

centeschi del convento, per mobilitare storici, storici dell'arte e paleografi per dedicare due interi volumi all'edificio, indagato in ogni sua parte e componente. L'opera finale, corredata da 106 fotografie a colori e da una raccolta di 44 preziose fotografie storiche dell'edificio, rappresenta la sintesi più aggiornata sul convento minorita di Udine. Oltre ai contributi dedicati ai restauri, curati da Giuseppina Perusini e Paolo Casadio, il primo volume raccoglie saggi che spaziano dalla storia architettonica e artistica dell'edificio (Gianpaolo Trevisan, Enzo De Franceschi, Stefania Miotto, Luca Mor) a quella istituzionale della comunità minorita di Udine (Cesare Scalon, Marco Sicuro), passando anche per la letteratura (Annalia Marchisio con il suo saggio sulla *Relatio de mirabilibus orientalium Tartarorum* di Odorico da Pordenone) e per temi apparentemente più 'di nicchia', ma in realtà di vivissimo interesse come i graffiti devozionali e memoriali sopravvissuti sugli intonaci dell'edificio (Laura Pani). Il secondo volume, invece, è dedicato interamente all'edizione dei libri degli anniversari a cura di Cesare Scalon.

Sebbene la maggior parte dei saggi si limiti a sintetizzare decenni di ricerche ormai consolidate sull'edificio, non mancano casi, come quelli di Scalon e Pani, di apporti nuovi per contenuto e metodologie. Questo, tuttavia, non deve essere considerato assolutamente un limite, semmai un pregio dell'opera che mira proprio a condensare, sintetizzare e – va detto – rendere accessibili a un pubblico vasto e anche non specialistico tutte le più aggiornate informazioni concernenti la chiesa di S. Francesco di Udine, tenendo pienamente fede alla volontà di difesa e valorizzazione di questa fondamentale parte del patrimonio artistico, storico e culturale della città.

TOMMASO VIDAL

REINHOLD C. MUELLER, *Venezia nel tardo medioevo / Late Medieval Venice. Economia e Società / Economy and Society*, ed. Luca Molà, Michael Knapton, Luciano Pezzolo, Viella, Roma, 2021, pp. 628.

*Late Medieval Venice*, a collection of Reinhold Mueller's essays edited by Luca Molà, Michael Knapton, and Luciano Pezzolo, is a monument to the lifetime contribution of the author to the study of the economic and financial history of late medieval and early modern Venice. It is a book in the footsteps of other celebrated collections of essays on the economic history of Venice, such as Gino Luzzatto's *Studi di storia economica veneziana* (1954), Frederic Ch. Lane's *Venice and History* (1966) and *Studies in Venetian Social and Economic History* (1987), and more recently, Ugo Tucci's *Venezia e dintorni* (2014).

The volume is a rich mine not just for the economic historian, but for any historian of Venice. The 628 pages of the volume encompass twenty-six essays, a complete bibliography of Mueller's contributions, and even a drawing of the author (p. 596). The editors affirm that the rationale behind this volume is to respect the spirit of 'sharing' research, a pillar of Mueller's ethos, republishing essays that 'made an important contribution' to scholarship, making them readily available (p. 16). The texts have been further revised and enriched by the author, thus making this work a truly collaborative effort, thanks to the dialogue with the three leading historians of Venice who have edited the book. It is also important to remark that this collection, albeit monumental, is only a selection of Mueller's essays, and that the author continues to contribute to the study of the city of Saint Mark. After the editors' preface, the volume is organised into five different sections of roughly five articles

each, titled 'Institutions and Society', 'Money Supply and Coinage', 'Usury, Banking and Jews', 'Foreigners', and 'The Maritime Dominion'. The editors have striven to bring together pieces that, despite having been published in different years and on a variety of journals, present similar features. In the first section, institutions feature prominently: the landmark essay on the Procurators of Saint Mark is undoubtedly a befitting incipit for a collection of Mueller's work; whereas 'society' is well represented in the article analysing noblemen's wills as an expression of social status, or the lack thereof (pp. 105-114). The inextricable link between private interests and state policies is also thoroughly manifest in the measures taken during the War of Chioggia (pp. 115-126) and in the creation of institutions for poor relief, which the author analyses using both a report by the Milanese ambassador to Venice in 1497 (pp. 127-136) and the book of expenses of Lorenzo Bonrizzo, warden of the Scuola Grande of Saint Mark between 1498 and 1499 (pp. 137-148).

