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Abstracts

ANDREA GUIDI, Il canto degli *Spiriti beati*. Machiavelli, i papi Medici e il pericolo turco

Among the little-known poems of Machiavelli, the Carnival poem Spiriti beati is probably the least understood. Building on recent documentary discoveries about Machiavelli's life, this article argues that this poem had a clear political/encomiastic goal and advances a new hypothesis about its date of composition. A comparison with a chapter of Machiavelli's Florentine Histories indicates that the poem must be interpreted in light of a patronage relationship with Cardinal Giulio de Medici, and in the context of his increasing political role at the court of Rome from 1516 on. More specifically, the encomium is for the initiatives Giulio and his cousin Pope Leo X took against Barbary pirates and the Ottoman expansion in Europe and on the Mediterranean. These efforts were both visual - as seen in the Battle of Ostia fresco in the Vatican - and martial as particularly the Cardinal advocated for the defense of the island of Rhodes in the years 1520-22, even after the election of Adrian VI.

Keywords:

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