

## ABSTRACTS

Federico Frasson, *At the Borders of the Empire: Society and Economy in «Troesmis»*, (pp. 1-25)

The abundant epigraphic material found on the site of the ancient *Troesmis* (in modern Dobrudja), appropriately combined with the results of archaeological research, allows us to trace a fairly reliable profile of the evolution of an articulated settlement along the Danube *limes* and to study its varied social fabric. The life of the site, where a *civitas* already existed, had an important turning point with the settlement of *legio V Macedonica* (early second cent. AD) and the resulting birth of the *canabae*, close to the legionary camp. Thanks to the inscriptions, it is possible to know the names and the origin of many soldiers and to reconstruct the administrative system of the *canabae*, where veterans played a relevant role. After the departure of *legio V Macedonica* (162), a further transformation took place around the years 177-180, when *Troesmis* became a *municipium*, of which both civil and priestly offices are attested. Thanks to its location along important land and river routes, and to agricultural exploitation of the surrounding countryside, the city managed to prosper, especially during the second and third centuries AD; however, the site retained a certain importance also in Late Antiquity and in the Middle Ages.

KEYWORDS: *Troesmis*; *limes*; Danube; legionary fortress; Dobrudja.

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Francesco Mantelli, *The Lexicon of Navigation in Nonius Marcellus' De genere navigiorum («De compendiosa doctrina», XIII) Between Gellius, Festus and the Althiburus' Mosaic*, (pp. 27-61)

This article examines the lexicon of navigation into the Nonius Marcellus' *De genere navigiorum (De compendiosa doctrina, XIII)*, into Aulus Gellius' *Noctes Atticae*, X 25, into the Pompeius Festus' *De verborum significatu*

and into the *Althiburus'* mosaic, an African artwork approximately dated around the end of the third century A.D. The purposes of this survey are: 1) to resume the comparison between the grammarian Nonius Marcellus and his two hypothetical external sources, Gellius and the *Althiburus'* mosaic; 2) to try to establish connections that still escape, although there is the awareness that no additional element can show with absolute certainty the direct dependence of the *Compendiosa doctrina* Book XIII from nautical "catalogues" included in the *Attic Nights* and in the mosaic decoration. Such research also adds a detailed study on the relationships and any reciprocal influences between the texts above mentioned and the Festus' *De verborum significatu*.

KEYWORDS: Lexicon of navigation; Nonius Marcellus; Aulus Gellius; Pompeius Festus; *Althiburus'* mosaic

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Paolo Chiesa, *Galvaneus de la Flamma and Iohannes de Carignano. A New Source on the Ethiopian Legation to Pope Clement V and on the Oceanic Voyage of the Vivaldi Brothers*, (pp. 63-107)

The *Cronica generalis sive universalis* written by Galvaneus de la Flamma († 1345 ca.) includes a section devoted to Ethiopian matter, consequently entitled *Ystoria Ethiope*. This section depends on a previous work called *Tractatus de mappa Ianuensi quam composuit sacerdos Sancti Marchi de Ianua*, which must be identified with a book known so far only by a passage in Giacomo Filippo Foresti's *Supplementum chronicarum* (first edition 1483); the author of the *Tractatus de mappa* is Iohannes de Carignano, a Genoese priest who drew and signed a map of Europe and Mediterranean Sea in the first decades of 14th Century. Quoting the *Tractatus de mappa*, Galvaneus provides new details about two famous and puzzling events of the years 1290-1315: the Ethiopian legation to the king of Spain (and to the pope), which is supposed to be the first diplomatic contact between Ethiopia and Latin Europe in the Middle Ages; and the voyage of the Vivaldi brothers, who sailed from Genoa in the direction of Atlantic Ocean, searching a new course to reach India. Furthermore, the *Tractatus* contains a description of politic and religious customs of Ethiopia, as

accounted by the ambassadors during their halt in Genoa. This article provides an edition of the Ethiopian section in the *Cronica universalis* (unpublished and preserved in only one manuscript, now in a private collection), with a first survey of its contents.

**KEYWORDS:** Galvaneus de la Flamma; Iohannes de Carignano; Medieval Cartography; Vivaldi Brothers; Ethiopia.

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Chiara Concina, *From Peking to Avignon and Beyond. The Correspondence Between Benedict XII, the «Qaghan» Toghon-Temür and the Princes of the Alans in Jean le Long's Translation (1351)*, (pp. 109-59)

Before 1351 the Benedictine monk Jean le Long d'Ypres translated from Latin into Middle-French a collection of six texts dealing with the Middle and the Far East, including the accounts of Hayton, Riccoldo da Monte di Croce, Odoric of Pordenone, Wilhelm von Boldensele, the anonymous *De statu, conditione ac regimine magni canis* and an epistolary exchange between the pope Benedict XII, the princes of the Alans and the Mongol Khan- Toghon-Temür (1336-1338). After a brief historical overview on the diplomatic relations between the Papacy and the Mongols, the article focuses on the correspondence between the pope Benedict XII and the East as well as on Jean le Long's translation of it. The essay provides an analysis of the manuscript tradition and a critical edition both of the Latin and of the French texts of these letters.

**KEYWORDS:** Medieval travel literature; Jean le Long; Diplomatic relations between the Papacy and the Mongols; Middle-French; Vernacular translations.

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Davide Dal Bosco, *Il Veneto e Santiago*, (pp. 161-97)

I have checked all places in Veneto, which have a link with Santiago of Compostela in Spain: where have been build or where still are churches and hospitals which are called Saint James; where brotherhoods (confraternities) helped pilgrims who went to the sanctuary; where are signs of pilgrimage as relics, paintings, statues and everything concerning Saint James. After a general introduction I studied the St. James worship and pilgrimage, the venetian pilgrims to Santiago, The Saint James knights, St. James destinations and routes in Veneto in the seventeenth century, the decline of St. James worship and to conclude with Saint James today, all what have been left from the Middle Age till to today.

KEYWORDS: Veneto; Santiago of Compostela; St. James worship and pilgrimage; Venetian pilgrims; Saint- James knights and confraternities.

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Francesco Surdich, *Il territorio e la società cinesi nella «Relatione della Grande Monarchia della Cina» di padre Alvaro Semedo*, (pp. 199-234)

«L'impero de la China» by the Portuguese Jesuit Alvaro Semedo was published in Madrid in 1642 and soon translated into several languages. It offers a report on China split into two parts. The first one was the subject of this article. In addition to the missionary's biographical profile, it describes the Chinese territory, the political organization, the customs and traditions of inhabitants. The second one is about the introduction of Christianity in China.

KEYWORDS: Alvaro Semedo; Europe; China; Evangelize China; Jesuit missionaries.

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Davide Arecco, *Scienza galileiana e diplomazia toscana: i tre viaggi inglesi di Lorenzo Magalotti*, (pp. 235-54)

Lorenzo Magalotti - secretary of the Florentine Accademia del Cimento, follower of the Italian Galileian tradition in the second half of the seventeenth century, free thinker and court man among the fathers of the great Baroque prose - was more than once in England. But behind those that were presented (and still can) as scientific journeys (to make contact with the Royal Society of London) they hide, by more attentively analyzing his manuscript papers, secret missions of political espionage.

**KEYWORDS:** New natural philosophy; Tuscan Galileian tradition; Court of the Medici; Free-thinking; Dawn of Enlightenment.

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