Coimbra: da instituição por D. Mor Dias à intervenção da Rainha Santa Isabel*. Coimbra: Faculdade de Letras, 2000. Masters Dissertation.

<sup>31</sup> On foundation of chapels in parish churches, see DOBSON, R. B. – "The foundation of perpetual chantries by the citizens of medieval York". in *Church and Society in the Medieval North of England*. London: Hambledon Press, 1996, pp. 253-266, and BURGESS, Clive – "Chantries in the Parish, or 'Through the Looking-Glass'". *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, Vol. 164, n. 1 (September 2011), pp. 100–129. Doi: 10.1179/174767011X13184281108009.

<sup>32</sup> See ANTT, Colegiada de Santa Justa de Coimbra, liv. 4.

and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries<sup>33</sup>, this one is remarkable in the detail with which, from the outset, its liturgy is established. Pedro Domingues stipulates that the church shall appoint a suitable resident chaplain who will, every day, say a first prayer – *Quaesumus Domine* – for the soul of Dona Branca; a second prayer – *Omnipotens sempiterne Deus* – for the souls of Pedro Domingues and his wife; a third prayer – *Deus qui nos Patrem* – for his parents' souls; and, lastly, the prayers *Deus cujus miseratione* and *Filium Deus*. Finally he stipulates that this chaplain should be present at all the canonical hours for offices in the church, and assist the prior in the *cura animarum* of the parishioners if so requested. Well aware that the administration of a chapel, and of its supporting estate, would require the production and storage of numerous documents, Pedro Domingues also bequeathed a French *ucha* (ark), with two locks, to store the chapel's property and documentation.

The level of detail employed in the foundation of this chapel, in choosing and identifying the prayers to be said for each soul's salvation, is, as we have seen, something unique in the general run of donations for this purpose by Santa Justa's parishioners and benefactors. This can be seen as reflecting this founder's more intense spiritual life, but also a certain sophistication relating to the posts that he held and the social relationships that he built in the course of his life. With this we want to emphasize the fact that he was connected to the Portuguese Royal Court, as well as the fact that he had a clergyman as a brother.

His will alone, unfortunately, is not enough for us to understand his career fully. In this document Pedro Domingues calls himself a servant<sup>34</sup> and squire<sup>35</sup> of the princess Dona Branca. Simply defined, the term squire suggests a servant or page who carries the

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<sup>33</sup> See the other bequest to the foundation of the chapels in Santa Justa of Coimbra: ANTT, Colegiada de Santa Justa de Coimbra, m. 1, n. 7 (1310.08.23); m. 30, n. 699 (1328.01.07); PAIVA, José Pedro (ed.) – *Portugaliae Monumenta Misericordiarum*. Lisboa: União das Misericórdias Portuguesas, 2002, vol. 2, doc. 190c (1332.02.19); ANTT, Colegiada de Santa Justa de Coimbra, m. 16, n. 338 (1337.02.02); m. 28, n. 640 (1348.11.05); m. 30, n. 696 (1352.09.09); m. 26, n. 577 (1379.05.24); m. 29, n. 667 (1445.06.29).

<sup>34</sup> In Portuguese "criado", see BLUTEAU, Raphael – *Vocabulario Portuguez & Latino, aulico, anatomico, architectonico...* [Online]. Coimbra: Collegio das artes da Companhia de Jesus, 1728, sv. [Last consulted 13 May 2016]. Available at [http://purl.pt/13969/3/1-2772-a/1-2772-a\\_item3/index.html#/824](http://purl.pt/13969/3/1-2772-a/1-2772-a_item3/index.html#/824)

<sup>35</sup> In Portuguese "escudeiro", see BLUTEAU – *Vocabulario Portuguez...*, sv. "escudeiro". [Online]. [Last consulted 13 May 2016]. Available at [http://purl.pt/13969/3/1-2773-a/1-2773-a\\_item3/index.html#/568](http://purl.pt/13969/3/1-2773-a/1-2773-a_item3/index.html#/568)

shield of a knight or escorts a lady, on horseback or on foot: a high-ranking servant<sup>36</sup>. The implications will have changed in the course of centuries, slowly evolving towards the designation of a member of lower-ranking nobility, whose social distinction was based precisely on service to representatives of the highest families of the kingdom. Moreover, Pedro Domingues informs us that the Infanta granted him favours<sup>37</sup> and raised him. Such information may mean that he was part of the court of the Infanta D. Branca, during his childhood, as was frequently the case in the Portuguese Royal Court between the 14th and the 15th centuries<sup>38</sup>. As these young people reached puberty they were usually granted squire status and when they married they received a dowry (also called *mercê*) from their patron. As a squire he belonged to a lower rank of the nobility, having probably attained his status as a result of his service, but he served a member of the highest families in the Iberian Peninsula and the kingdoms of Western Europe – Dona Branca de Portugal.

