SIMONE LOMBARDO, La croce, il mastice e la figlia del Doge. Il mondo di Pietro Recanelli, mercante genovese, maonese di Chio e crociato del Trecento

The late 14th-century Mediterranean area was a changing world, marked by economic innovations, personal achievements, aggregations of mercantile families, bonds to the East and Crusade movements. A considerable bibliography was based on these themes, giving a great contribution to the debate upon the crisis of the Trecento. The account of Pietro Recanelli’s life acts as a good point of view to show and summarize the movements inside this world. He was a Genoese merchant who got rich in the Levant, but also a military commander, a shareholder and chief of the Maona of Chios, a mastic trader, a Crusader captain of Smirne, an ambassador who paid great attention to his marriage strategies. An inventory of his goods, found in the Archive of Genoa, helps to study this figure, in balance between the service to the others and personal independence. He was a “frontiersman”: the analysis from this perspective, out of any biographical intention, seems to be interesting due to the impossibility of locating a figure like him in a strict category.

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