

Nuova Rivista Storica

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Abstracts

GIGLIOLA SOLDI RONDININI, *Politica e mecenatismo: i Portinari, il Banco Medici e i suoi 'maggiori' nelle vicende del ducato sforzesco (1450-1499)*

The aim of this essay is to show and explain the origins of the Portinari Family from Tuscany. No study has been made as yet on this family and relationship they had with the Banco Medici (the Milan branch) and the dukedom of the Sforza.

The outstanding member of this family here taken into consideration is Pigello Portinari, the manager of the Banco Medici. The fresh unpublished documents throw light on Pigello's work as a banker and the role he played in the dukedom while Francesco Sforza was in power. Through a detailed and careful description of the events taking place at the time the money circulation in Milan in its specific characteristics is also illustrated.

A large section of the essay focuses on the financial situation of the dukedom, which has been examined thanks to both the documents mentioned above, belonging to the *State Archives of Milan* and on unpublished *Report of the State of Milan of 1463*, together with a very rare bibliography.

The rich material gives us the opportunity to learn a lot above the debit and credit of dukedom, the expenses of both the court and the duke himself; there are lists of names of captains and men-at-arms, of noble families: so it provides a window on the way the State was run both from a political and administrative point of view.

The Portinari were great patrons of the arts, especially painting. They were in touch with the most famous Flemish masters of the time, who got from the family commissions for many works which are now exhibited in Florence.

It is thanks to Pigello that the Portinari chapel was built inside the Saint Eustorgio Basilica in Milan. The history of the chapel and description of its decorations by Vincenzo Foppa are also included.