

*La Parrocchiale dei Santi Rocco e Sebastiano di Parodi Ligure tra medioevo ed età contemporanea.* Ed. Claudio Paolucci. Genova: Associazione Amici Biblioteca Franzoniana, 1995. 131 pp., 35 ill.

This volume is a special publication celebrating the 150th anniversary of the constitution of the parish of St. Rocco and St. Sebastian in Parodi Ligure, a small town in northern Italy at the border of Piedmont and Liguria. It collects six essays on several topics related to the parish.

The first article is a survey of archival and diplomatic sources on the ancient Benedictine settlement of St. Remigio, a complex located near Parodi, which was founded in the twelfth century as a monastic community of the monastery of S. Maria Castiglione in Parma. This complex grew to become the first parish church for the villages of the area. The author, Simonetta Rossi, makes use of extensive historical literature and several notary charts from the Archivio di Stato di Genova to illustrate the historical development of the ancient monastery and the succession of the priors. We learn that in the fifteenth century St. Remigio ceased to host a monastic community and was given as a benefice to clerks and priests from distinguished families of the neighbourhood. From that point, this benefice was held *in commendam*. In the sixteenth century a chapel dedicated to St. Rocco was built in Parodi, probably on the occasion of an outburst of plague, and it soon became the place of worship for the community of the small village, although St. Remigio retained the statutes of parish until 1845.

The second article, on the artistic wealth in the possession of the complex of S. Remigio and S. Rocco, was written by Fausta Franchini Guelfi. Particularly interesting are some references to the parish archive of St. Remigio, which still contains complete documentation on parish life from 1625; it mentions the presence of the three confraternities of SS. Annunziata, SS. Sacramento, and of Nostra Signora del Rosario (Our Lady of the Rosary). SS. Annunziata's confraternity has left many documents witnessing its life and the expenses it incurred in decorating the church with paintings and liturgical and processional furniture. This artistic heritage is today almost completely lost. The confraternity of N.S. del Rosario was dedicated to Marian worship and represented the most illustrious families of Parodi.

The other articles deal with paintings, sculptures and marble ornaments related to St. Remigio and St. Rocco. A useful bibliography is provided at the end of the volume for those interested in research on the area's local history.

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*Presenza clariana nella storia di Assisi*, ed. Francesco Santucci. Assisi: Accademia Properziana del Subasio, 1994. 246 pp.

From the early seventies, female monasticism has been the subject of increasing attention from scholars interested in the history of the religious orders. The rise of religious communities for women was particularly significant in Central Italy, where