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Abstracts

LORENZO TANZINI, Le magistrature sulle acque nelle città comunali toscane

The article aims to study the institutional tools of water control in Tuscan cities of the late middle ages (XII-XIV centuries), through an analysis of statutory laws concerning rivers, bridges, meadows, phishing and so on. Even if the importance of a public control of water was already clear in XII century, the first signs of institutional organization date back to the beginning of XIII, whilst the first popular regimes show a sharp sensibility for the material shape of the city. Usually the authority over water control was committed to special temporary offices (*operarii*, *superstites*), but at the end of the century we find evidence of permanent offices, sometimes held by foreign judges, subsequently by citizen. The impossibility to avoid water floods such as that of 1333 in Florence may be considered the final demonstration of the failure of these institutional tools, affected by political instability, conflicts between neighbouring cities, strong economic interests of the ruling class of the commune.