

DOCUMENTS ON URBINO'S SCIENTIFIC SCHOOL IN HISTORICAL ARCHIVES (XIV-XVII CENTURIES)

by Anna Falcioni (University of Urbino)

Anna Falcioni archival research's aim is that of illustrating the history of Commandino, Barocci, del Monte and Baldi families from their origins to their disappearance. It examines the precious, and mostly unpublished, notarial documents stored in a section of the National Archives of Urbino. This investigation, until now completely ignored by classical historiography, will allow a reconstruction, in a more analytical and precise way, of the genealogy of these families, and to frame as a whole Urbino's scientific school. Essential points of the investigation will be the methodological and critical orientation towards a broad reading of coeval testimonies, currently only marginally studied. Some example of such texts are: the records of the Ancient Archives of the University library of Urbino; the manuscripts of the Archives of the Convent of St. Francis; the manuscripts of the confraternities of *Corpus Christi*, of St. Mary of Mercy and of St. John the Baptist. Those institutions are all prominent institutions of Urbino and evoking the wealth of the families in question.

New researches might allow us to see not only the social and economic positions of families such as Barocci, Commandino, del Monte and Baldi, but also their connection with the ducal court. Those researches highlight how the dukes of Urbino encouraged and protected these families, being aware that some members of those families could be extremely helpful in the organization and development of the activities of the duchy.

From 2012 to today, the research focused on the Commandino and the Barocci. The first results of the research were exhibited on October 5, 2012, in a paper by Anna Falcioni on "*La famiglia Barocci nelle fonti archivistiche urbinati*", in the international conference "*I Barocci a Urbino tra arte e scienza*", organized in Urbino, by the International Center "Urbino and the Perspective". So far, a large amount of notarial documentation (about a thousand *instrumenta*) has been found on both the Commandino and the Barocci, which allows us to reconstruct their patrimony in Urbino's territory, their artistic commissions and their professional role in the city.

A monographic volume is being prepared, which will be printed in the next 2018, entitled "*Federico Commandino nelle fonti notarili urbinati*", which collects a repertoire of over 150 unpublished documents on Commandino as a humanist and mathematician (1505-1575), which will enable us to obtain new information about his biography and will indicate which where the periods of his presence in Urbino.

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