

The Objectives of [MRH Series Practica](#)

Liturgy was probably the most universal communal factor of medieval and early modern Europe. It determined the rhythm of life for clerics and laymen alike and its treasure of texts, melodies and gestures formed the basic knowledge that intellectuals acquired from their childhood and transmitted later to the illiterates.

However, this phenomenon, equally rich in texts, melodies and ceremonies, is currently hardly accessible by the modern man, partly because it is unedited, partly because it cannot be fully reconstructed even with the use of the available editions. Our series is based on strict scholarly principles but it strives to serve a practical purpose, namely to present the medieval liturgical books of Hungary in an easily accessible and understandable form. It will make it much easier to apply this material within the context of research, education, musical interpretation or even everyday ecclesiastical practice.

Academic tradition shows that the fragmented information gathered from written sources must be represented as a reasonable whole through the reconstruction of the so called *Sitz im Leben*. Several questions would not even arise without the practical application of the studied sources. The questions that emerge in the course of this (a try-out, if you like) force scholars to deal with otherwise undiscovered problems. Thus, an instructional edition is not only an opportunity to publish scholarly results but it also stimulates them. From an educational viewpoint, sources and critical editions will be handled more reliably by a student trained in practical editions.

The examination and revival of Gregorian chant both academically and artistically has a considerable, internationally acclaimed tradition in Hungary. This is based—beyond the individual artistic accomplishments of the few—on an ethnological background, calling our attention to the relationship between text and melody, to the authentic performance, and to the ritual environment. Gregorian chant is embedded within the set sequence of liturgy and the eminent place of Hungarian research is due to the fact that it has always studied texts and melodies within this proper context.

It is an incidental fact, that only the Use of the Roman Curia and that of a few religious orders have survived from the whole of the western Church. A long-term goal of this series is to provide a starting-point for a revival of the Hungarian Church's peculiar heritage.