

Reviews

Carrara, Francesca and Maria Pia Mannini. *Lo spedale della Misericordia e Dolce di Prato. Storia e collezioni*. Appendice di Ivo Regoli. Area Pratese: Masso delle Fate Edizioni, 1993. 252 pp., illustrations.

The volume focuses on the history of the building and the collections of the Spedale della Scala e Dolce in Prato in an attempt to reconstruct the historical, architectural, and artistic events of this urban institution which played a commanding role in the economic and social history of the city. To this end, the work has been co-authored by an architect, Francesca Carrara, and the Curator of the Civic Museum, Dr. Maria Pia Mannini.

After a brief *Presentation* (pp. 5-6) and *Preface* (pp. 7-8), the volume is divided into two parts. In Part I (pp. 9-77), Francesca Carrara conducts a comparative analysis of the growth and development of the actual structure of the hospice/hospital in connection with the evolution of, and modification to the urban fabric in which it resides. Seen as an intersection of many diverse histories, the Spedale's relationship to the surrounding urban architecture is studied in chronological order, from the 12th to the 19th century, with particular reference to the phenomenon of the development of similar institutions in Tuscany, as well as other broader socio-historical events which played important roles in its development.

The next section (pp. 79-118), by Dr. Mannini, attempts a comprehensive and organic reconstruction of the holdings of works of art—paintings, ornaments, furniture, majolica—which, over the centuries, have been dispersed and divided principally between the Palazzo degli Spedalinghi and the Palazzo Pretorio, current site of the Civic Museum. Proceeding in chronological

order from the first inventory of 1273 to the 18th century, this section examines everything from the frescoes, coats of arms, portraits, altarpieces, to the majolica pieces of the pharmacy.

Related to the art collection, there follow brief sections examining bequests, acquisitions and suppressions (pp. 119-25), the Martini Gallery (pp. 127-28), as well as a comprehensive index of works of art (pp. 131-92). These are further supplemented by a brief chronology of the hospital's history (pp. 193-98), an extensive appendix containing all documents consulted and pertinent to the research, in both Latin and Italian, (pp. 201-49), and a chronological bibliography of all related studies.

This volume provides valuable information regarding the relationship between benevolent institutions and the arts by means of sound archival research and abundant documentation. This latter aspect is in the form of numerous photographs of the works of art, architectural designs and maps which also render the volume attractive to the eye.

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Clark, Mary and Raymond Refaüssé, eds. *Directory of Historic Dublin Guilds*. Dublin: Dublin Public Libraries, 1993. 65 pp., 8 b/w illustrations. ISBN 0-94684-1438 hardback, price IR 10-94 p.; 0-94684-112x paperback, price IR 5-95 p.

The tragic loss of many Dublin guild records in 1922 when the Public Record Office of Ireland was gutted with fire has undoubtedly hampered scholarship on the fascinating subject of Dublin's guild system. As the editors maintain in the foreword, this book seeks once again to stimulate interest in the study of Dublin's guilds by providing an introduction to their history and surviving sources. This book has therefore much to offer, even to those already familiar with the subject.

The history of Dublin guilds spans over 600 years, from the guild system's charter of inception in 1162 to 1841 when the