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INDICE

FEDERICO MICCIARELLI, *Origine e sviluppo del fenomeno della personalizzazione nelle chartae degli scriniari romani*

LUDOVICO GATTO, *A tavola con Bonifacio VIII*

ELEONORA PLEBANI, *Roma dopo la morte di Sisto IV nella testimonianza dell'ambasciatore fiorentino Guidantonio Vespucci (agosto-settembre 1484)*

ELENA ONORI, *Le stanze di Caterina Chellini nel palazzo in via della Lungara a Roma*

MARIA MANGIAFESTA, *Note d'archivio su Prospero Mallerini*

ROBERTO REGOLI, *Merry del Val e l'Accademia dei Nobili Ecclesiastici*

Periodici pervenuti alla Società, a cura di FRANCESCA PARDINI

Pubblicazioni pervenute alla Società, a cura di FRANCESCA PARDINI

Necrologi. Girolamo Arnaldi (GIULIA BARONE)

NOTIZIE. *In margine alla scultura altomedievale di Roma: la pubblicazione del Fondo Mazzanti*

I 140 anni della Società romana di storia patria

Voto delle Deputazioni e Società di Storia Patria

Atti della Società

Cariche Sociali

Summaries

Origin and development of the phenomenon of personalisation in the *chartae* of the Roman *scriniarii* [records managers].

Federico Micciarelli

Over the course of the XII century the symbols that authenticated documents written by notaries in Rome and Latium became personal and unmistakably individual. The essay examines the origins and evolution of these symbols on the basis of documentary and palaeographic evidence.

Dining with Boniface VIII

Ludovico Gatto

The essay recreates the eating habits of Boniface VIII and describes how the papal kitchen and staff who prepared the pontiff's meals were organised. Inventories conserved in the papal archives cast light on the pope's expenditure on the foods and precious table ornaments (gold and silver dishes, drinking vessels and cutlery) in use on a daily basis as well on official occasions.

Rome after the death of Sixtus IV as described by the Florentine ambassador Guidantonio Vespucci (August-September 1484)

Eleonora Plebani

Following the death of Sixtus IV (12 August 1484) Rome saw the start of negotiations amongst the cardinals to elect a new pope and disputes broke out between the Colonna and Orsini families. At the time Guidantonio Vespucci was in the city as ambassador for the Florentine Republic. His accounts are essential in reconstructing this tragic period of Rome's history. The letters Vespucci sent to Florence between mid-August and mid-September 1484 are transcribed in the essay's appendix.

Caterina Chellini's apartments in via della Lungara, Rome

Elena Onori

The Chellini family was native to Florence and moved to Rome in the early XVI century. Over the years the Chellinis became rich and important, partly as a result of successful commercial activities. The essay examines the Will written by Caterina Chellini on 13 July 1686. Caterina was the only surviving member of the family and after her death (12 August 1687) all her property was given to the Sisters of the Venerabile Conservatorio della Divina Provvidenza.

Archive notes on Prospero Mallerini

Maria Mangiafesta

The essay presents archive documentation on the Ligurian artist, Prospero Mallerini (1761-1838), who worked as a painter and artistic advisor to the court of Prince Francesco Barberini in Rome. Mallerini was an ancestor of Pope Pius XII (Eugenio Pacelli, 1876-1958).

Merry del Val and the Accademia dei Nobili Ecclesiastici [Pontifical Academy of Ecclesiastical Nobles].

Roberto Regoli

The Anglo-Spanish cardinal Rafael Merry del Val (1865-1930) held important posts in the Roman Curia over many years, notably as Secretary of State to Pius X (1903-1914) and Secretary of the Congregation for the Holy Office during the papacies of Benedict XV (1914-1922) and Pius XI (1922-1939). The essay portrays relationships between Merry del Val and the Pontifical Academy of Ecclesiastical Nobles, where the Catholic ecclesiastical elite and members of the papal diplomatic corps are educated and trained.