

Abstract

The “Good Life” tapestry is a true gem which is held in the chapterhouse of the Cathedral of Tarragona. It can be seen as a clear example of symbolic communication in political culture at the twilight of the Middle Ages. Leaving technical or stylistic matters aside, my presentation will mainly deal with those elements which enable us to tackle aspects such as the expression of the ideal social order and of good governance as well as its main effects. Consequently, we shall focus on identifying symbols and the main political ideas depicted through our attempt to define the theoretical source that inspired the creation of such an extraordinary piece, as well as the owner and perhaps the sponsor behind it, the archbishop Gonzalo Fernández de Heredia, who used the tapestry of the “Good Life”, together with other strategies, to give visibility to his desire for power. This became a means of propaganda and a form of expression about the underlying political conflict beyond its moralising purpose.