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0521320410 - The Historical Anthropology of Early Modern Italy: Essays on Perception
and Communication

Peter Burke

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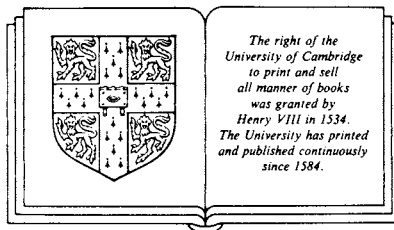
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The historical anthropology of early modern Italy

Essays
on perception
and communication

PETER BURKE

Fellow of Emmanuel College
Cambridge



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0521320410 - The Historical Anthropology of Early Modern Italy: Essays on Perception and Communication

Peter Burke

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contents

List of illustrations viii

Preface ix

References x

I Introduction

- 1 The historical anthropology of early modern Italy 3
- 2 The sources: outsiders and insiders 15

II Modes of perception

- 3 Classifying the people: the census as collective representation 27
- 4 The bishop's questions and the people's religion 40
- 5 How to be a Counter-Reformation saint 48
- 6 Perceiving a counter-culture 63

III Modes of communication

- 7 Languages and anti-languages in early modern Italy 79
- 8 Insult and blasphemy in early modern Italy 95
- 9 The uses of literacy in early modern Italy 110
- 10 Conspicuous consumption in seventeenth-century Italy 132
- 11 The presentation of self in the Renaissance portrait 150
- 12 Sacred rulers, royal priests: rituals of the early modern popes 168
 - 13 The carnival of Venice 183
- 14 The Virgin of the Carmine and the revolt of Masaniello 191
 - 15 Rituals of healing in early modern Italy 207

IV Conclusion

- 16 The repudiation of ritual in early modern Europe 223

Notes 239

Bibliography 261

Index 277

Cambridge University Press

0521320410 - The Historical Anthropology of Early Modern Italy: Essays on Perception and Communication

Peter Burke

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Illustrations

- 1 G. Ceruti, *Beggar* 64
- 2 G. Bellini, *Doge Leonardo Loredan* 152
- 3 Titian, *Paul III and his nipoti* 156
- 4 Titian, *Cardinal Pietro Bembo* 157
- 5 [?]Berruguete, *Federigo of Urbino with his son* 160
- 6 A. van Dyck, *Elena Grimaldi* 162
- 7 Morone, *Tailor* 166

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Peter Burke

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Preface

The following sixteen essays deal with cultural history, mainly that of Italy in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. I have written them in the hope that some at least will be read not only by historians but by specialists in art and literature, sociology and anthropology, whether they have a special interest in Italy or not, and so I have tried to place Italy in a comparative framework and to refer to other parts of Europe. Reference is also frequently made to works on social theory, not so much to appeal to anthropologists and sociologists as because I believe that their concepts, models and theories can illuminate the past as well as the present. It is for this reason that the essays are described as contributions to 'historical anthropology', a term which is discussed in chapter 1 below. The research in Italy on which they are based was made possible by a five-year grant from the Social Science Research Council (as it then was), and by a grant from the Research Fund of Emmanuel College. I am extremely grateful for both.

A few of these essays have already appeared in print, though they have been revised to include new ideas and new information as well as to make the collection more unified. Chapter 4 appeared in Italian in *Quaderni storici* 41 (1979); chapter 5 in *Religion and Society*, ed. K. von Greyerz (London, Allen and Unwin, 1984); chapter 7 in *History Workshop Journal*, 1981; chapter 10 in *kwartalnik Historyczny Kultury Materialnej* 1982; chapter 13, in French, in *Les jeux à la Renaissance*, ed. P. Ariès and J. C. Margolin (Paris, Vrin, 1982); chapter 14 in *Past and Present* 99 (1983). I should like to thank the respective publishers for permission to reprint. I am also grateful for constructive comments to the different audiences on which early versions of these papers were tried out, notably those at Amsterdam (ch. 8); Budapest (chs. 12, 16); Cambridge (chs. 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16); Melbourne (chs. 11, 13); Oxford (chs. 8, 16); Paris (ch. 6); Princeton (ch. 8); Tours (ch. 13); Venice (ch. 3); Warsaw (ch. 10); Wellington (ch. 16); and York (ch. 11).

I am indebted to many predecessors in the various fields invaded here, and especially to a few individuals with whom I have regularly shared problems and discoveries, notably to Anton Blok, Natalie Davis, Carlo Ginzburg, Gábor Klaniczay, Roy Porter, Simon Price, Bob Scribner, and Keith Thomas (my mentor for more than twenty-five years.)

References

References to primary sources are given in the notes; secondary sources are referred to by the author-date system in the text, with full details in the bibliography. For the citation of manuscripts, the following abbreviations are employed:

- ACG Archivio del Comune, Genoa
- ASF Archivio di Stato, Florence
- ASG Archivio di Stato, Genoa
- ASM Archivio di Stato, Milan
- ASR Archivio di Stato, Rome
- ASV Archivio di Stato, Venice
- BN British Library
- BN Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris
- BNF Biblioteca Nazionale, Florence
- TCG Tribunale Criminale del Governatore