

Reviews

L'Archivio della Cancelleria Arcivescovile di Firenze. Inventario delle visite pastorali, ed. Gilberto Aranci. Pubblicazioni dell' Archivio Arcivescovile di Firenze, Inventari 2. Firenze: Giampiero Pagnini Editore, 1998. 303 pp. ISBN 88-8251-031-X. L. 38,000

In a scenario worthy of Renaissance manuscript hunters, the keepers of the Florentine archdiocesan archive undertook some years ago to re-organize the holdings on pastoral visits and, in the process, turned up some items which they had not realized existed, or which they had thought were lost. Two examples relevant for scholars of Renaissance and early modern confraternities are the pastoral visits of Cosimo Pazzi (1508–1512), and the visits to the churches of the city by Antonio Altoviti (1568). Filling lacunae and re-organizing the collection rendered the previous 1957 inventory out of date, and provided scholars with a superior guide to holdings in the archive.

Materials are organized in 4 series: 1) *verbali e atti di visita* (VP), containing the bulk of official materials in notarial registers and books from 1383 onwards; 2) *documenti* (VPD), containing loose miscellaneous materials relevant to visits from 1568 onwards; 3) *inventari dei beni dei benefici ecclesiastici* (IBE) containing inventories of properties, liturgical furnishings, and artworks which were generated in order to track local churches' adherence to synodal and visitors' decrees from 1477 onwards (though most materials are post-1568); 4) *documenti e relazioni delle 'visite ad limina'* (VAL), a small series containing the archbishops' reports to Rome on the spiritual state of the diocese from 1632 onwards.

The present volume provides inventories of these four series in turn. They are preceded by a brief chapter which reviews the visits of individual bishops and later archbishops of Florence from 1383 through 1930, and indicates the series in which material pertaining to their visits can be found. They are followed by an extensive toponomastic index organized by localities, with subheadings for parishes, *pievi*, oratories, and confraternities. The index helps work through this material, but it is still necessarily a partial index in that it does not replicate the toponomastic index for each visit found in the looseleaf inventories in the archive's reading room. In that sense, the volume is unintentionally misleading, since more materials on fifteenth and particularly sixteenth century confraternities exist in the pastoral visit records than are indicated here. Naturally, the bulk of materials inventoried here dates from the seventeenth into the twentieth centuries. Nonetheless, students of the ecclesiastical structures and spiritual state of the city and diocese of Florence in earlier centuries will find this a helpful preliminary guide to a very rich *fondo* in a very rich archive.

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