

# Nuova Rivista Storica

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## Abstracts

FRANCESCO MARZELLA, *Il doctor disertus dal rex Persarum*. Francesco e il Sultano nella *Legenda sancti Francisci versificata* di Enrico di Avranches

In his most famous poem, *Legenda sancti Francisci versificata*, Henry of Avranches, writing at the request of Pope Gregory IX, told the story of Francis of Assisi. The poet followed his main source, Tommaso of Celano's *Vita Beati Francisci*, but also added new details to the biography and presented the saint as an epic hero. This paper examines the episode of the meeting between St. Francis and the Sultan al-Malik al-Kamil in Henry's poem, focusing on the most original features introduced by Henry, the only author who imagined the topics of St. Francis' speech. The analysis of ll. 134-180 of book VIII of the *Legenda*, pointing out possible literary models both classical and medieval, is meant to illustrate Henry's *modus operandi*, also showing how, especially in this episode, the poet celebrated the saint as a courageous hero who is not afraid of the Muslim enemy and as a *doctor disertus* able to impress the Sultan and his *philosophi* talking about the Christian faith.