The second section presents essays on topics similar to those explored in the monograph *The Venetian Money Market* (1997), namely monetary policy and coins of account. Mueller's painstakingly detailed analysis of the moments of abundance and scarcity of bullion and coins during the year in Venice in 'Chome l'ucciello di passaggio' (pp. 151-173), drawing on a 15th century Florentine merchant manual, is to date the most detailed analysis of the Venetian bullion market month by month. That Mueller is not just an historian of Venice is amply attested by his next article (pp. 175-189) in which he discusses demand and supply of bullion coins in Northern Italy in the late Middle Ages. In the following essays Mueller illustrates the social, economic, and political consequences of the introduction of debased coins, using as case studies counterfeited coins (pp. 191-202), the mid-fifteenth-century economic crisis (pp. 203-216), Venetian monetary imperialism in the *Quattrocento* (pp. 217-233), and lastly the monetary war with Milan in the same century (pp. 235-250). The third section is devoted to the themes of usury and Jewish money lenders, showcasing the author's ability to deal with religious sermons and theological debates with the same in-depth analysis he applies to account books, as is evident from his essay on original sin and the metaphor of the creditor (pp. 253-266). The theme of usury in the Christian world, and its influence on bankers' wills, is the subject of the second article of the section (pp. 267-305), whilst the next two articles deal with the presence of Jews and their activity as money lenders in Venice (pp. 307-335), in Venetian overseas dominions (pp. 337-366), and in Mestre (pp. 367-393).

The last two sections are noteworthy as they finally do justice to some lesser known aspects of the author's oeuvre, namely his reflections on Venice's overseas territories, and on foreigners in Venice; Mueller has long been fascinated by foreigners in Venice, compiling the free online database *Cives Veneciarum*, recording privileges of citizenship granted to foreigners from 1305 to 1500. The author reflects on foreigners at multiple levels, describing foreign investment in Venetian governments bonds made by prominent figures from Lucca (pp. 435-455), and the investments of Veronese citizens in the lagoon city (pp. 421-35). Money was not the only thing to be 'on the move' towards Venice: specialised artisans and entrepreneurs moved too, as the Florentine case makes clear (pp. 457-484); there was also multifaceted Greek immigration to Venice (pp. 485-495). Perhaps even more interestingly, the author reflects on foreignness not just in terms of people, but also in terms of the identification of merchandise, using as a source not just merchants' marks, but also the preaching of Bernardino da Siena (pp. 397-420). In the fifth section, titled 'Maritime Dominion' (but 'Stato da Mar' in the Italian translation) we find a general reflection on the financial and symbolic consequences of the annexation of Dalmatia (pp. 499-529), followed

by interesting case studies of ground level reality, focusing on barter in Corfu (pp. 531-537). The island of Corfu is the subject of the following articles, one on the cultural interactions between Venice and the island in shaping hospitals and building for public assistance (pp. 539-552), and the second on a Venetian commercial enterprise in Corfu between 1402 and 1442, based on the analysis of the account book kept by Zaccaria Giustinian (pp. 553-565). Mueller shows how an account book may be a key to comprehending the economy of a Venetian subject territory, and to understanding Mediterranean shipping, remarking that 'the commerce in products of the Greek mainland and the coasting trade on the eastern littoral of the Adriatic and Ionian seas have hardly been studied' (p. 553). And both the Giustinian and the Ionian Islands are the backbone of the last article of the volume, dedicated to the entanglement of private and public interests in the administration of Greek territories (pp. 567-595).

Having briefly summarised the contents of the book, I would like to underline some of the main contributions of this volume to scholarship on Venice. One crucial aspect of this book is the painstaking attention to sources and the use of a wide array of different resources as the starting point for discussion in an article. The attention to visual sources is clear throughout the entire book, as is also evident from the cover image representing the loading of galleys overseen by the *Doge*, taken from the Leverton Plate (1495). Mueller uses paintings of Procurators to study their functions (pp. 35, 37); a painting by Bellini to discuss processions and the role of confraternities in medieval Venice (pp. 140, 148); maps of the district of Treviso to discuss the settlements of Jews and trade routes between Venice and the mainland (pp. 389, 392), as well as abundant evidence for merchant's identification marks (pp. 405-411); tombs of prominent Veronese citizens to analyse Veronese investment in Venice (pp. 425-26); plans for hospitals to describe charitable institutions in Corfu (pp. 542, 544, 549); and manuscript illumination, coins, and the choir stalls of Zadar to describe Venetian influence on Dalmatia (pp. 504-521). Even more telling is the author's perusal of numerous archives of the Eastern Mediterranean, usually using unpublished sources. *Caveat lector*, the footnotes of this book are as valuable as the text. The wide-ranging spectrum of sources used by Mueller includes sermons, ambassadors' reports, letters, treaties, chronicles, account books, theological debates, visual evidence, and other materials that shed light on how Venice was perceived from abroad, which also explains why the author edited a sixteenth-century French treatise concerning the government of the city of Venice in 2015.