### The princess Dona Branca

She was the daughter of the Portuguese king Dom Afonso III<sup>39</sup> and Dona Beatriz Afonso<sup>40</sup>, maternal granddaughter of king Alfonso X ‘the Wise’ of Castile, great-niece of Branca de Castela, second cousin of king Louis IX of France. In addition she was the elder sister of the Portuguese king Dom Dinis and the niece of Sancho IV, king of Castile. Dona Branca<sup>41</sup>, firstborn child of the king and queen of Portugal, is thought to have been born in Santarém towards the end of February 1259. At the age of two she

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<sup>36</sup> On the concept of squire in Portuguese medieval society, see BEIRANTE, Ângela – "Os diferentes tipos de solidariedade na Cidade Medieval. O exemplo de Évora". in *Arqueologia do Estado: Ias Jornadas sobre formas de organização e exercício dos poderes na Europa do Sul, séculos XIII-XVIII: comunicações*. Vol.1. Lisboa: História & Crítica, 1988, pp. 48-51 and RODRIGUES, Ana Maria S. A. – "As relações de clientelismo nos meios urbanos: O exemplo de uma vila portuguesa no século XV". in *Espaços, Gente e Sociedade no Oeste. Estudos sobre Torres Vedras medieval*. Cascais: Patrimonia, 1996, pp. 277-279.

<sup>37</sup> In medieval portuguese, "mercês", see BLUTEAU – *Vocabulário Portuguez...*, sv. "mercê". [Online]. [Last consulted 13 May 2016]. Available at [http://purl.pt/13969/3/1-2775-a/1-2775-a\\_item3/index.html#/464](http://purl.pt/13969/3/1-2775-a/1-2775-a_item3/index.html#/464)

<sup>38</sup> See GOMES, Rita Costa – *A corte dos reis de Portugal no final da Idade Média*. Lisboa: Difel, 1995, pp. 197-205.

<sup>39</sup> See VENTURA, Leontina – *D. Afonso III*. Rio de Mouros: Círculo de Leitores, 2012, pp. 207-210.

<sup>40</sup> See VENTURA, Leontina – *A nobreza de corte de Afonso III*. Coimbra: Faculdade de Letras, 1992. Doctoral Dissertation, pp. 426-531 and OLIVEIRA, António Resende de – "D. Beatriz Afonso". in MARQUES, Maria Alegria, et. al. – *As primeiras rainhas: Mafalda de Mouriana, Dulce de Barcelona e Aragão, Urraca de Castela, Mecia Lopes de Haro, Beatriz Afonso*. Lisboa: Círculo de Leitores, 2012, pp. 418-440.

<sup>41</sup> See VENTURA, Leontina – *A nobreza de corte...*, pp. 534-537.

received, by her father's royal gift, the castle of Montemor-o-Velho<sup>42</sup>, which she had inherited from her great-aunt Dona Teresa, daughter of Dom Sancho I<sup>43</sup>. When she was 18 her father granted her, at her request, the right of patronage over the church of Santa Maria<sup>44</sup> in the same town. We know that, around that time, the princess did in fact assert her rights in Montemor-o-Velho, since her father was compelled to respond favourably to certain claims by privileged groups from whom her officials had improperly demanded taxes<sup>45</sup>. Around the same time, in 1277, she was received as the lady of the Lorvão convent, one of the most powerful in the Coimbra area, a title previously held by her great-aunt Dona Teresa<sup>46</sup>.

