

SYMPOSIUM

Saint Mark: Historical and Hagiographic Views. International Scientific Symposium in Venice, 25-29 April 1994, for the 900th Anniversary of the Consecration of the Basilica of Saint Mark.

This year marks the 900th anniversary of the official consecration (1094) of the Basilica of Saint Mark in Venice. The city is celebrating its patron saint, recalling the glorious past of its naval and commercial dominance in the Adriatic and the Eastern Mediterranean in particular. Apart from the other festive events, the supervisory committee of the church (*procuratoria*), with the *procuratore* Professor Mgr. Antonio Niero acting as co-ordinator, organized a scientific symposium from April 25 (the saint's day) to 29, dedicated to historical and hagiographic issues connected with Saint Mark. More than 40 university professors from Italy, Germany, France, Greece, Belgium, the USA, and Canada, as well as experienced researchers and top officials of the Venetian archives were invited to make contributions.

There were four thematic units: a) Origins and formation of the cult of Saint Mark; b) sources and symbols of the cult; c) cult and iconography; d) diffusion of the cult of Saint Mark.

Until the end of the 18th century, Saint Mark's was the church *par excellence* of the Doge, its emblem being the winged lion holding an open Gospel on its right foot. This is why the fortunes of the church were tied to the military and political history of the Venetian Republic. Not until 1807 did it achieve the status of metropolitan church of Venice.

The titles of the reports are indicative of the breadth of scientific interests. It is worth mentioning a few: Saint Mark between Babylon, Rome and Aquileia; new suppositions and investigations (by Giorgio Fedalto, of the University of Padua). — Cult and Symbols of Saint Mark in the Venetian Hinterland (by Silvio Tramontin, of the University of Milan). — Evidence Concerning the Primicerium of Saint Mark's (by Maria Francesca Tiepolo, of the Venice State Archive). — Saint Mark in Representations of the 15th Century (by Augusto Gentili, of the University of Rome). — Inscriptions on the Mosaics of Saint Mark (by Maria Da Villa Urbani,

of the Supervisory Committee of Saint Mark's). — The Representations of the Childhood of the Mother of God and of Christ in the Basilica of Saint Mark (by Jaqueline Lafontaine-Dosogne, of the University of Louvain). — The Political Significance of the Baptistery of Saint Mark's and the Role of the Doge Andrea Dandolo (by Debra Pincus, of the University of Vancouver, Canada). — The Icon of the Evangelist and the Mechanisms of Shaping the Urban Myth (by André Jean-Marc Loechel, of the University of Strasbourg). — The Churches of Crete Dedicated to Saint Mark: Architectural Shape, Transformations and State of Preservation (by Alessandro Spiridione Curuni, of the University of Rome). — Venetian Churches in Honour of Saint Mark in the Eastern Mediterranean during the 12th-13th centuries (by Marco Pozza, of the University of Venice). — The Basilica of Saint Mark in Byzantine and post-Byzantine Texts (by Zacharias Tsirpanlis, of the University of Ioannina). — Saint Mark in the Upper Adriatic before Venice (by Sergio Tavano, of the University of Trieste). — The Special Character of some of the Rites of the Basilica of Saint Mark (by Giulio Cattin, of the University of Padua). — One Location, three Authorities: Saint Theodore, Seat of the Holy Inquisition at the Beginning of Modern Times (by Anne Jacobson Schutte, of the University of Virginia, USA). — Demonstrations of Piety by the Doges (by Gino Benzoni, of the University of Venice). — Ecclesiastico-political structure of Saint Mark's immediately after the End of the Venetian Republic (by Giovanni Scarabello, of the University of Venice). — The Sacred and Secular Paths of Venice (by Edward Muir, of Northwestern University, Evanston, USA). — The Clergy of the Dogal Church of Saint Mark and their Jurisdiction (by Paolo Selmi, Director of the Venice State Archive). — The Evangelium of Cividale and the Gospel According to Saint Mark (by Uwe Ludwig, of the University of Duisburg). — Archive Sources on Saint Mark in the Historical Archive of the Patriarchate of Venice (by Francesca Cavazzana Romanelli, of the Treviso State Archive). — Concerning the Patristic Explanation of the Gospel Tetramorph (by Pier Franco Beatrice, of the University of Padua). — The Archive Collection of the "Procuratori di S. Marco de Supra" at the Venice State Archive (by Bianca Lafranchi Strina, head of the archive service of the Venetian region). — The cult of Saint Mark in Istria and Dalmatia (by Francesco Semi). — The cult of Saint Mark in Apulia (by Liana Bertoldi Lenoci, of the University of Trieste). — The diffusion of the cult of Saint Mark through Personal Names and Churches in Dalmatia and Crete (by Paola Ratti Vidoli). — The Transfer of the Relics of Saint Mark to Venice and to Reichenau (by Regina Dennig-Zettler and Alfons Zettler, of the University of Freiburg), et al.

The conference was organized with outstanding care right down to the tiniest detail. Its proceedings took place in the Monastery of Saint Apollonia, next to the church of the Apostles Philip and James. The arched peristyle of the courtyard of the monastery (*chiostro*), a marvellous example of the Romance style (12th-13th century), is the only one extant in Venice today. And so the location, too, as well as the *sapientia* of those taking part, contributed to the success of this scientific gathering.

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