

Confraternite, chiesa e società. Ed. Liana Bertoldi Lenoci. Fasano: Schena Editore, 1994. 889 pp., ill.

This collection of essays on confraternities, the Church, and society constitutes a major component of the 1994 confraternities project ("Progetto 94") undertaken by the Centro Ricerche di Storia Religiosa in Puglia. Unlike the exhibition catalogue on confraternities and religious art in Puglia (see above), this volume reaches far beyond the geographical boundaries of the region and of Italy, to bring together scholars from both sides of the Atlantic. Confraternities from across Italy (Calabria, Puglia, Florence, Bologna, Rome, Modena, Genoa, Venice etc.) are examined, along with those in France, Spain, Germany and early colonial Brazil. The time frame ranges from the fourteenth century to the present, with an emphasis on the sixteenth through eighteenth centuries.

The rich geographical and temporal scope of the collection is intensified when the multiplicity of scholarly approaches is taken into consideration. The disciplines included range from history to historiography, art history, architecture, archaeology, music and theatre. The very fact that confraternity studies lends itself so readily to so many approaches indicates the thoroughly social nature of these organizations, and their important role in both the sacred and profane aspects of community life.

Lenoci's succinct introduction explains that the book is drawn from papers submitted and accepted for an international conference which was subsequently cancelled due to lack of sufficient funding. A redirection of extant funds, however, allowed for the publication of the "proceedings." As a result, a comprehensive yet eclectic collection of essays was compiled that reflects the diversity of place, time, and approach in confraternity studies. The contents of the volume, which ought to find a place in all major library shelves, are listed below in the rubric "Publications Received" (p. 41-42).

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Italian Altarpieces 1250-1550. Function and Design. Eds. Eve Borsook and Fiorella Superbi Gioffredi. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1994. viii, 296 pp., ill.

This collection of eight essays is a result of a conference held in 1988 at Villa I Tatti in Florence. The range of approaches represented is wide, including discussions of format, function, patronage, original setting and reception.