

Di Biase, Pietro. *Le confraternite di Trinitapoli*. Fasano di Puglia: Schena Editore, 1989. 223 pp. ISBN 88-7514-353-6. Lire 24,000.

This beautifully printed and illustrated volume examines confraternities in Trinitapoli, Puglia, with particular emphasis on their 18th-century origins. The author contextualizes the birth of these organizations within the "evolution/involution" which he sees as an important determinant of the lay religious movement in southern Italy and elsewhere in the peninsula at that time. As an example of this phenomenon, the author points to the decrease in charitable activities (once a major component of confraternity life) and its contingent increase in devotional activities. The change, he purports, is predicated by a ruinous drop in economic resources, which he sees as a direct result of Bourbon government attempts to appropriate the confraternities' extensive wealth. Left "high and dry," the confraternities are thus obliged to emphasize their devotional life, eventually externalizing and formalizing it in line with current taste. The final result is a weakening of the strong spiritual/religious sensibilities that had given birth to the confraternities and a loosening of the adhesive forces that had brought and held together the original members.

The volume is divided into chapters that describe not only the confraternities' origins, but also their statutes, membership, habit, administration, religious practices, spiritual advisor, charitable activities, the "problem of death," ending with some "riflessioni" by the author, a description of the confraternities in the 19th and 20th century, and an epilogue. The author has also included three appendices, one describing the Holy Week confraternal procession in Trinitapoli, another the clerical/confraternal conflicts in the post-unification period (post 1861), and the third is a transcription of the statutes of the four confraternities of the Santissimo Sacramento (1758), S. Maria di Loreto (1781), S. Giuseppe (1781), and S. Anna (1832).

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Esperienze dello spettacolo religioso nell'Europa del Quattrocento. Convegno di studi, Roma 17-20 giugno, Anagni 21 giugno 1992. Centro di studi sul teatro medioevale e rinascimentale. Roma: Torre D'Orfeo Editrice, 1993. 370 pp.

The volume under review constitutes an impressive collection of papers presented at the 16th annual conference of the Centro studi sul teatro