

of one of the three necrologies. As provost and later as dean, this monk held a leading position at the monastery; he is attested until around 1150. Secondly, further Hersfeld monks have been found in the necrological registers of the Bavarian abbeys of Seeon and Niederaltaich, and the abbey of Wissembourg in Alsace. These entries attest to the close ties and prayer fraternities that bound these abbeys to one another from the 11th century. Thirdly, advances in the digitalisation of archival documents have now made it possible to identify at least some of the laity mentioned in the Hersfeld necrologies. Particularly relevant in this context is an original charter attesting to an agreement between Reginhard, abbot of Hersfeld, and the nobleman Cunimunt in the spring of 1107; a new edition is provided in the appendix. A great number of the witnesses attested in this document recur in the Hersfeld lists of the dead. Among their names we find members of the high nobility in medieval Hesse, together with a group of the abbey's retainers (*servientes*), who would later form the ministeriality of Hersfeld. These people constituted the *familia* or inner circle of the imperial abbey, from whose ranks many monks were recruited. In return for their services, Hersfeld granted them annual liturgical commemoration on the day of their death.