

Confraternities played an important—and quite visible—role in certain moments of the Easter Week festivities. For example, they participated significantly in the Good Friday processions, often providing a vivid and, literally, bloody reminder of Christ's suffering. The author thus mentions confraternities throughout the volume. He also devotes several subsections to confraternity practices. He describes, for example, confraternity visits to the "Sepulchres" set up in churches and oratories, penitential and flagellant processions, Easter celebrations in confraternities in Assisi, Perugia, Rome, the Veneto and Abruzzo, etc.

Although the major emphasis of the volume is on the theatricality and dramatic context of the Easter "feast" as a whole, scholars working on confraternities will find the book useful for the information on rituals and devotional practices in which confraternities themselves also participated.

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Benvenuti Papi, Anna. *"In castro poenitentiae". Santità e società femminile nell'Italia medievale*. Italia Sacra Studi e Documenti di Storia Ecclesiastica, 45 (Roma: Herder Editrice, 1990), xxxii, 713 pp. ISBN 88-85876-12-9

This rather hefty volume is a collection of many of the author's previously published articles on women and religion in Tuscany in the 13th and 14th centuries. Aside from bringing together and thus making readily accessible articles published over the course of the past fifteen years in a variety of venues—from conference proceedings to journals—that are not always easy to find, the volume illustrates the development, and hence the general direction of research into female religiosity in late-medieval/early Renaissance Europe. Such research has pointed to the relation-

ship extant between the Mendicant orders and the urban milieu in which the Mendicants functioned, and to the development, in line with their new devotional propositions, of a different and more open approach to pastoral work, one from which women, in particular, would reap great benefit (pp. xvii-xviii).

The author acknowledges that one of the difficulties in examining this new religiosity in women lies in the fact that the "memory" of it is exclusively "male" (p. xix). However, through a methodology akin to an "archeology of silence" (as she calls it), the author identifies and examines documents that allow her to see a growth of "female vocation" that reverses the reduction precipitated by the benedictine reforms of the earlier centuries (p. xix).

Scholars working on confraternities will be especially interested in Benvenuti Papi's examination of women in convents, tertiary orders, confraternities, and other such institutions. Although the study is limited to Tuscany, the presence of many women subsequently canonized or declared blessed points to the fervour and vitality of female religiosity in that region and in those centuries.

The volume opens with a preface by André Vauchez in which he contextualizes the author's work within the tradition of Grundmann, Meersseman, McDonnell and Le Goff. In the "Premessa" (pp. xv-xxix) Benvenuti Papi briefly traces the development of recent scholarship on women mystics and female religiosity through a bibliography of congresses (with their proceedings) and major publications in the field. The body of the volume is divided into six sections drawn, as mentioned above, from previously published articles that have been revised, brought up to date, and corrected in order to give the volume a clearer focus and greater unity. The sections are: "La città e i mendicanti" (pp. 1-98); "Una terra di sante e di città" (pp. 99-168); "Santità e quotidiano" (pp. 169-259); "Velut in sepulcro" (pp. 261-414); "Le donne di Giovanni Colombini" (pp. 415-528; this section is an original contribution, not drawn from previous articles); "In castro poenitentiae" (pp. 529-665). A thorough index complements and enriches the volume.

The volume is an important contribution to the study of women, spirituality, and institutions in the late Middle Ages and early Renaissance.

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Le confraternite pugliesi in età moderna. 2. Atti del Seminario Internazionale di Studi, 27-29 Aprile 1989, ed. Liana Bertoldi Lenoci. Biblioteca della Ricerca Puglia Storica No. 3 (Fasano: Schena Editore, 1990). 1030, [48] pp. ISBN 88-7514-462-1. L. 65,000 [for contents, see the entry under Publications Received, below]

This volume contains the proceedings of the second conference on confraternities in the Puglia (Italy), organized by the Centro Ricerche di Storia Religiosa di Puglia. It complements and completes the studies contained in volume 1 (1988) [see *Confraternitas* 1:2, 1990, pp. 24-25]. The articles range chronologically from the Middle Ages to the present day, with an expressed emphasis on the historical, juridical, and devotional aspects of confraternities. Considerable importance is given to documentary sources conserved in the most diverse places to stress their prominence in the methodology employed which, in the case of this publication, often echoes the French school of religious history and sociology.

While remaining true to the objective of interpreting the data in light of the reality of the Puglia, the volume also includes research on the confraternities of Normandy and on Italian manuscripts in the cathedral of Toledo in order to render the "pugliesità" of these confraternities in the broader context of Christian Europe.

This study also goes beyond religious and devotional history to encompass the socio-economic and cultural character