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Vallery, Tullio. *La Scuola dalmata dei santi Giorgio e Trifone. Note e appunti per una cronistoria*. Collana di Ricerche Storiche "Jolanda Maria Trèveri". Venice: Scuola dalmata dei SS. Giorgio e Trifone, 2011. Pp. 165, b/w illustrations. ISBN 978-88-88669-24-3 (paperback)

The "Scuola Dalmata dei Santi Giorgio e Trifone", also known as "Scuola di San Giorgio degli Schiavoni", was founded in Venice in 1451 by a group of Dalmatian immigrants and is still fully operational today. It is also a museum and so this book can be considered its official guide. In it, Tullio Vallery, "Guardian Grande" of the Scuola since 1992, describes the confraternity's origins, its patron saints, its building, its documents, and its history.

In the first section Vallery explains how, already since the Middle Ages, Venice had a close commercial relationship with Dalmatia that became even stronger when the entire region was annexed by Venice in the early fifteenth century. Because of that annexation and the threat presented by the Turkish expansion in those years, many Dalmatian immigrants, also called "Schiavoni", went to live in Venice. Almost 200 of them, during a meeting held in "Ospedale di Santa Caterina" on 24 March 1451, founded a brotherhood, approved by Venice's "Consiglio dei Dieci", that took the name "Scuola Dalmata dei Santi Giorgio e Trifone", two saints greatly venerated in the eastern Church.

Another section of Vallery's book describes the *Mariegola* or book of statutes of the confraternity. The *Mariegola* of the Scuola Dalmata is a precious manuscript that includes the constitution of the confraternity divided in 53 *capitoli* (chapters). Vallery transcribes some of the chapters and provides some illustrations from them. Other two important books for the life of the Scuola Dalmata are the *Catastico*, which gathered together the confraternity's decisions, indulgences, and copies of wills in favour of the Scuola, and the *Libro degli Inventari*, (Inventories book) which listed all the material goods belonging to the Scuola Dalmata. Among the latter there are a series of paintings by Vittore Carpaccio (c. 1465–1525/26) that depict stories of the patron saints of the Scuola. The Scuola also owned some relics of St. George. Over the years the Scuola received many donations in the form of money, books, and also buildings. One of these buildings, located in "Fondamenta dei Furlani", very close to the Scuola, in 1977 became the office of "Archivio-Museo della Dalmazia" (Archive and Museum of Dalmatia) that now holds almost 15,000 books, dozens of magazines and journals, maps, and documents.

Today the Scuola Dalmata is not only a confraternity and an important centre of Dalmatian culture in Venice, but also a renowned touristic attraction. It has received many illustrious visitors such as the American poet Ezra Pound, the Italian writer Alberto Moravia, the Patriarch of Venice Giuseppe Roncalli, later Pope John XXIII, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, President Francois Mitterand, Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and many others.

Because very little scholarly attention has been paid to the Scuola Dalmata, Vallery's book is an important source for anyone interested in its history and activities of the Dalmatian population in Venice or in the presence of Dalmatian culture in the lagoon city.

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