

Reviews

Cervini, Fulvio and Silvano Rodi. *Il restauro dell'organo "Felice e Giacomo Bossi" (1861) nell'Oratorio di Nostra Signora della Misericordia in S. Stefano al Mare (IM)*. Quaderni d'arte organaria in Liguria. Imperia, 1994. 46 pp.

Although this is primarily a volume about the restoration of the confraternity's nineteenth-century organ, the preliminary article by Fulvio Cervini will be of interest to scholars working on early modern confraternities, for it is a brief history of the oratory of Our Lady of Mercy in Imperia, a sizeable town on the western Italian Riviera. References to confraternal devotions touching on a processional crucifix are extant from the late fifteenth century. By the sixteenth century there are references to a *casatia batutorum*, a *capella Sanctae Mariae verberatorum*, and a *ecllexia seu casatia verberatorum*. Significant alterations to the oratory are then recorded in the late seventeenth century. Cervini describes the changes wrought to the oratory and follows the trail of the numerous architects, builders, and others who had a hand in the constructions, renovations, and alterations. Cervini also discusses the architectural spaces thus created, with an eye for their role in the confraternity's devotions. Stucco decorations, canvases, and other decorations are also discussed, as is the great organ placed in the oratory in the mid-nineteenth century. Cervini concludes that although the confraternity's oratory has undergone a number of alterations, it is still a valid example of Ligurian confraternal architecture.

Konrad Eisenbichler
Victoria College
University of Toronto

Confraternite, arte e devozione in Puglia dal Quattrocento al Settecento. Exhibition catalogue ed. by Clara Gelao. Napoli: Electa, 1994. 525 pp., ill.

This exquisitely assembled exhibition catalogue presents an impressive array of works of art and original documents from the confraternal collections of Puglia. Spanning the fifteenth through eighteenth centuries, it is the product of the art historical component of an extensive