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The apocalyptic writings of Joachim of Fiore were of fundamental importance in forming the world-view and shaping the historical consciousness of the later Middle Ages. The essential method employed by the Calabrian abbot consisted in the establishment of concordances between figures of the Old and New Testaments and those of later times in order to define the traits of important personages and events yet to come. This novel exegesis was developed within the context of a complex periodization of history which correlated historical currents with the Trinitarian nature of God and looked forward to an age of the Holy Spirit.

This original and apocalyptic view of history proved particularly attractive to the Mendicants and their supporters, whether these were fully orthodox or less so. They considered Joachim to be a prophet, ensured a wide audience for his works, and re-shaped the abbot's prophecies into tracts that could speak more directly to their times and concerns. The *Breuiloquium*, an anonymous work composed in Catalonia, issued from the circles of Beguines and Third Order Franciscans who were such a large part of the religious scene of that time and place. The work presents in a summary fashion a Joachimite vision of the world and of society and attests to millenarian expectations in the tradition of the re-elaboration of Joachimite thought fashioned by such eminent spiritual thinkers as Olivi and Arnold of Vilanova.

The introduction to the critical edition of the *Breuiloquium* addresses the question of continuity and new departures in Joachimite thought in the fourteenth century. Particular attention is paid to writers in the tradition such as Arnold of Vilanova who were especially influential in Catalonian spiritual circles. The potential and social context of the work is discussed both to assist in its intelligibility and to examine the concerns which led the anonymous author to the composition of the work. The introduction and the edition of the *Breuiloquium* together form an interesting instrument for an approach to apocalyptic and prophetic literature of the fourteenth century, especially as it took shape in Catalonia.

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