Following the death of Dom Afonso III, in 1279, Dona Branca took to staying for long periods, in the company of her mother, in the kingdom of Castile. One reason for their long sojourns in the neighbouring kingdom was to show solidarity with Alfonso X who, at that time, was in conflict with his son and heir, but among Dona Beatriz's main concerns in this period was to retain in her possession the very rich estates she had inherited in 1279. Dona Branca and her mother thus spent several years in Castile (where, in 1284, they witnessed Alfonso X's will). At that point it seems that while Dona Branca remained in Castile to manage the estate, her mother returned to Portugal. At the start of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, however, we find Dona Branca once again close to her mother, whose last days were spent in Portugal in her palace at Torres Vedras. Thus ended the apparently very close relationship between the queen and her firstborn, who was her most assiduous companion.

Dona Branca had been Lady of Cifuentes since 1285 and Lady and patron of the powerful monastery of *Las Huelgas* de Burgos since 1295. Her mother had been the main reason that brought her to Portugal from time to time, so after the queen's death we note the total absence of any mention of Dona Branca in Portuguese documents. She

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<sup>42</sup> See VENTURA, Leontina – *Chancelaria de Afonso III*. Coimbra: Imprensa da Universidade, 2006, doc. 307 (Lisboa, 1261.09.15).

<sup>43</sup> See BERNARDINO, Sandra Virgínia Pereira Gonçalves – *Sancius Secundus Rex Portugalensis: a chancelaria de D. Sancho II (1223-1248)*. Coimbra: Faculdade de Letras, 2003. Masters Dissertation, doc. 2 (Montemor-o-Velho, 1223.06.23).

<sup>44</sup> VENTURA, Leontina – *Chancelaria de Afonso III...*, v. 2, doc. 670 (Lisboa, 1277.07.28).

<sup>45</sup> See, for instance, VENTURA, Leontina – *Chancelaria de Afonso III...*, v. 2, doc. 688 (1278.01.11).

<sup>46</sup> See VENTURA, Leontina – *D. Afonso III...*, p. 157 e 158 and Idem – *Chancelaria de Afonso III...*, v. 2, doc. 686 (1278.01.08).

lived her last decades in Castile, as Lady of Las Huelgas, where she died on April 17<sup>th</sup> 1321, two days after the writing of her will<sup>47</sup>. This outline of the princess's biography shows that her life was divided between the two peninsular kingdoms, and that she spent her last decades in Castile. In her will the princess favoured a large group of relatives, including her nieces, and a long list of servants and clerics who belonged to the network of relationships of the last years of her life. Absent from the kingdom of Portugal for many years, she mentioned neither Pedro Domingues *Corpo Santo* nor any other Portuguese servant in her will.

Pedro Domingues, too, probably had a life marked by geographical mobility, but nothing indicates that he lived in Castile. Possibly, then, this squire to the princess was in her service in the 1270s; perhaps he was one of her young servants in the royal court or he was part of the group of officials who managed her possessions around Montemor-o-Velho. But to propose any firm link between the two, based on currently available information, would be mere speculation and would in no way assist the progress of studies on European royal houses.

## II

This case study focuses on a squire and servant to a princess of Portugal. We know that around the royal family was woven a web of relationships of service and clientele which we can hardly hope to reconstruct in full. But the study of Pedro Domingues' will allows us to identify one of the agents in those relationships, to characterize him in social terms, and to understand his attitude towards death.

Despite being extremely difficult to define in social terms, these squires seem to have belonged to a group, especially in an urban context, commonly identified by historians as "notables" or the "elite"<sup>48</sup> and who, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, would come to be known as

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<sup>47</sup> See GARRIDO, Araceli Castro – *Documentación del Monasterio de las Huelgas de Burgos (1307-1321). Fuentes Medievales castellano-leonesas*, n. 34. Burgos: J.M. Garrido Garrido, 1987, doc. 364, pp. 322-333.

<sup>48</sup> On the Portuguese context, see BARATA, Filipe Themudo (ed.) – *Elites e redes clientelares na Idade Média: problemas metodológicos: actas do colóquio*. Lisboa / Évora: Edições Colibri / Centro Interdisciplinar de História, Culturas e Sociedades da Universidade de Évora, 2001. Among others examples, see also COSTA, Adelaide Pereira Millán da – *Projecção Espacial de Domínios. Das Relações*

the bourgeoisie<sup>49</sup>. Indeed, the testament of Pedro Domingues expresses a certain reverence, fidelity and obedience towards his princess. The long period over which this link endured in memory is noteworthy, if we consider that he wrote his will in 1335, fourteen years after her death and more than three decades after she moved to Castile. This suggests that the position of servant to the princess Dona Branca was the most prestigious that he ever held.

