

Nuova Rivista Storica

Anno XCVII, Settembre-Dicembre 2013, Fascicolo III

Abstracts

BRUNO FIGLIUOLO, Lo spazio economico dei mercanti messinesi nel XV secolo (1415-1474)

By studying the abundant notary town registers, it has been possible to analyze the structure of Messina's trade in the XVth Century. In particular, one can notice how its harbor, compulsory stop for all convoys that travelled the busiest Mediterranean routes, became one of the most important European trade centers. As a matter of fact there were plenty of goods coming from the Far East and the Mediterranean area (especially spices), as well as the ones produced in Flanders and England (such as wool), brought by Venetian, Genoese, and Catalan ships that connected those areas. These ships, on their way back, would bring silk, sugar, and foodstuffs, which were goods requested by all European emporiums. The town merchant class, stimulated by such a strong demand, took care of conveying in the city such goods from the Sicilian and Calabrian area of production, and of selling in return the northern and eastern goods which the town could easily obtain, though without taking the initiative of transporting on their own ships the goods of southern production to their final destination.