

Alpopi C.
BOOK REVIEW:

LE PERGAMENE ARAGONESI DELLA MATER ECCLESIA CAPUANA (1443-1449) II. L'ETÀ DI ALFONSO IL MAGNANIMO

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LE PERGAMENE ARAGONESI DELLA MATER ECCLESIA CAPUANA (1443-1449) II. L'ETÀ DI ALFONSO IL MAGNANIMO

by Giancarlo Bova

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The volume is part of Corpus membranarum Capuanarum, an impressive Collection with which Giancarlo Bova made known the history of Capua and the province of Caserta to the scientific community worldwide (M. Balard, Sorbonne). His scientific high profile has been well known for a long time, as well as the value of his publications (A. Galdi, Università di Salerno). For over twenty years he has started a precise research program, essential for the reconstruction of the whole parchment Corpus of Capua, with the intent to give back to European culture an invaluable heritage for the history of Southern Italy. Thanks to the publication of about one thousand three hundred parchments so far, it has always been perfect clear that the Corpus is an

impressive Collection of primary importance in Europe (A. Espinosa Ruiz, University of Alicante). It is a masterwork (H.M. Schaller, Monumenta Germaniae Historica, Monaco), considering that the Curia



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parchments are in a very poor condition, so it has been said that the Author “has done full justice to these document” (V. Brown, Pont. Inst. Mediaeval Studies, Toronto). In fact, for the parchments of the Curia Fund it is not available neither an inventory, nor a simple list; among various obstacles, that makes even more praiseworthy the publishing work carried out by Giancarlo Bova (F. Senatore, University of Naples). The Author gave proof of his competence of land historian, paleographer, diplomatist and publisher, doing much for the history of the province of Caserta. The documents will allow to write a new history of the province and to know new aspects of the history of the Kingdom of Naples. (N. Kamp, University of Gottingen).

The historical context presented in this volume is distressing. It spots a lack of farmers in the territory due to plague and wars, combined with the earthquake in 1456 and the unfortunate passage Halley’s comet. Due to the losses in 1471 the Capuano Chapter provided an inventory of the assets. Other information concerns the existence of a domus of The Templars in Teano, the renovation of the Archbishop’s Palace, some properties of the Countess of Caserta Maria de Capua. There are other pages following about a woman called Angelica, a demon-possessed man, the imperial notary Iohannes Iacobi, alias Faber de Broquito (canon of the diocese of Liegi), Giovanni de Luna and Paolo de Legistris, captains of Capua. Bova devotes remarkable importance to the residential areas of Bellona, Triflisco and S. Augusto. Regarding Marcianise and Trentola the Author writes about the hemp, whole and linen processing. In addition Bova makes some remarks on the dating of placito capuano (960), on the Council of Constance and on the raid of the Archbishop’s Palace (1414-1418) by Fabrizio de Capua. Moreover he reveals the mystery of the location of Aquaviva diocese (X-XI cent.), that since 1700 has troubled the scholars, demonstrating that it depended on the archdiocese of Capua. He concludes with a memory of Prince Cem, brother of Sultan Bavadiz II, who died as a prisoner in Capua on February 25, 1495