

and her family was quite positive, as it was also for the wider community and the state that benefitted from a trained and educated female work force, especially in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (but not only).

The opening article by Anna Cantaluppi, "Le fonti: un percorso attraverso gli archivi della Casa del Soccorso all'Educatório Duchessa Isabella" (pp. 17–36), presents the rich documentation available in the archive of the Compagnia di San Paolo for the study of women in the confraternity. It opens with a short description of the administrative structures at the Compagnia and then moves to a description of the archival sources on women starting with the Soccorso and the Deposito and going all the way to the nineteenth-century "Educatório Duchessa Isabella" (Duchess Isabella School). This is followed by Sandra Cavallo's article "Assistenza ed educazione in età moderna" (pp. 37–48) which focuses on the early-modern period, differentiating, in part, the work of the *case* and *opere pie* set up by the Compagnia di San Paolo from the standard early modern "hospice or husband" (*muro o marito*) dichotomy that women had to face. Marcella Maritano's "Le case del Soccorso, del Deposito e delle Forzate dalla fondazione alla Rivoluzione Francese" (pp. 49–161) examines in depth the three institutions for women up to the French Revolution, looking at their context (Turin) as well as their practices (entry regulations and requirements, departure, daily life, etc.). From the perspective of architectural and urban history, readers will find Bruno Signorelli's article "Sotto lo stesso tetto: le sedi dal XVI al XX secolo" (pp. 283–343), on the various buildings that housed the various *case* of interest, especially the earlier subsections that touch on the location of the *case* in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

The other articles in the collection take us into the modern era, as does the second volume in the set, a photographic essay on the women and the activities of the school from the mid-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries. These may not be of interest to early modernists, but they certainly will be to scholars of women's history, women's institutions, and women's education.

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Crivellin, Walter E. and Bruno Signorelli (eds.). *Per una storia della Compagnia di San Paolo (1563–1853).*

3 vols. Quaderni dell'Archivio storico. Turin: Compagnia di San Paolo, 2004, 2005, 2007. Pp. 205, 228, 252. ISBN 88-88284-04-4, 88-88284-05-2, 88-88284-06-0 (paperback), n.p.

This three-volume collection of articles and archival material investigates the history of the Compagnia di San Paolo, beginning with its foundation

in 1563 to 1853, immediately following the expulsion of the Jesuits and the investigation into the working of the Compagnia. The work stems from a thorough examination of the collection in the Archivio Storico San Paolo, as well as other archives containing relevant documents such as the State Archives in Torino.

Each volume contains a small collection of articles or discussions based on research on certain collections within the archives. The first article, Cecilia Laurora and Maria Paola Niccoli's "Gli atti ritrovati: fonti per lo studio della Compagnia di San Paolo", contains a transcription of financial papers, preceded by a synthesis cataloguing the information in the collection of deeds relating to the Compagnia. The initial discussion that appears before the transcription provides some insights into the most significant influences in the Compagnia at the time. This first volume contains two additional articles looking at similar records of donations and bequests to the Compagnia but linking them to establish the intricate pattern of relationships between key players. Through close analysis of the documents available, the second article, Blythe Alice Raviola's "Reti di credito e composizione sociale della Compagnia di San Paolo. Un'analisi attraverso i lasciti conservati presso l'Archivio Storico della Compagnia" demonstrates the way that donations and bequests to the Compagnia were used to manipulate political and social status. The third article, Nicolina Calapà's "I Baronis: da mercanti e banchieri a conti di Buttigliera d'Asti. Ascesa economica e sociale di una famiglia nella Torino del Seicento", discusses in detail the process of actively increasing social status and rising to the heights of the aristocracy through investment in, and donation to the Compagnia and other similar organisations. There is special focus on the example of the Baronis brothers who acquired titles through this process.

The second volume, which concentrates on artistic patronage and the establishment and maintenance of the premises and estate of the Compagnia, opens with Laura De Fanti's "Il patrimonio artistico della Compagnia di San Paolo". Accompanied by a raft of important primary source material such as census records, contracts and accounts, Bruno Signorelli's article on "La costruzione della nuova sede della Compagnia di San Paolo nell'isolato San Felice (1701–1704)" discusses the establishment of a new headquarters at the beginning of the eighteenth century. The final article in this volume, Andrea Merlotti's "La Compagnia di San Paolo alla metà del XVIII secolo. Una élite politico-economica tra corte e municipalità", brings the discussion back to the topic of relationships, highlighting the influence of the Compagnia over the city of Turin.

In the final volume, the work outlined in the first article in the first volume is expanded in Cecilia Laurora and Maria Paola Niccoli's "Gli atti ritrovati: fonti per lo studio della Compagnia di San Paolo (1636–1685)". The work continues the cataloguing work begun in the first article and shows the extent to which the financial activities grew over the greater part of the seventeenth century by the number and complexity of the deeds

and other records of transactions. The second article, Pier Giorgio Longo's "«Eran nel mondo e fuor del mondo ...»: Alle origini della Compagnia di San Paolo", provides a fascinating account of the origins of the Compagnia through analysis of rare sixteenth-century letters and the original deeds outlining its establishment. There is also discussion about how the deeds were changed in the centuries following to reflect the changing needs of a growing confraternity.

The concluding article details the difficulties experienced by the Compagnia towards the middle of the nineteenth century during a period of political and religious unrest in Italy. Signed by Walter E Crivellin, one of the editors of the collection, the discussion centres on a number of important documents that were written during this time by members of the confraternity. They show the general intent of the Compagnia and its reaction to the restrictions being imposed.

As mentioned in the introduction to the first volume by the current president of the Compagnia di San Paolo, the work contained in these volumes serves to provide an insight into the many possibilities for further research based on the fonds at the Archivio Storico San Paolo.

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Giordano, Paola. *I "Censi" presso la Compagnia di San Paolo nei secoli XVIII e XIX.*

Quaderni dell'Archivio Storico. Turin: Compagnia di San Paolo, 1997, rpt. 2008. Pp. 155. No ISBN, no price.

Paola Giordano's volume is the first in the series "Quaderni dell'Archivio Storico" of the Compagnia of San Paolo in Turin. A revised and expanded version of her *laurea* thesis, it examines the financial investments and activities of the company, or confraternity, of St Paul (founded 1563), with a special focus on the annuities contracts (*contratti di censo*) it signed. In so doing, Giordano's analysis contributes a wealth of important insights into the economic activities of a confraternity that, in time, became one of the major financial institutions not only in Piedmont, where it originated, but in Italy as well.

An introductory essay by Carlo Montanari examines the relevance and the trajectory of annuities (*rendite*) in the Italian judicial system starting in the sixteenth century. It also scrutinizes the different meanings of the word *census*, especially after Pius V's bull *Cum onus* (1569) sought, once again, to control and regulate usury. Lastly, Montanari's essay discusses the juridical ramifications of the application of the *censi* in Piedmont between the sixteenth and the eighteenth centuries, when they were still used despite a chronic drop in circulation of cash.