Nuova Rivista Storica

Abstracts

Rossella Del Prete, I *figlioli* del Conservatorio della Pietà dei Turchini di Napoli nella seconda metà del Settecento. Percorsi di studio e opportunità professionali

Starting from the second half of the 18th century Southern Italy shows sensitivity towards the Enlightenment suggestions on the role of the human resources as a factor of economic development.

With the double objective of the exploitation, in favour of the State, of a cheap workforce at low cost and of the reduction of poverty and criminality rates, the destitute become the new *focus* of the policies for job training.

In this paper we will concentrate on the political and economic contexts where the debate began and on the actual initiatives of pre-existent institutions, like academies of music such as factories for vocational training. It seems of great importance the only Italian case of transformation of four Neapolitan academies from welfare institutes for poor and neglected children into training places for musicians. This action was brought about following economic principles and was decisive for the starting of a musical market. The essential and emblematic nature of music and of its properties as a public asset had strong implications from the economic point of view and allowed the exploitation of its features and expressions as phenomena typical of the more general relationship between economy, society and artistic expression.

The orientation towards musical training, the increasing number of halls and theatrical performances, the increase of the number of people involved in the production of shows and the great number of trips outside the Reign to sell the texts and the image of what began to be considered the *Neapolitan School*, were the components of an increasing cultural fashion during the 18th century. Through the strengthening of the didactic structures, academies of music soon were capable of producing skilled *workforce*.