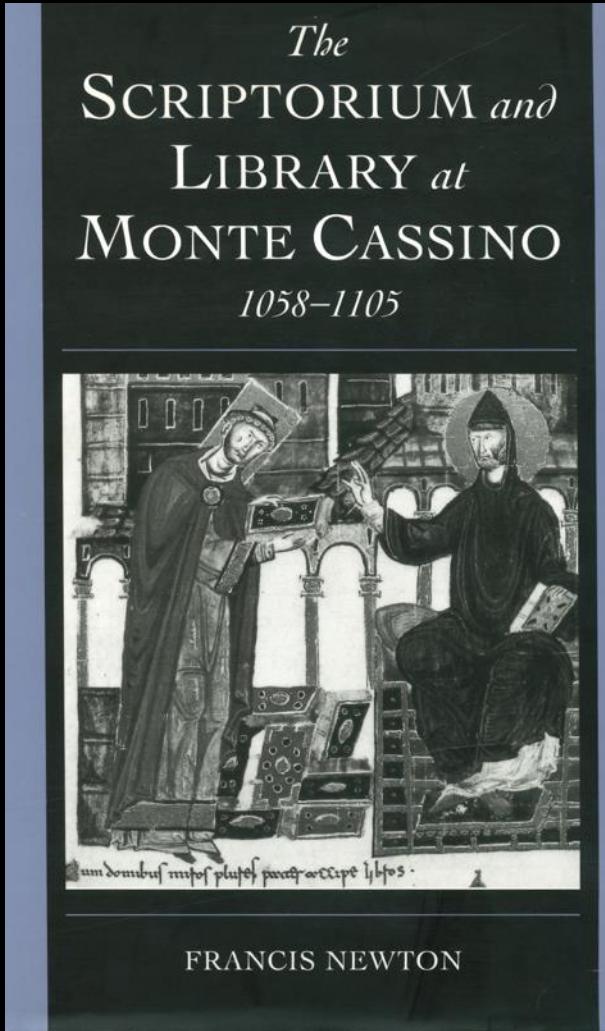


Montecassino: Monastery, Battleground, Inspiration



Main topics & take-aways from today's talk

- Geography, vital for Italy's history
- Monastery of Montecassino, established by Benedict of Nursia, 529 CE. Benedictines. Great floruit 11th c.; abbey rebuilt, 17th c.
- “Battle” of Montecassino, Jan. 1944 - May 1944, culminating 11-23 May 1944.
- Enduring significance of humanistic learning such as the study & preservation of manuscripts & books.
- Some Duke connections!



Desiderius' Montecassino

- Despite setbacks to monastery (e.g., Saracens raze it in 884), strong site and individuals. Overlooks main route b/t Rome & Naples. Owned much land.
- Desiderius, Abbot 1058-1086 (later Pope Victor III).
- Rebuilt church & buildings splendidly. International artists included ones from Constantinople.
- Great *floruit of scriptorium*.

The Duke connection!



Professor Newton (center) receives honorary degree from the Università di Cassino e del Lazio Meridionale

Nov. 1, 2018.
Prof. Newton, with Archivist
Don Mariano dell'Omo and
Abbot Rev. Donato Olgiari

*Francis L. Newton went to Montecassino in 1965, 8-month sabbatical (with family of 5).

*Great palaeographer!
Duke lured him in 1967.

*Innumerable articles, and
The Scriptorium and Library at Monte Cassino, 1058–1105 (CUP 1999).

The importance of book learning



Duke's Prof. Newton still working, at age 93.

THANK YOU!

Pax. Ora et Labora.

Peace. Pray and Work.

Respect community.

Preserve and enhance learning.

**Essential to culture, civilization and life, to allow us to rebuild and move forward after war and devastation.