

Cardinal Vitelleschi, to Pomponio Leto's academy) and Anna Esposito (the social cohesive role of civic ritual and feasting). Taken together this volume offers an excellent index of the current state of research into early modern Roman life.

Both volumes apply careful and theoretically informed methodologies to the archival record to underscore the inherent structural contradictions between public ideology and aspirations and the limited means and knowledge of premodern Europe. For the contemporary reader these volumes underscore the stark contrast between these limited premodern attempts and the twenty-first century's technical and scientific achievements, its richness of means, and its political and social failures. In the face of global pandemic, homelessness, and malnutrition, these books highlight the unflattering differences between premodern Italian urbanism and the pale and perilous simulacra of civic life in our own age.

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*La mobilità sociale nel Medioevo italiano: 4. Cambiamento economico e dinamiche sociali (secoli XI–XV)*. Simone M. Collavini and Giuseppe Petralia, eds. I libri di Viella 255. Roma: Viella, 2019. xvi + 372 pp. €39.

This is the fourth volume to come out of the major three-year PRIN research project “La mobilità sociale nel medioevo italiano (secoli XII–XV)” led by Sandro Carocci and Isabella Lazzarini, which mapped the phenomena of social mobility in medieval Italy. Divided into four strands across four universities, the project examined vectors of social mobility from culture (including work and professions), political institutions, the church, and economic development. This volume's economic focus reflects the overall division of the study.

The majority of the essays explore the theme in a variety of Tuscan settings (eight out of the eleven essays); two deal with Northern Italy (the March of Treviso and Lombardy); and one with Flanders. The team that worked on this volume was predominantly based in Pisa, accounting for the Tuscan focus of the essays. Over half of the contributions are primarily concerned with the Trecento. The first essay, by Simone M. Collavini, explores the forms of movement between countryside and *centri minori* in rural Tuscany between the twelfth and early thirteenth century. Collavini demonstrates how families and groups experienced social ascendancy from the influence of a commercialization that was not antagonistic to the framework of lordship (*signoria*) but that, rather, helped actors' mobility. In the second chapter, Maria Elena Cortese follows the fortunes of the middling aristocracy in the Florentine territory during the period of economic growth between 1150–1250. This group did not decline as *signoria* enabled families to effectively appropriate peasant surpluses.

Chapters 3 and 4 explore material culture as a way to trace social mobility. Federico Cantini uses archaeological sources—buildings, burial practices, and epigraphy—to shed light on developments in the interaction between social ascendancy and display in strategies of status formation from the eleventh until the thirteenth centuries in Tuscany. Antonino Meo analyzes residential architecture and funerary monuments alongside the consumption of ceramics in Pisa to show how choice was used to communicate and define distinction, evincing patrons' social ascendancy and new positions in social hierarchies in the Trecento. Paolo Cammarosano's contribution provides a window into the dynamics of Val d'Elsa, a quasi-*città* near Siena, between the twelfth and fourteenth centuries, and shows how growth and social mobility had already stabilized by the early fourteenth century. The commune's social stratification was not a continuum but, rather, stepped, with a large but closed ruling group. Alma Poloni gives a detailed portrait of Pisan commerce and merchants in the fourteenth century. Her essay counters oft-repeated narratives of a city in terminal decline from the late thirteenth century by instead emphasizing complex transformative periods of expansion (ca. 1290–1325 and the last decades of the Trecento) and crisis. Alberto Luongo lays out the dynamics between mobility and economy in the second half of Trecento Arezzo; again, the fourteenth century cannot be reductively captured by an image of downturn for commerce and manufacturing, as illustrated by Luongo's case study of the cloth merchant Simo d'Ubertino.

Two chapters in the volume deal with urban revolts and their bearing on the theme of mobility. Petralia, in a largely historiographic essay, reinterprets the Ciompi revolt as an instance of mobility denied; the *popolo minuto* eventually experienced social descentance. His sketch stresses the significance of relative deprivation and social ascendancy in Florence. The final chapter of the volume by Jan Dumolyn, Wouter Ryckbosch, and Mathijs Speecke offers a non-Italian perspective from the classic area of comparison, Flanders. It looks at urban revolts with a renewed emphasis on socioeconomic factors (such as demography, economic cycles, and class formation) of popular mobilization that have increasingly been sidelined; fourteenth-century Flemish urban revolts can be fruitfully read by integrating relative living standards and mobility as topics of the medieval city's political discourse. A Northern Italian perspective is represented by Gian Maria Varanini, who in chapter 9 shows that the Trevisan March's major urban centers of Verona, Vicenza, Padua, and Treviso did not experience precocious closures of their ruling groups as oligarchies. Federico Del Tredici focuses on Lombardy in the years following the death of Gian Galeazzo Visconti in 1402. He highlights the interplay between feudal aristocracy, commerce, and finance: the growing role of great financial intermediaries and merchants "appear to be refracted in a series of familiar routes," albeit with weak collective countenance due to limited horizontal solidarities (323).

Social mobility throughout the volume is understood as the movement of actors and groups within multidimensional social space, where hierarchies are not exclusively economically constructed but dependent on the transformation of status. *La mobilità sociale*

*nel Medioevo italiano* has made valuable inroads into demonstrating how a dynamic social-mobility approach can be applied to Italian history. Although there are lacunae—for instance, thematically, women as actors and marriage as a vector of mobility are mostly absent; geographically, there is no South—the volume is not intended as a survey. Rather, a great strength of the book is the essays' expert utilization of archival material, intervening in a crucible of medieval economic historiography, encouraging a broad perspective on the multiplicity of channels and resources involved in processes of social mobility.

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*Notariorum itinera: Notai toscani del basso Medioevo tra routine, mobilità e specializzazione.* Giuliano Pinto, Lorenzo Tanzini, and Sergio Tognetti, eds. Biblioteca Storica Toscana 78. Florence: Olschki, 2018. viii + 310 pp. €35.

This excellent volume represents the collaborative efforts of several Italian historical societies that culminated in a series of seminars and a conference in Florence in 2018. The essays focus on Tuscan notaries, whose abundant surviving acts constitute a unique documentary source for original research. The aim is both to call for future research and to shed light on many aspects of Tuscan society that have thus far escaped close scholarly scrutiny. Collectively, the essays use the notarial records to examine key issues relating to territorial space, topography, orthography, relations between public and private authorities, the interplay between secular and ecclesiastical spaces, and, as the title suggests, the mobility of the notaries themselves, who often traveled long distances, crossing, in the process, social, economic, and cultural boundaries. As Giuliano Pinto succinctly states in his essay on Trecento Pescia: notarial acts deepen our knowledge of society, particularly where other public sources are not available.

In many ways, the book is a sequel to the pioneering work on notaries done in the 1980s and 1990s by Franek Sznura and other scholars. The collection consists of sixteen essays, ranging temporally from the thirteenth to the fifteenth century, with emphasis on the former. They deal with Siena, Prato, Arezzo, Pescia, Pistoia, and most of all Florence, which stands at the core of the work. The notarial acts for thirteenth- and early fourteenth-century Florence are particularly valuable because relatively few archival sources survive there for the period.

The finely wrought essays mirror the notarial records themselves in their detailed and interdisciplinary nature. It is indeed difficult to overstate the range and quality of information the essays relay. Scholars examine social, economic, and institutional boundaries across the Florentine state and beyond it (Pinto, Pirillo, Tognetti, Tanzini, Becattini, Bettarini, Malavolti, Gualtieri, Scharf). They deal with topographical and spatial issues,