

movement ("Fonti e metodi di ricerca nello studio dei Bianchi"), the book seeks to answer why, in the summer of 1399, great bands of pilgrims throughout northern Italy donned white vestments emblazoned with red crosses and went about the countryside fasting and calling for peace and mercy. Marrocchi examines a number of sources, including the traditional account of an apparition of the Virgin Mary, and concludes that the movement may be traceable as much to social unrest as to religious devotion. Another theory Marrocchi proposes is that the movement may also have been tied to plague avoidance, suggesting that many of the elements of the movement bear a striking similarity to the contemporary precautions against infection.

Marrocchi's overview is followed by Amleto Spicciani's "Il miracolo e la conoscenza storica," where he considers the best known of the miracles attributed to the movement: the crucifix in Borgo a Buggiano which, by all contemporary accounts, actually bled in response to the movement. Spicciani examines the varying details of the miracle, as well as the popular beliefs and the iconography of the time, in order to determine the extent to which such a miracle conformed to contemporary religious and historical expectations that would allow it to be accepted as genuine.

Fabrizio Mari presents a view of the movement throughout the Valdinievole region in his "I Bianchi in Valdinievole. Testimonianze contemporanee e sviluppi storiografici." In this work the author draws on contemporary accounts and examines their historiographical development. The volume returns to the miracle of the crucifix, as Rossano Pazzagli examines the persistence and the revival of the tradition in the modern era ("Persistenza e rinnovamento di una tradizione. La celebrazione del crocifisso di Borgo a Buggiano in età moderna"). Paolo Vitali completes the study with a wonderfully illustrated look at the iconography of the crucifix in question ("Iconografia del crocifisso ligneo della Chiesa di S. Pietro Apostolo di Borgo a Buggiano").

For confraternity scholars, the book will provide a view of one of the more significant lay movements of the late Middle Ages, but one which did not translate into continued association. For this reason it will be particularly useful for comparative studies.

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Dionigi, Renzo. *SS. Quattuor Coronati. Bibliography and Iconography. An Essay*. Milano: Aisthesis, 1998. 255 pp. ISBN. 88-87361-04-5. £. 25/Lit. 75.000. illustrations

The history and iconography of the SS. Quattuor Coronati, or the Four Crowned Martyrs, patron saints of many stonemason guilds from the late medieval period onwards, has been presented in this new and very handsome book, containing thirty seven colour plates and numerous other black and white illustrations. The

author, Renzo Dionigi, a Professor of Surgery and Dean of the Medical School at the University of Pavia, is not a professional art historian or iconographer. His interest in the topic developed instead from personal interest, Masonic connections, and an effort to expand the corpus of research on these saints by a more thorough examination of southern European, mainly Italian, sources (though much northern European material is also included).

The book is divided into four main sections: an introduction to the saints' legends and history; a large annotated bibliography of references and representations of the saints; a twelve page essay on the iconography of the saints, accompanied by fifty seven pages of illustrations, many of them in colour; and, finally, a collection of appendices of documents and records, as well as indices of persons, subjects, places, etc.

The book will be welcomed by readers with Masonic interests, especially since it relies heavily on Masonic publications. The bibliographical section contains many references to articles in *Ars Quattuor Coronatorum* (*Transactions of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076*), the proceedings and papers of the London Masonic Lodge No. 2076; along with many references to other, less known and sometimes privately printed, Masonic journals and monographs. *Rivista Massonica*, *Transactions of the Missouri Lodge of Research*, *The Short Talk Bulletin*, *Freemason's Monthly Magazine*, as well as publications from Lewis Masonic Books, are just some of the Masonic series and publishers mentioned. Among the Masonic publications in the bibliography, there are also many traditional academic works with references to the Four Crowned Martyrs.

The iconographical section is primarily descriptive and is supplemented with a large section of plates (also with short descriptions). It is clear the author has tried to be as comprehensive as possible in finding all known images of these saints and all textual references to them. He includes frescoes, sculpture, enamels, images on gravestones, manuscripts, capital carvings, engravings, etchings, banners, and even a candlestick. He has collected material from many public art collections in Europe and North America and has also included material that, although destroyed, is known from secondary sources or drawings. It is this comprehensiveness that may make *SS. Quattuor Coronati* useful to traditional scholars who are not necessarily Masonic researchers. In fact, for the academic scholar the book can be a quick and useful guide to find images or other references to these saints. It is, however, a guide that should be used with care. Along with primary source references and accredited scholarly works, there is much that is of marginal academic use and interest.

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