

Nuova Rivista Storica

Anno XCVII, Settembre-Dicembre 2013, Fascicolo III

Abstracts

ALESSANDRO DI MURO, *Silva densissima*. La percezione del bosco nel Mezzogiorno medievale (secc. VI-XIII)

The forest is an extremely important entity in the medieval Southern Italy, conditioning significantly the economic structures and the imagery. The forest seems characterized of ambiguous meanings, where the usual rigid dividing line between the living world and the otherworld becomes suddenly passable, where are materialized ancestral anguishes and supernatural forces.

This magmatic space, apparently crystallized in the image of an immutable medieval forest, is subject to an evolution in material reality and perception that unfolds over the Middle Ages and reaches, dramatically, nowadays.

This essay attempted to trace, through a survey in the vast collection of the southern italian sources, a general profile - certainly not exhaustive - of the conceptual idea of forest the evolution in the Southern Italy, trying to identify the transformations of representation that the contemporaries have done, from the Early Middle Ages to the thirteenth century.