

The volume casts a wide net, ranging as it does from 11th to the 20th century and drawing in matters as diverse as medieval preaching and twentieth-century processions. In its diversity and wide-angled approach, however, it highlights the richness and continuity of confraternal and devotional traditions in Taranto.

Konrad Eisenbichler

Victoria College, University of Toronto

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Ordo equestris Sancti Sepulcri Hierosolymitani. Sezione Toscana. Sede Attività Componenti. Firenze: n.p., 1994. 73 pp., illustrations.

Although strictly speaking not a confraternity, the Order of the Knight of Jerusalem is of interest to colleagues working on Medieval and Renaissance confraternities. In the early modern period, the Order's chapter in Florence, for example, had close ties with individuals and sites linked to local confraternities. These are brought to light in Ludovica Sebreghondi's contribution to this small, beautifully illustrated book recently published by the Sezione Toscana of the Order of the Knights of Jerusalem.

The volume itself consists of three chapters/sections. The first, entitled "Storia e vicende di un edificio" (pp. 5-38), is by Ludovica Sebreghondi, whose work on Florentine confraternities is well known to scholars in this field. Her contribution examines the Order's headquarters in Florence, drawing interesting connections with figures such as Vittorio dell'Ancisa (b. 1537), an active member of several confraternities, and founder of the Fanciulle Stabilite nella Carità. The architectural plans for the building and fine reproductions of some of canvases and the frescoes are of interest. Special subsections of the chapter are devoted to the confraternity of the SS. Concezione di Maria and to the confraternity of San Francesco di Paola.

The second section, by the "Preside" of the Sezione Toscana of the Order, Cav. Gr. Cr. Prof. Gorizio Viti, highlights their recent activities between 1986 and 1994 (pp. 39-53). The third section is a list of current officers and delegates for all of Tuscany (pp. 57-70).

Although in many ways a private and "commemorative" booklet, dott.ssa Sebreghondi's scholarly article on the building's history, its artistic heritage, and the Order's ties with local confraternities draws it readily to our attention and to our library shelves.

Konrad Eisenbichler

Victoria College, University of Toronto