As for the methodology of this book, I would like to underline two important aspects of these learned essays. Firstly, the author struck a thoughtful balance between cliometric and descriptive analysis, passing from theological debates to examination of account books. The cliometric scholar will find details about the scarcity and abundance of bullion; exchange rates (p. 159, 163, 165, and 167); a breakdown of loans 'cum cartis' granted by Jews between 1384 and 1387 (pp. 334-35); tables of investments by prominent Lucchesi in the Venetian bond market (pp. 444-445 and 452-455); as well as a list of prices of the principal commodities traded in Corfu (p. 564). The non-cliometric economic historian will welcome the description of the mentality of merchants and how they wrote their wills, as well as how they expressed their status, collaborated with each other, and identified their wares. Historians of institutions will equally be interested in Mueller's analysis of the Procurators of Saint Mark; government reactions to crises (such as the War of Chioggia or monetary wars), and the intertwining of public and private interests in the administration of a Greek island; whilst the social historian will delve into the organisation of lay confraternities, hospitals, and the 'mechanisms of piety'. The second

important point about sources is Mueller's ability to draw on a single source to build a narrative explaining a wider context, thus perfectly linking primary sources and bibliography. These sources can be as different as account books and paintings, but nonetheless most of the articles follow this pattern of *mise en valeur* of a document linking it with endless other contemporary sources and modern issues of debate. There is always a comparison with other realities, such as Florence, and a dialogue with existing historiography, as well as the use of articles in what seem like dozens of European languages (including Greek, German and Balkan languages, too often neglected by Italian historiography). Mueller's focus is not just on Venice, but on the entire Mediterranean, and this is a point made not only in the text, but in the choice of the bibliography as well.

However, following the editors' *desideratum* to 'steer clear of hagiography' (p. 13), certain aspects would merit further consideration. Organising and editing such a ponderous volume is no small feat, and the editors acknowledge that 'it would have been possible to include a good many others of Mueller's articles' (p. 16). Nonetheless, if the goal of the book is making lesser-known articles by the author available to the broader public, the long essay on the Procurators of Saint Mark, widely known and easy to find on *Studi Veneziani* (readily available in the *sala studio* of the Venetian archive), might have been replaced by essays such as 'Aspetti sociali ed economici della peste a Venezia nel Medioevo' (1979), 'Boccaccio, Giovanni Boccaccio, and Venice' (1997), 'St Nicholas patron of bankers' (2000), or 'La galea e Venezia' (2003). The exclusion of entire categories of writings such as book reviews seems slightly arbitrary: Mueller's long article-review regarding Pulan's *Rich and Poor in Renaissance Venice* (1972), his contribution to a well-known textbook of medieval history ('Epidemie, crisi, rivolte', 1998), and his entries on a number of Soranzos in the *Dizionario Biografico degli Italiani*, are all excluded. As for the organisation of the volume, a true *satura lanx* of Mueller's works, the essays are arranged well into five different sections, with the possible exception of 'Greeks in Venice' (pp. 485-495), which looks more suitable for the next section on the *Stato da Mar*. A major concern is the shift from one language to another in the space of a few pages. For instance, the third section begins with an article in Italian (p. 287 onwards), then passes onto French, and finishes with an essay in English. The book included fifteen pieces in Italian, nine in English, and two in French. It would have not been inconceivable to provide an English translation of the Italian and French articles. The last observation is that the title *Late Medieval Venice* does not coincide with the ample chronological spectrum of articles presented in the volume, spanning the Middle Ages to the Early Modern period. These observations do not impinge upon the general excellent level of the book, and its undoubted role as future reference work for both Mueller's oeuvre and the economic history of Venice. It is to be hoped that this volume represents not only the final stage of a century-old tradition linking Gino Luzzatto, Frederic Lane and Mueller himself, but also the starting point for a new generation of scholars, as a constant reference for what has yet to be done, and as a testament to the great tradition of studies on the economic and financial history of Venice, according to the spirit of 'bridge-building' (p. 14) hailed by the editors of the volume.

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