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RESEARCH ARTICLES – ABSTRACTS AND KEYWORDS

Elisa Baccini

Competition and national claims: French and Italian theatre in the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy

During the Napoleonic period, in the Italian peninsula the pedagogical and civic role of the theatre, described by the philosophes, assumed also an imperialistic meaning. The article focuses on the competition created between an Italian theatrical company and a French one, in the départements réunis and the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy. Napoleon introduced two French companies led by Madame Raucourt in order to propagate the French language and culture; while the Viceroy of Italy decided to finance an Italian company directed by Salvatore Fabbrichesi, to counterbalance the image given by the imposition of French theatre on Italian stages. This provoked a national rivalry between the two companies on repertoires, stages, the support of local administrators and the press. These tensions were presented by some Italian intellectuals in terms of national identity.

Keywords: French theatre, Napoleonic Italy, cultural imperialism, national identity

Dario Marino

The language of truth. Petitions to the national parliament of the Two Sicilies in 1820-21

The article investigates the forms and contents of petitions addressed to the National Parliament of the Two Sicilies during the revolutions of 1820-21. The lexicon and style of these texts offer important information to understand the political discourse of the Neapolitan public opinion. The article will focus on the notion of petition and its historical evolution, before proceeding to the development of the right of petition in 1820-21. It will finally propose a classification of petitions according to two ways of telling the truth: parrhesia and rhetoric.

Keywords: liberalism, revolutions, petitions, parrhesia.

Paolo Maria Amighetti

A Benedictine on the Carroccio on the Eve of 1848: Luigi Tosti and the History of the Lombard League

From the 1820s to the 1840s, the myth of the Lombard League enjoyed an overwhelming success in the whole Italian culture. The main reason for such a development is

widely recognized by scholars: the myth provided a patriotic narration built on the assumption that the conflict between the League and the Emperor Frederick I Barbarossa had been a fight for Italian independence against German tyranny, a perspective that fitted the political aims of the Risorgimento. Therefore, the theme was exploited by literature, poetry, painting and historiography as well. This essay aims at contextualising the History of the Lombard League written by the Benedictine monk Luigi Tosti, and to underline this author's contribution to the elaboration of the myth.

Keywords: Risorgimento, Lombard League heritage, myth, Luigi Tosti.

Christopher Calefati

The sharp tongue. Repertoires of political offence and the case of Apulia in 1848-49

This article aims to analyse a repertoire of verbal actions, such as insults and blasphemies, that were commonly used during riots in the early modern period and in the 19th Century, and met the attention of lawmakers. During the revolutions of 1848-49, in the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, and especially the peripheral area of Apulia, these verbal actions acted as tools of politicisation, and were the product of the evolution of religious traditions into political terms/exploitation of religious traditions for political aims. Moreover, they acted as instruments of conquest of the political space, and revolutionary self-promotion of local social classes. These rituals can be interpreted as part of an imaginative treason or a figurative iconoclasm.

Keywords: dangerous talks, political blasphemies, Risorgimento, Southern Italy

Angelica Zazzeri

«In questo universale agitarsi a me duole di starmene inoperosa». Women, patriotic donations and armed mobilisation during the revolutions of 1848 in the Italian peninsula

In the Italian peninsula, one of the key years of the Age of revolutions – 1848 – was characterised by an intense female mobilisation. Many women took an active role in shaping the new socio-political order through patriotic donations and armed claims. These two practices stood at the crossroads between the feelings of unanimity and demands of citizenship, and had a wide media resonance. However, while the donations confirmed the normative model of women as a support for the male protagonist, armed claims were condemned by a spreading satire with sexual connotations, which brought up to date the theme of the rebellious woman of the Early modern period.

Keywords: 1848, women, citizenship, media