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Exchanges and Interactions in the Arts of the Premodern World

Seminarium Kondakovianum, Series Nova

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Exchanges and Interactions

in the Arts of the Premodern World

Seminarium Kondakovianum, Series Nova

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XII/2

edited by
Serena Romano
& **Elisabetta Scirocco**
with the collaboration of
Michaela Hojdysz

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EDITORIAL



SERENA ROMANO ELISABETTA SCIROCCO

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This miscellaneous issue of *Convivium* is particularly rich, featuring nine articles, a review, a methodological essay that draws on the results of the research project *Conques in the Global World*, and a tribute to Alexei Lidov – renowned international scholar and member of the *Convivium*’s Advisory Board – who passed away this year.

Now in its twelfth year, the journal has released two regular issues per year and fifteen special issues (*Supplementa*). In this issue, *Convivium* maintains its distinctive identity by offering a comprehensive, 360-degree perspective of the arts of the “Middle Ages” from multiple angles and various geographical and chronological contexts.

The volume opens with three articles dedicated to early medieval subjects. Simone Piazza examines the lost mosaics and inscriptions that once adorned Lyon Cathedral. Elena Cereghetti offers a detailed analysis of the early medieval fresco fragments discovered in a sarcophagus beneath the floor of Rome’s Church of Santa Susanna. Manuela Gianandrea contextualizes an image of Saint Agatha, now part of a private collection, reconnecting it to one of Rome’s most significant early medieval places of worship, the Basilica of Santa Maria in Trastevere. The following articles broaden the perspective to include other geographical and cultural crossroads. Marc Sureda opens up a window onto the Iberian context through his study of the *Amatller retable* – a Catalan work from the second quarter of the thirteenth century – arguing that it was an important anti-Cathar visual project.

Adopting a diachronic approach, Lusine Sargsyan and Arusyak Tamrazyan’s essay on Armenian manuscripts and Seraina Renz’s historiographical study of modernism in Yugoslavia both shift the focus eastward toward regions historically connected to Byzantine culture. Two articles return to the Italian Peninsula: Clario Di Fabio presents new findings on the Scrovegni Chapel sculptures; Julian Gardner reflects on a Florentine panel depicting *Saint John the Baptist Enthroned* that was once in Santa Maria degli Ughi. Finally, Donal Cooper’s essay on Dobričević’s polyptych for the Dubrovnik Franciscans serves as a bridge between eastern and western geographies, as well as between the Middle Ages and the early modern period.

The dialogue between past and present, and the journeys of memorial objects that have endured through time – shaped by events and vicissitudes that sometimes risk mutilating their historical depth and cultural significance – has always been one of the central themes of our journal. We believe that the past cannot be approached with a “pure gaze” but only through the countless filters of time and cultures. Only by acknowledging these filters in our philological and documentary approach can we hope to broaden our understanding of history. All the essays in this issue of *Convivium*, to varying degrees, reflect this awareness, offering readers a refined, varied, and compelling range of surveys and proposals.

ARTICLES