

those used to pouring through the voluminous *Calendar of Ancient Records of Dublin*.

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Fanti, Mario, ed. *Gli archivi delle istituzioni di carità e assistenza attive in Bologna nel Medioevo e nell'età moderna*. Atti del 4.o colloquio "Forme e soggetti dell'intervento assistenziale in una città d'antico regime," Bologna 20-21 gennaio 1984. Vol. 1. Bologna: Istituto per la storia di Bologna, 1984. 155 pp.

The volume opens with a brief but important listing of specific *fondi* of confraternity materials given according to their current location (pp. 9-12). Thus, for example, we read that in the Fondo Demaniale at the Archivio di Stato di Bologna are to be found the documents of the Compagnia del Buon Gesù and nine other confraternities. The four following chapters continue with similar essential information, grouping it according to types of institutions and providing not only very precise collocation indications but also a brief history of each organization.

Thus chapter 1 "Hospices for pilgrims, travellers and the infirm" provides historical and archival information on the confraternities and hospices of S. Maria della Vita and twelve other such organizations (pp. 15-53). The second chapter, dealing with orphanages for both boys and girls, covers ten such organizations (pp. 55-87). The third chapter lists seven hospices and homes for the indigent, the aged, and poor priests (pp. 89-112). And the fourth gathers six other various benevolent institutions (pp. 113-144). Four different indices (organizations, institutions, families, and a general index) complete the volume.

This is a fundamental and indispensable volume for the study of the confraternal movement in Bologna since most, if not all

these organizations were either run or had extremely close ties with confraternities in the city.

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Fanti, Mario. *La Chiesa e la Compagnia dei Poveri in Bologna. Una istituzione di mutuo soccorso nella società bolognese fra il Cinquecento e il Seicento*. Presentazione di Paolo Prodi. Bologna: Edizioni Dehoniane, 1977. 201 pp., illustrations.

This study of the Bolognese Compagnia dei Poveri and its church of Santa Maria Regina dei Cieli was produced for the 400th anniversary of its foundation (1576). A small group of working class Bolognese established the confraternity for purposes of communal piety and mutual aid. The members' regular donations provided for financial assistance in times of sickness, for the care of orphans, for dowries, and for the burial of the deceased. Members were to exercise a spiritual life directed by confraternal and individual prayer. Membership, both male and female, quickly increased. In 1595 the confraternity counted over 2,500 members, a figure that Fanti estimates to represent 4.23% of the total population of Bologna. A concern of the officers of the confraternity was that only a small fraction of the membership participated in the confraternity's religious services. One reason for this may have been the greater emphasis members placed on the confraternity's work of social assistance. Another may have been the fact that a large number of members were day labourers and tradesmen whose time and economics may have made participation in communal worship more difficult.

The author highlights a significant shift in membership and operation at the end of the 16th and beginning of the 17th centuries. The original membership of day labourers and tradesmen was augmented by the presence of wealthier Bolognesi. By the