

In the end, nothing could be more suitable than the reference in the footnotes of these papers to the published proceedings, dealing with Italian confraternities, from the 1989 conference in Toronto (*Crossing the Boundaries ...*, ed. Konrad Eisenbichler. Early Drama, Art and Music Monograph Series, 15. Kalamazoo: Medieval Institute Publications, 1991).

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Fella, Francesco. *La confraternita di S. Domenico e l'Addolorata nell'Isola Madre*. Fasano, BR: Schena Editore, 1987. 435 pp. ISBN 88-7514-19409. Lire 38,000.

This in-depth volume examines the history and characteristics of the Taranto confraternity dedicated to St. Dominic and the Virgin of Sorrows from a variety of angles: not only historical, but also anthropological, semiotical, cultural, etc.

The first chapter, aptly entitled "Prolegomeni all'antropologia devozionale" begins with a look at the "sacrality" of words and "the sacred word" in order to define the terminology for a discussion of the 11th and 12th-century "crisis in preaching." The contribution of the Dominican and Servite orders to preaching is assessed, and the chapter ends with an examination of changing figure of Mary, now depicted as a "Mother of Sorrows" (*Addolorata*). The second chapter gives the historical background to the arrival of the Dominican order in the Puglia (the "Province of St. Thomas"), their first conflicts with the local secular clergy and older confraternities, the foundation of the confraternity of S. Domenico in Soriano (1670) and the first fifty years of its existence (1670-1727). The third chapter describes the eventual Dominican victory in the "precedence" question between local confraternities, the first officially-approved Statutes (1777), and the institution of the "Great Feast" of the Addolorata. The fourth chapter is devoted to the official amalgamation (*aggregazione*) of the confraternity of the Addolorata with the confraternity of San Domenico (1870). The last chapter examines the "Little Feast," the Easter procession, the representation of religious plays, the musical festivities, and other events organized or sponsored by the confraternity. Included within the chapters, there are several transcriptions of relevant documents.

The volume casts a wide net, ranging as it does from 11th to the 20th century and drawing in matters as diverse as medieval preaching and twentieth-century processions. In its diversity and wide-angled approach, however, it highlights the richness and continuity of confraternal and devotional traditions in Taranto.

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*Ordo equestris Sancti Sepulcri Hierosolymitani. Sezione Toscana. Sede Attività Componenti.* Firenze: n.p., 1994. 73 pp., illustrations.

Although strictly speaking not a confraternity, the Order of the Knight of Jerusalem is of interest to colleagues working on Medieval and Renaissance confraternities. In the early modern period, the Order's chapter in Florence, for example, had close ties with individuals and sites linked to local confraternities. These are brought to light in Ludovica Sebreghondi's contribution to this small, beautifully illustrated book recently published by the Sezione Toscana of the Order of the Knights of Jerusalem.

The volume itself consists of three chapters/sections. The first, entitled "Storia e vicende di un edificio" (pp. 5-38), is by Ludovica Sebreghondi, whose work on Florentine confraternities is well known to scholars in this field. Her contribution examines the Order's headquarters in Florence, drawing interesting connections with figures such as Vittorio dell'Ancisa (b. 1537), an active member of several confraternities, and founder of the Fanciulle Stabilite nella Carità. The architectural plans for the building and fine reproductions of some of canvases and the frescoes are of interest. Special subsections of the chapter are devoted to the confraternity of the SS. Concezione di Maria and to the confraternity of San Francesco di Paola.

The second section, by the "Preside" of the Sezione Toscana of the Order, Cav. Gr. Cr. Prof. Gorizio Viti, highlights their recent activities between 1986 and 1994 (pp. 39-53). The third section is a list of current officers and delegates for all of Tuscany (pp. 57-70).

Although in many ways a private and "commemorative" booklet, dott.ssa Sebreghondi's scholarly article on the building's history, its artistic heritage, and the Order's ties with local confraternities draws it readily to our attention and to our library shelves.

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