Presenting himself as squire to the princess, even though he must have been so several decades earlier, elevated him to a higher social position and no doubt conferred prestige on him personally. By founding his chapel with the stipulation that it be for the soul of a royal princess, for his own and his wife's soul, Pedro Domingues strengthened his loyalty to that lady and paid her the most enduring tribute that he could. In so doing he certainly wished to see his and his family's names forever remembered in conjunction with hers. In this way, his memory and the memory of his relatives would be invoked, in the church of Santa Justa de Coimbra, alongside the name of one of the noblest ladies in the kingdoms of Portugal and Castile. Portuguese and European historiography has emphasized how these elites founded chantries and memorial services similar to those of the high nobility as a form of social mimicry<sup>50</sup>. This particular example appears to show a similar attitude.

### Concluding remarks

The present study demonstrates once more the relevance of testaments to questions surrounding the mindset and the religious beliefs of medieval people within the contexts of death and of the social and family structures to which they belonged. We have

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*de Poder Ao Burgo Portuense (1385-1502)*. Lisboa: Universidade Aberta, 1999. Doctoral Dissertation. [Online]. [Last consulted 17 May 2016]. Available at <http://repositorioaberto.uab.pt/handle/10400.2/2426> ; VIANA, Mário – "Os cavaleiros de Santarém na segunda metade do século XIII". in VILAR, Hermínia Vasconcelos; BARROS, Maria Filomena Lopes de (eds.) – *Categorias sociais e mobilidade urbana na Baixa Idade Média*. Lisboa: Edições Colibri, 2012, pp. 61-81 and SERRA, Joaquim António Felisberto Bastos – *Governar a cidade e servir o rei: a oligarquia concelhia de Évora em tempos medievais (1367-1433)*. Évora: Faculdade de Letras, 2015. Doctoral Dissertation. [Online]. [Last consulted 17.05.2016]. Available at <https://dspace.uevora.pt/rdpc/handle/10174/18151>

<sup>49</sup> See ROUX, Simone – *Les Racines de la Bourgeoisie. Europe, Moyen Âge*. Paris: Sulliver, 2011, pp. 13-30.

<sup>50</sup> See DUARTE, Luís Miguel – "Os melhores da terra (um questionário para o caso português)". in BARATA, Filipe Themudo (ed.) – *Elites e redes...*, pp. 104-106.

highlighted a squire's relationships of service and obedience to the memory of a member of the Portuguese royal family and the form in which that relationship was expressed.

It is not easy to define and characterise the social position of a squire, to be placed, we believe, in the "urban aristocracy". The development of case studies such as this should allow in the future for a more global and integrated analysis of the squire's profile and collective behaviour. For this purpose the analysis of communities surrounding urban parish churches will be more fundamental than that of the great cathedrals and main monasteries of a city. We can hope to recognize in these churches, and on the part of such notable urban individuals, behaviour that is similar, though on a different scale, to what in the main religious centres of a city is shown by great secular and ecclesiastical figures – though the ceremonies stipulated by the latter would incur higher monetary costs and result in relatively greater social prestige.



## Appendix

### The testamentary will of Pedro Domingues<sup>51</sup>

1335 JUNE, 8 (Thursday), Coimbra – *Testamentary will of Pedro Domingues* Corpo Santo, in which considerable personal property is donated to the church of Santa Justa of Coimbra for the foundation of a chapel to celebrate the souls of Pedro Domingues and his family and the soul of Dona Branca, princess of Portugal.

A) ANTT, Colegiada de Santa Justa de Coimbra, maço 2, número 43 (parchment; reasonably well preserved; sign of public notary).

[... Pero]<sup>52</sup> Domingues Corpo Santo, escudeiro, criado da Senhora Infante Dona Branca de Coimbra dentro da casa de minha [...] freguesia de Santa Justa [...]. Primeiramente encomendo a minha alma muy pecedora ao meu Senhor Jhesu Chrispto e a virgem gloriosa [...] mando ho meu corpo ser enterrado dentro na igreja de Santa Justa no logo hu de costume se dizem hos aniversarios daquelles que non jazem no cemiterio da dicta igreja hu tenho mha sepultura aa parte de frente donde he meu irmão Joham Domingues prior que foi de Sam Giam da Foz e raçooeiro da dicta egreja.

