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Abstracts

CHRISTIAN GRASSO, Folco di Neuilly, *sacerdos et praedicator crucis*

This essay aims to describing the history of Fulk of Neuilly, the famous preacher of the Fourth Crusade (1198-1204). Through the analysis of the available documentation (chronicles and papal letters), the portrait of Fulk that is delineated is that of a preacher well aware of his own role and mission. In fact his preaching is inserted in the context of the crusade's propaganda coordinated by pope Innocent III. His action, addressed to *universos fideles* and finalized to the recruitment and the financing of the crusade, reveals two essential characters.

In first place, the emergence of a new kind of preacher who combines personal skills and technical expertise. So the intellectual formation of Fulk, who was an expert in the *ars praedicandi* thanks to the studies at the University of Paris, proves fundamental.

Secondly, the link between the preacher and the Papacy that, through the system of delegation, intends to assert its control on the crusade and on the office of preaching. Just this link will cause the opposition encountered by Fulk during his mission. This opposition, whose leaders are bishops and priests, will seriously affect the organization of the Fourth Crusade.

Nevertheless Fulk will assert himself as one of the main protagonists of this expedition. Also in the historical memory his remembered will persist on one side as skilled *Wanderprediger* and on the other, thanks above all to his biography written by the cardinal Jacques of Vitry, as an authentic model of priest and preacher.