

Javier P. Grossutti. L'emigrazione nel Friuli occidentale: Guida alla Sezione "Lavoro ed emigrazione" del Museo della vita contadina "Diogene Penzi" di Cavasso Nuovo

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Javier P. Grossutti. *L'emigrazione nel Friuli occidentale: Guida alla Sezione "Lavoro ed emigrazione" del Museo della vita contadina "Diogene Penzi" di Cavasso Nuovo*. Gorizia: ERPAC Ente Regionale per il Patrimonio Culturale della Regione Friuli Venezia Giulia, 2018. Pp. 167. ISBN 9788875622152.

Grossutti's volume, now also available in an English version by the author,¹ has as its focal point the collection housed in a museum located in the Friulian town of Cavasso Nuovo. Although the subtitle presents it as a guide to the museum, which was founded by teacher and scholar of popular culture Diogene Penzi (1926–97), and more particularly as a description of the section of the museum devoted to "lavoro ed emigrazione," the book offers much more. A truly comprehensive study of the history of emigration from Friuli, it covers all phases of this fundamental aspect of the history of the region from the Renaissance to the present.

The author, an expert and widely published scholar of Italian, and especially Friulian emigration, responsible for organizing the Work and Emigration section of the Museum, focusses on the specific sectors in which the migrants operated as small property/business owners and tradesmen. For the better-known sector of mosaic and terrazzo flooring in which Friulians excelled, leaving a lasting even artistic presence on many continents, he traces the migration of the workers from their native mountain and hill area towns, first to Venice in the late sixteenth century and then to other parts of Italy.

Of notable significance is the migration to central and Eastern Europe, where some Friulians became entrepreneurs or supervisors of work sites, often learning the trade from their fellow townsmen who preceded them before venturing across the ocean to the United States and Canada, where some were to found leading companies. For the changes in destinations and direction of the migration that occurred, Grossutti takes care to include references to the changing policies of the governments involved and to the evolution of Friuli itself with the industrialization of the Pordenone area. He also deals with lesser known activities like the export of capital by some entrepreneurs and the achievement of Friulian migrants who established the sausage industry in Budapest, for example.

¹ Javier P. Grossutti, *Emigration from Western Friuli: Guide to the "Work and Emigration" Section of the "Diogene Penzi" Museum of Rural Life in Cavasso Nuovo*. Gorizia: ERPAC Regional Agency for the Cultural Heritage of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, 2020. Pp. 167. ISBN 9788875622398.

Of special interest is the chapter devoted to the experience of Friulian women who emigrated and often endured wretched working conditions as peddlers or wetnurses and nannies from the eighteenth century onward. On the other hand, those women who remained at home often assumed important roles in their households during the absence of the migrant men. In the industrial age some women emigrated from Friuli to work in Swiss and German factories. In this case too Grossutti finds a positive effect in the greater personal freedom that women acquired through their migratory experiences.

In all sections of his book and examination of various work sectors, Grossutti provides a vast amount of factual information, much of it new and based on the documents in the museum collection. To this data, moreover, he adds his own critical and most insightful assessments. On the phenomenon of return migration, he speaks — from firsthand experience as the grandson of a Friulian émigré himself — of the implications of the experience. Some pages are devoted to the psychology of the earlier migrants' descendants and to the most recent trends of immigration to Friuli and the emigration of professionals. What might have constituted a logical reflective conclusion to the book is actually followed by two supplementary chapters on politics and religion. Not directly related to the museum exhibits, they are nonetheless justified for a more complete understanding of Friulian emigration. Seasonal migrants to central Europe, often influenced by their contact there with political and union movements, became opponents of the fascist regime. Others were to leave Friuli for political, no longer for simply economic reasons, finding an outlet for their antifascist leanings in Argentina, France, and elsewhere. Finally, in the last pages of the text Grossutti discusses the loss of religious faith among migrants who were influenced by political movements abroad, as documented in the reports published by priests sent to visit the Friulian communities in North America.

The volume ends with a series of useful aids: a map of the mountain and hill areas of Western Friuli; a list of the names of towns with an indication of the main trades of the emigrants, their destination, and the time period of their migration; an index of names of persons; and an index of place names. A very attractive as well as informative volume, it includes throughout, on practically every page, photographs and facsimiles of documents that are part of the museum's holdings collected from families in Friuli and abroad, reproduced here in high quality print and format. Of note too are the copious explanatory captions providing — with remarkably few exceptions — dates, identification of persons and places.

Written by a first-rate historian, this volume provides a detailed account of the phases and facets of Friulian emigration and a thoughtful and meticulous analysis of the complex phenomenon.

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Zygmunt G. Baranski. *Dante, Petrarch, Boccaccio. Literature, Doctrine, Reality. Selected Essays*, 6. Cambridge: Legenda – Modern Humanities Research Association, 2020. Pp. 644. Euros 93.60. ISBN 9781781888797.

I diciannove saggi che Zygmunt G. Baranski raccoglie nel volume edito dalla MHRA rappresenta una pregevole *summa* dell'attività critica dello studioso britannico nell'ambito degli studi medievali, volta ad illustrare i motivi e le questioni principali inerenti le *Tre Corone* e la loro fortuna nell'ambito della letteratura italiana ed europea.

Originariamente apparsi in prestigiose riviste e volumi tra 1991 e 2018, i saggi sono inseriti in cinque sezioni: 1) *Debating Doctrine*, che si occupa di tracciare un profilo ampio e circostanziato, frutto anche di recenti ricerche condotte dall'autore, del rapporto tra Dante e le dottrine teologico-filosofiche antiche e del suo tempo; 2) *Inventing Literature*, che riprende temi già trattati in studi precedenti («*Sole nuovo, luce nuova*». *Saggi sul rinnovamento culturale in Dante*, Torino, Paravia/Scriptorium, 1996) analizzando i concetti di genere letterario, *stilus* e *genus* all'interno delle categorizzazioni dei *genera dicendi*; 3) *Creating Canons*, imperniata sulla lettura di *Par.* XXV e *Rvf* 15 e 281–290, traccia un significativo quadro analitico delle influenze che Dante e Cavalcanti hanno esercitato su Petrarca e delle reminiscenze esistenti tra la *fabula* di Orfeo ed Euridice e la struttura del *Canzoniere*; 4) *Exploiting Epicurus*, che analizza la presenza del pensiero di Epicuro in Dante, Cavalcanti e Boccaccio e poi del filosofo greco e Averroé in Petrarca; 5) *Writing reality*, a nostro parere la sezione più importante perché ospitante un saggio su Cavalcanti e *Inf.* IX–XI e su escatologia e oscenità nella *Commedia* che permettono un'ampia riflessione non solo sulle problematiche strettamente filologiche e storico-letterarie, ma anche sulle questioni filosofiche a monte della scrittura e della definizione del singolo ruolo dei personaggi e sulle fonti da cui essi sono tratti, settore questo che conclude un ciclo di studi che Baranski aveva