

are the sole occupants of a “transcultural notions of anger” category. As these contributions concentrate, respectively, on internal anger discourses in China and Ottoman Turkey, it is unclear exactly what purpose “transcultural” serves here apart from to highlight that the subject matter is not European. Considering that the work does not have “Europe” or “European” anywhere in its title or subtitle, it gives the unfortunate impression that European discursive frames are defaults and that any turn to another geographic region constitutes a crossing of borders. Further, there is only one explicit reference to Europe in the introduction, twelve pages into the work. This lack of clarity regarding scope means that repeatedly citing “early modern anger” or “the early modern period” leads to an unfortunate, nearly silent, elision of “the early modern” with “the early modern (Christian) European.” Considering the global significance of anger discourses as key elements in conquest, imperialism, and anti-colonial resistance, as well as their intersections with discourses of barbarity and civilization, these elisions are regretful.

Stephen Cummins, *Max-Planck-Institut für Bildungsforschung*
doi:10.1017/rqx.2018.46

Commercio, finanza e guerra nella Sardegna tardomedievale. Olivetta Schena and Sergio Tognetti, eds.

I libri di Viella 239. Rome: Viella, 2017. 246 pp. €26.

This volume originated in a 2016 University of Cagliari conference on commerce, finance, and war in fourteenth- and fifteenth-century Sardinia. Its goal, well achieved in the collected essays, was to produce new studies from archival sources in Italy, Spain, and France. The work was published in 2017 together with Maria Elisa Soldani’s companion monograph, *I mercanti catalani e la Corona d’Aragona in Sardegna*. (In a wealth of material, Brill’s *A Companion to Sardinian History, 500–1500*, also was issued in 2017.) The volume reflects the further movement of medieval Sardinian economics and commerce into mainstream Mediterranean historiography. In recent decades, scholars including Olivetta Schena and Sergio Tognetti, among others, have produced numerous works revealing extensive and sophisticated commercial and financial operations in and with medieval Sardinia. Their studies highlight the island’s role within the larger Mediterranean network, building on the foundational work of Alberto Boscolo, Marco Tangheroni, and others a generation earlier. The current volume advances this effort through an examination of specialized issues, including coinage, individual trader activities and networks, war financing, and commercial maritime regulation. The contributors document the scope of existing historiography on their respective subjects but also provide a fresh perspective and new information gained from notarial records, merchant notebooks, and other unedited materials. The

result is a masterfully detailed look at aspects of economic and commercial life concerning late medieval Sardinia.

The volume contains an introduction and seven essays on topics dating from the twelfth century, with Pisan and Genoese hegemony, through Aragon's conquest in the fourteenth century, and into events of the fifteenth century. The chapters are set against the political backdrop of an island that, despite being largely controlled and influenced by outside agents and governments, managed to assert its own localized voice and character. Schena and Tognetti introduce the essays and place them within the Mediterranean historical and historiographical nexus with Sardinia. Enrico Basso analyzes scholarship since the nineteenth century, particularly Sardinia's relationship with Genoa and the scientific approach of Alberto Boscolo and Geo Pistarino, as well as their successors, from the mid-twentieth century forward. Monica Baldassarri details Sardinia's monetization before and after Aragon's conquest, using archaeology and numismatics. Baldassarri includes discussion of pre-conquest silver *denari* and *grossi* of Lucca, Genoa, Pisa, and Barcelona, emphasizing island-mined Pisan Gherardesca coins, followed by an examination of domestic mining and production under Aragon. Mario Lafuente Gómez documents Aragon's financing of its Sardinian conquest from 1323 to 1410, initially via royally imposed territorial subsidies, then by Parliament-negotiated funds that ultimately restrained royal power, and finally by private capital.

Maria Elisa Soldani examines the Cagliari-based operations of the Barcelonan merchant Joan Benet under early Aragonese governance. Through account books, Soldani demonstrates Benet's impressive energy, detailing his widespread Sardinian and foreign mercantile network and commodity trading. Laure-Hélène Gouffran discusses coral ("red gold") commerce between Marseilles and coral-producing Sardinian Alghero, with Levant-bound exports, during the second half of the fourteenth century. Gouffran's analysis includes activities of the investor-trader Julien de Casaulx, whose coral shipments to the Levant from 1380 to 1382 alone totaled 10,402 florins. Giuseppe Seche examines records from a Cagliari diocesan archive revealing the commercial relationship between a Sardinian-Catalan family, the Dessi, and the Navarro brothers of Valencia during the second half of the fifteenth century. Seche highlights mercantile knowledge of markets, contacts, products, financing, and operations in this context. Elena Maccioni analyzes the Barcelonan Sea Consulate's evolution in controlling Sardinian strongholds during an era of piracy. Archival sources reveal that elite Catalan merchants assumed public functions in financing and protecting contested waters and territories, including via armed galleys.

The amount of information and data contained within relatively brief chapters is striking, but it at no point obscures the authors' cohesive narratives and arguments. The charts, tables, and maps provide valuable displays of textual or additional information. Noteworthy are Baldassarri's graphs and mapping of monetization, coin distributions, and mines for Sardinia and Ligurian-Tuscan Italy; Soldani's extensive tables of

commodity trading, by date, product, commissioning agent, and even ship type; Seche's appendix of transcribed documents; and Gómez's numerical tables of Aragon's war financing, arranged by campaign, individual leader, and royal territory. Overall, this volume provides an important contribution to the scholarship on late medieval Sardinian commerce and finance from a grassroots perspective. One can only look forward to additional studies from the editors and contributors.

Marie D'Aguanno Ito, *American University*
doi:10.1017/rqx.2018.47

Kitchens, Cooking, and Eating in Medieval Italy. Katherine A. McIver. Historic Kitchens Series. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2017. xii + 126 pp. \$75.

Katherine A. McIver explores kitchens, cooking, food, and eating in medieval Italy by focusing her study on different sources (cookbooks, literary sources, and household inventories). She allows the reader to enter, understand, and appreciate food culture and history, which is not as easy or simple as one might think. Thanks to the richness and variety of the documentation, chapter by chapter the reader can imagine daily kitchen scenes, at whatever social and economic level: the hard work of the cook and his staff, the kitchen equipment, the preparation of meals and their ingredients, the idea of setting up feasts and banquets.

The author describes the Datini's way of life as a model of a real Italian family of the fourteenth and fifteenth century and analyzes several letters between Francesco and his wife, Margherita, as well as the family's inventories. They represent a corpus of documents that the author compares with medieval cookbooks, poems, novellas, and images, such as the images of the *Tacuina sanitatis*. The method of analysis used by McIver is well suited to a field of research that needs an interdisciplinary approach, incorporating written sources as well as iconographic ones. It is then a perspective of research including a reflection on common people's style of life, from the highest social, cultural, and economic levels to the poorest ones.

In chapter 1, the author examines some important cookbooks such as the Angevins' *Liber de coquina*, the Venetians' *Libro per cuoco*, Maino de Maineri's health text—that is, the *Opusculum de Saporibus*—and, finally, Johannes Bockenheim's *Il registro di cucina di Papa Martino V*. The first two books have been written by anonymous authors (a characteristic of medieval texts in general). Recipes are conceived in a variety of ways, and, as the author stresses, it is interesting to analyze how and for whom they have been drawn up. In this regard, she mentions the well-known recipe of Torta parmeggiana and its variations. McIver devotes a paragraph to women who cook following the example of Margherita Datini in her letters to her husband, Francesco: one can