E mando hy com ho meu corpo bynte libras.

Item e mando ao prior e conegos dessa igreja de Santa Justa que me façam honra quando eu passar deste mundo e me digam hũa missa offiçada e lhes damos dez libras por pitaça.

Item mando ao prior e cabido que sayam sobre ho meu corpo trinta dias depois mha morte assi como ho seu costume que cantem cada dia hũa missa offiçada e que

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<sup>51</sup> The palaeographic transcription of this Portuguese document is based on the standards written and systematized by COSTA, Avelino de Jesus da – *Normas gerais de transcrição e publicação de documentos e textos medievais e modernos*. Coimbra: Universidade, Instituto de Paleografia e Diplomática, 1993. Abbreviations have been silently expanded. The use of the letters "i" and "j", "u" and "v" has been standardized. Words incorrectly joined are separated, and words incorrectly divided are joined. Double consonants written at the beginning of words are transcribed as single. Original punctuation and capitalization are adjusted for easier reading. Illegible words are represented by [...]. Interlinear insertions are marked < >. Doubtful readings are indicated by (?).

<sup>52</sup> Damages on the parchment make it impossible to read the first line and other parts of this document, as indicated by [...].

lhes de trinta libras scilicet XX soldos cada dia e partam-nos hos que presente forem a essa missa.

Item mando que acabados hos trinta dias depos mha morte que cantem por mim hũa missa officiada, esses prior e cabido hi dehem por pitaça hum sesteiro de trigo amassado e hũa quarta de vinho cada hum [...] averam todo esse hos presentes a missa.

Item mando aaqueles que me acompanharem quando eu passar que pensem bem delles esse dia.

Item mando [pera as] missas de sabado que amassem 2 quarteiros de trigo pera pam que aja hũa carrega de pescado.

Item mando per' as missas do mes hum moyo de trigo pera pam e hum porco boom e duas bacas e se mester fizer mais pam que o fezeram do dito moio comprem-no das paadeyras do meu(?).

Item mando pera as missas do ano outro tanto como nas do mes suso dicto.

Item mando acabada hũa dos [...] da villa aos priores, raçoeiros que virem con as cruces a minha sepultura binte e b soldos scilicet cada hum prior e raçoeiros hũa missa officiada.

Item mando aos mosteiros de Sam Domingos e de Sam Francisco(?) dez libras pera pitaças e mando aas donas do mosteiro de Santa Cruz b libras pera pitaça.

Item mando aos d'ospital IIII libras.

Item mando aas donas de Celas da Ponte bII libras.

Item mando aas donas de Sam Jorge cinquenta soldos.

Item mando aas donas das Celas de Guimarães b libras.

Item mando aos bachareles da See XXX soldos que venham dizer a igreja de Santa Justa por mim em dia de mha sepultura hũa missa officiada.

Item mando aa confraria de *Santus Spiritus* cinquenta soldos.

Item mando aa igreja de Santa Justa todos os meus beens que eu ei en a villa d'Aveyro e seu termo scilicet hũas casas de morada na Rua Dereita da parte isquerda quando bam pera a Ribeira ante que chegue a adro da igreja de Sam Miguell. E outra que esta en cavalaria daquela [...] e hum chao emcydo em riba que vay entestar em camynho que vay pera igreja per tras das dictas casas con suas [...] e hũa marinha que se chama d'Alem da Bea (sic) e as terras que eu [...] chamam as chãas e na gram de cima da villa e as diciam em nobillar(?) todo apres da dicta villa hos quaaes beens sobredictos oos traz arrendados Afonso Peres Cagalaam, meu sobrinho pera hũa capella.

