

Abstracts

Manuel Fauliri

The beneficium between fatal traps and regional particularisms. A methodological proposal for a new periodization of a relationship instrument in the Italic kingdom (from the eighth to the tenth century)

In the 1990s, a great number of scholars profoundly reconsidered and broadly discussed long-standing historiographical traditions in medieval historiography. In particular, Susan Reynolds' work has called the whole issue of feudalism into question, leading to a new periodization and the development of new perspectives for the study of "benefices" or gifts of land. This paper therefore seeks to examine the allocation of benefices in the *regnum Italiae* between the eighth and the beginning of the tenth centuries, taking account of the fluidity and continuity between various chronological phases in early medieval Italy and exploring a highly differentiated geographical landscape. It also acknowledges the findings achieved by anthropological studies, particularly with regard to the exchange of inalienable possessions and the paradox elaborated by Annette Weiner of *keeping-while-giving*, which seems to fit in well with the use of benefices as an instrument for shaping relationships in medieval society.

Lienhard Thaler

Changing Values in Medieval Tyrol. Measurements, Coin Weights, Exchange Rates and Prices between 1290 and 1500

Times change, and so too do not only people, but also measurements and the value of money and goods. Therefore, reliable information on currencies, exchange rates, prices and measurements is crucial for all those who seek to offer interpretations and make calculations using numerical historical data, especially when comparing different regions and periods. Accordingly, this article's main goals are to provide such information for Tyrol between 1290 and 1500 and to take a first step towards reconstructing a history of prices in medieval Tyrol. The author begins by discussing and synthesizing the state of research on measurements, coin weights, exchange rates and prices for the region in question. Our current knowledge is based on a small number of studies dating back to around 1900, but the author expands this information base by adding new data from published account records. Furthermore, he evaluates the updated series of exchange rates and prices within the context of the economic history of medieval Europe.

Stefano Mangullo

Meridionalism in Southern Italy between post-war Reconstruction and Industrialization (1945–1950)

The article provides an overview of debates and policies connected to meridionalism (that is to say, the research and study of social and economic issues in Southern Italy) in the years between the end of World War Two and the start of the exceptional programme of state intervention in the Italian South. The article begins by tracing the general outlines of the phenomenon, its multi-centred geography, and the various locations and channels that fed the diffusion and exchange of ideas. What emerges is a picture filled with light and shadows, among which the activities of the Naples-based *Centro economico italiano per il Mezzogiorno* (CEIM – the Italian Economic Centre for the South) stand out during the years 1946 and 1948. The second section of the article looks at the path followed by the first legislation under the Italian Republic regarding southern industry, especially from the perspective of claims put forward from the periphery. The issue of continuity during the post-war transition emerges from both the cases analysed in detail: firstly, the so-called Law of the Sixth (*Legge del Sesto*) of 1947 (and then the Law of the Fifth of 1950), whose roots go back to the special legislation promulgated at the start of the twentieth century; secondly, the mobilization in the first half of 1947 for the re-introduction of Law No. 1572 from the year 1941 on industrial de-centralization in central and southern Italy, which preceded the launching of the Togni Porzio decrees on the industrialization of the South.

Isabella Walser-Bürgler

The Past in the Light of Progress, or: Tyrolean Historiography in the Enlightenment. Two Pioneering Opening Speeches at the Academia Taxiana in Innsbruck

Influenced by the Italian early Enlightenment and the stimulating intellectual sphere provided by the Italian academy movement, the first learned society founded in Innsbruck was the *Societas Silentiariorum*, in 1738. After publishing its official statutes in 1741, it was renamed the *Societas academica litteraria* or *Academia Taxiana*. The *Taxiana* soon turned into one of the main standard-bearers of Enlightenment thought in North Tyrol. In particular, members engaged with and discussed historical topics, methods, traditions and texts that were otherwise ignored or unheard of at the University of Innsbruck and other educational institutions at the time, but which would eventually lead to our modern ‘science of history’. The *Taxiana*’s first official meeting, held in January 1741, set the tone in exemplary fashion for its Enlightenment mission and the renewal of historical scholarship in Tyrol along enlightened principles, as Paul Joseph Riegger and Adrian Kemter took the stage to give the academy’s first historiographical speeches (*dissertationes*).

Alexa Stiller

Political Economy and the Practice of Nazi Resettlement Policy in Northern Italy during World War II

Heinrich Himmler, the Reich Commissioner for the Strengthening of Germandom, had promised the largest 'ethnic German' community in northern Italy, the South Tyroleans, a 'complete' resettlement as an entire group in 1939. However, the Reich Commissioner was in practice variable with regard to both his aims and his promises. From the very beginning, it was also in his interest to integrate South Tyrolean workers and their families into the German labour market. At the same time, Himmler also oversaw the settlement of individual South Tyrolean peasant families in the rural parts of German-occupied territories. On the one hand, this was due to the Nazi regime's aim of expanding German *Lebensraum*. On the other hand, Himmler intended to obliterate regional identities among 'ethnic Germans' by mixing them together in newly occupied territories. Hence, both the economic interest in having an 'ethnic German' work force and the political goal of creating a new *Volksgemeinschaft* beyond the borders of the Greater German Reich constituted objectives of the Reich Commissioner that stood in contradiction to his promise of a 'complete' settlement of the South Tyroleans as a group.