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The Franciscans and Art Patronage in Late Medieval Italy

In this book, Louise Bourdua examines how Franciscan church decoration developed between 1250 and 1400. Focusing on three important churches – San Fermo Maggiore, Verona; San Lorenzo, Vicenza; and Sant'Antonio, Padua – she argues that local Franciscan friars were more interested in their own conception of how artistic programmes should work than merely following models for decoration issued from the mother church at Assisi. In addition, lay patrons also had considerable input into the decoration programmes. These case studies serve as a multiform model of patronage, which is tested against other commissions of the trecento. The author also demonstrates how archival documentation and art can be combined to extend our understanding of Franciscan art programmes.

Louise Bourdua is Senior Lecturer in the History of Art at the University of Aberdeen. A recipient of awards from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and a Rome Scholarship at the British School at Rome, she has also been a Leverhulme Trust Fellow. She has contributed articles on aspects of mendicant art and patronage to *The Burlington Magazine* and *Papers of the British School at Rome*, among other publications.

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A Note on Medieval Exchange in the Veneto

The accounting system in use in the later middle ages in the Veneto is diverse and extremely complex.[1] The system of pounds and shillings was in use, here called *denari* and *soldi*. There was larger money as well, the *lira* and the largest, the ducat. At least two systems of money of account were in use; one can be defined as small money, the *denaro piccolo* (or *den. parv.*), and the other system was based on the *denaro grosso*.[2] Cities as close as Padua, Venice and Verona had different moneys and coins. For example the *lira* used in Verona and Vicenza was larger than the Venetian *lira di piccoli*; thus 4 *lire ven.* = 3 *lire ver*.[3] I have not attempted to convert all the moneys into a single currency simply because the lists of exchange are incomplete. All prices reported in this book are therefore in the local currency.[4]

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List of Abbreviations

AF	Analecta Francescana
AFH	Archivum Franciscanum Historicum
Archivio Sartori 1	*Archivio Sartori. Documenti di Storia e Arte Francescana, 1, Basilica del Santo*
Archivio Sartori 2/1, 2/2	*Archivio Sartori. Documenti di Storia e Arte Francescana, 2, La Provincia del Santo dei Frati Minori Conventuali,* 2 vols.
Archivio Sartori 3/1, 3/2	*Archivio Sartori. Documenti di Storia e Arte Francescana, 3, Evoluzione del Francescanesimo nelle tre Venezie. Monasteri, contrade, località, abitanti di Padova medioevale*, 2 vols.
Archivio Sartori 4	*Archivio Sartori. Documenti di Storia e Arte Francescana, 4*
ASF	Archivio di Stato, Firenze
OB	ASF, Ospedale di San Giovanni Battista detto di Bonifazio
ASP	Archivio di Stato, Padova
CSMP	ASP, *Corporazioni Soppresse Monasteri Padovani*
SA	ASP, *CSMP, Sant'Antonio*
ASV	Archivio di Stato, Venezia
PSM	ASV, *Procuratori di San Marco*
ASVer	Archivio di Stato, Verona
ASVic	Archivio di Stato, Vicenza
CRS	ASVic, *Corporazioni Religiose Soppresse*
SL	ASVic, *CRS, San Lorenzo*
Catastico	ASVic, *CRS, SL, Catastico delle Scritture del Convento dal 1212 al 1375*
BF	*Bullarium Franciscanum*
FF	*Fontes Francescani*

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1 Cel.	Thomas of Celano, *Vita Prima S. Francisci*
2 Cel.	Thomas of Celano, *Vita Secunda S. Francisci*
3 Cel.	Thomas of Celano, *Tractatus de Miracolis beati Francisci*
LM	Bonaventure of Bagnoreggio, *Legenda Maior*

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