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**TÍTULO:**

**The Production of the Cartularies of Braga, in the 12<sup>th</sup> century: Constructing Legitimacy, using Memory and Authority**

**PALAVRAS CHAVE: Séc. XII; Cartulários; Memória; Legitimidade; Querelas eclesiásticas.**

**ABSTRACT:**

It is widely known that the production of cartularies -- an instrument still lacking a definition which can characterise it properly -- is almost always derived from the basic need to collect, in one practical form, sufficient evidence in order to enable the producers to prove the legitimacy of their claims to a very wide range of rights. The motivation for such compilations of documents can range from the simple need to prove entitlement to property, or the more complex questions of ascertaining the possession of jurisdictional rights, to rather more complex issues, like defining borders or identities. Sometimes, the *raison d'être* for the making of these compound instruments, surpass, by far, the more simple and narrow territorial or seigniorial topics, and, as it seems to have been the case with many of the documents contained in the cartulary I intend to analyse in this paper, they reflect other types of needs and interests.

In Braga, during the last quarter of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, the quarrels against its archrival Santiago de Compostela, which had been brooding all through the previous five decades, would finally free themselves from the ever prominent question of the primacy of Toledo over the other Spanish sees, and reveal how much more “functional” and fundamental the opposition between Braga and Compostela would prove to be, for the political survival and affirmation of both the archdioceses and their “respective” Kingdoms. Faced with serious threats, the contenders had to prove, by way of witness enquiries and written documents, their “true” entitlement to the rights they both claimed as theirs, by legitimate right.

Of course, in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, this meant fighting the cause before ecclesiastic judges, with the means and the ways thought of as more appropriate for the specific

situation they were facing, and using the documents and testimonies brought forward as the definitive authority for the legitimation of their claims. Thus the importance of possessing, and being able to exhibit, before everyone, evidence such as papal and royal grants or privileges, or old authoritative monuments like Histories from the Antiquity or Visigothic times, *acta* of Councils or even mythical divisions, which should be testimony, in themselves, of true, trustworthy veracity. It was important to be able to construct and prove your own memory.

In this paper, I will concentrate on the cartulary generally called *Liber Fidei*, which was copied in Braga, in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, from two other previous cartularies, produced during the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Those two cartularies, the “*Libri Testamentorum*”, whose existence is attested to by other secondary sources, appear as proof, in several sentences dating from the end of that same century, in causes related to the disputes for jurisdiction and territorial power between Braga and Compostela.

I will, therefore, analyse their structure and contents in order to try and understand what the rationale of such compilations might have been, and then observe how well suited for the purpose of serving as authoritative evidence they might have been, in two of the processes we have access to, dated from 1182 and 1187.