

The volume is an important contribution to the study of women, spirituality, and institutions in the late Middle Ages and early Renaissance.

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Le confraternite pugliesi in età moderna. 2. Atti del Seminario Internazionale di Studi, 27-29 Aprile 1989, ed. Liana Bertoldi Lenoci. Biblioteca della Ricerca Puglia Storica No. 3 (Fasano: Schena Editore, 1990). 1030, [48] pp. ISBN 88-7514-462-1. L. 65,000 [for contents, see the entry under Publications Received, below]

This volume contains the proceedings of the second conference on confraternities in the Puglia (Italy), organized by the Centro Ricerche di Storia Religiosa di Puglia. It complements and completes the studies contained in volume 1 (1988) [see *Confraternitas* 1:2, 1990, pp. 24-25]. The articles range chronologically from the Middle Ages to the present day, with an expressed emphasis on the historical, juridical, and devotional aspects of confraternities. Considerable importance is given to documentary sources conserved in the most diverse places to stress their prominence in the methodology employed which, in the case of this publication, often echoes the French school of religious history and sociology.

While remaining true to the objective of interpreting the data in light of the reality of the Puglia, the volume also includes research on the confraternities of Normandy and on Italian manuscripts in the cathedral of Toledo in order to render the "pugliesità" of these confraternities in the broader context of Christian Europe.

This study also goes beyond religious and devotional history to encompass the socio-economic and cultural character

of confraternities in Puglia. All confraternities, both "noble" and "poor", are united by the common elements of fear and hope. Fear is interpreted in both the sense of anxiety over periodic secular difficulties and fear of death. Each article, in one form or another, shows how the solidarity provided by confraternities helps members confront these uncertainties.

Like the first volume, this second volume also contains a wealth of information on a variety of aspects of confraternal life. It is valuable for the many records (statutes, letters, etc.) which shed light on the membership, activities, and finances of each confraternity studied. Furthermore, many illustrations record the iconographic and architectural patrimony, as well as contemporary activities of confraternities in the region.

There is an index, and a 30 page summary of all the articles published in the two volumes (1988 and 1990).

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