Scilicet que o prior e cabido da dicta igreeja meta hum capellam na igreja de Sancta Justa ydoneo e residente que cante em essa igreja polla alma da Ifante dona Branca cuja alma Deos comserve e bem e a sua Santa Gloria que me fez merces e me criou e por [...] a condiga esse capellam a primeira oraçam por essa yfante que *Quaesumus domine* e segunda *Omnipotens sempiterne Deus* e o por mym dicto Pero Domingues Corpo Santo e por Domyngas Sancha mynha molher já finada *Deus qui nos patrem* e por meu padre e minha madre *Deus cujos miseratione et filium Deus* e mando que per todo o sempre essa capella seja [...] na dicta igreja de Santa Justa a todas as oras canónicas em manefesto e em comungar dos outros sacramentos da Santa Igreja aos freigueses da dicta igreja de licença do prior della. E pera ser esta capella bem mantheuda e hos beens della nom serem mal bendidos nem desbaratados pera mantimento delle primeiramente mando 1º ano depoes morte, paguem dos meus beens o capellam hos meus testamenteiros 50 libras e os renovos desse ano façam esse prior e cabido suso dictos dessas terras e marinha e rendimentos de casas balerem mais cada hum ano dali em diante que as quarenta libras que eu mando pera essa capella que filhe a meydade da crença e guardem-na por mantimento da dicta capela e outra meydade estabeleceu pollo ano aniversairos bi libras em cada hum aniversairo e mando que as deem aos presentes que forem a ella.

Item mando aos capellaes da dicta igreeja 30 soldos pera pitaça que me digam missa.

Item mando mais a dicta igreeja de Santa Justa hũas casas que estam na Rua de Quatro Cantos.

Item lhe leixo outra casa na dicta rua sobradada que esta deribada mando que a façam hos meus testamenteiros dos meos beens pios e que me digam o prior e cabido pella renda dellas 3 aniversairos.

Item mando a Ildo e à sua mulher [.] olival em Santo Antonio e outro junto con as celas de Guimarees.

Item mando aa dicta igreja de Santa Justa [.] ucha pera guardar as cartas e estromentos dos beens e possisões da dicta igreja e pera guardar hos dynheiros que soberarem da dicta capella.

Item mando a Sancha Martins, dona XX libras por serviço que me fez.

E faço meus testamenteyros hereis nos beens Ildo meu criado e Afonso Peres Cagalam meu sobrinho que mora en Aveiro que ora traz arrendados hos beens que ora

en dante deixo a igreija de Santa Justa como suso dicto he os quaes eu dou poder pera pagar este meu testamento assy como en elle he conteudo e pera todas as outras cousas que de novo for achado elles ho possam dar conpridamente por mha alma ali pera hu birem que mester for em missas por mha alma alli omde o meu corpo jouver. E mando este meu testamento se [...] e que outro ou outros algumas per esta manda que nom valha se nam este daquy en diamte se aqueçecer que eu al diga por em alheamento ou por outras pallavras boas como mas. Mando que nom valha senam esto que he donde he mha postomeira vontade e se hy ha algũa sollemidade e falha con este testamento porque nom ouvese de valer como a hey por scripta aquy em elle declarada como presentemente em elle todo fosse scripta. Em testemunho de verdade das dictas cousas fiz hende ser feytos este estormento e outro theor deste per mão de Pero [...] tabeliam del rey em Coinbra. Mando ao tabeliam que de hum estormento aos dictos nosos testamenteyros pera o acunxetarem(?) e usarem per elle como de meu testamento e outro per a dicta igreja de Santa Justa pera hu prior e cabydo por elle arrendarem e demandarem hos sobredictos beens pera elles e a dicta sua igreja de Santa Justa e governarem a dicta capella por mha alma pera sempre como dicto he.

Feito foy em Coimbra, nas casas do dicto Pero Domingues, Corpo Santo perdante elle, Quynza-feira biii dias de Junho, Era de mil e trezentos e satenta e tres anos.

Testemunhas: Francisco Afonso, prior de Santa Justa, Bartolomeu Martins de Oliveira, Pero Anes, pescador, Domingo Peres, Matheos Peres, Domingos Martins, capellães, Gomes Anes, raçoeiro, Nicolau Anes, capellam(?).

E eu Pero Salvadores, tabeliam d'el rey em Coinbra a rogo de mandado do dicto Pero Domingues, Corpo Santo, escudeiro, criado da Ifante Dona Branca a todas estas cousas presente fuy e esto estormento com mha mão escrprevi e em eles este meu [sign] fiz em testemunho da verdade.

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