

Reviews

Mario Fanti (ed.). *L'Archivio Consorziale del clero urbano di Bologna (secoli XI — XX). Inventario. Con un saggio storico di Felice Gallinetti. Archivio Arcivescovile Generale: Studi e sussidi, 4. Bologna: Costa Editore, 2009. Pp. 78 + ill. ISBN 978-8-8896-4664-9.*

Bologna's parish priests were organized into confraternity-like sodalities called *consorzi* for purposes of mutual assistance and sociability. A priest's *consorzio* gathered investments and endowments and offered the kind of charitable benefits in sickness and old age that Bolognese *confratelli* took as a matter of course. There were many similarities between the confraternity and the *consorzio*, and the organization of the latter even followed the social geography of the commune, to the point that there was one of these clerical sodalities for each quarter. Yet they originated centuries earlier. The oldest is documented to 1084, and the others extend back to at least 1130 and 1186, long before the first lay confraternities began multiplying in the mid-thirteenth century.

Mario Fanti here publishes the inventory which he has drawn up for the Archivio Consorziale in his capacity as the head archivist of Bologna's Archivio Generale Arcivescovile. His inventory includes a number of bodies whose records are incorporated into the deposit, including the Congregazione degli Otto which oversaw and co-ordinated the work of the 4 sodalities, and later related bodies like the Congregazione del Suffragio, the Collegio dei parroci urbani, and the Assunteria dello Spoglio. It also includes the archdiocesan holdings of manuscripts for Bologna's *conforteria* of S. Maria della Morte, the lay confraternity which comforted prisoners in their final hours before execution. By way of background to the work of the clerical groups, he has incorporated into this volume a slim work of 1916 entitled "La Congregazione del Clero dei Quattro Consorzi dei Quartieri di Bologna," by the priest and local ecclesiastical historian Felice Gallinetti who did much to put the Archdiocesan Archive in order while he served as Vicar General in 1925–30. Gallinetti assigned Don Augusto Macchiavelli to the work of ordering the archives of the 4 *consorzi*, and Fanti built his own modern inventory on the efforts of this 'inexhaustible' pioneer. The bulk of extant documents cover the later fourteenth through the twentieth centuries, and constitute a treasure trove for researchers interested in the subsistence, sociability, and self-governance of the secular clergy.

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