

LONDON 2025


Selected backlist and
forthcoming titles

 SALERNO EDITRICE

Francesca Romana Berno

LUXURIA

STORIE DI BANCHETTI,
VILLE E ALTRI ECCESSI
NELL'ANTICA ROMA

 SALERNO EDITRICE



CRISTINA LA ROCCA

Teoderico

Il re barbarico
che rivestì la porpora
e regnò su
Goti e Romani



SECONDA MANO

IL VALORE DELLE COSE
FRA MEDIOEVO ED ETÀ MODERNA

 SALERNO EDITRICE



Stefano Gasparri

RITUALI DI POTERE
NELL'EUROPA ALTOMEDIEVALE

LA CORONA FERREA
E ALTRE STORIE

 SALERNO EDITRICE



New Releases

Francesca Romana Berno • <i>Luxuria: Tales of Banquets, Villas, and Other Indulgences in Ancient Rome</i>	5
Cristina La Rocca • <i>Theodoric: The Barbarian King Who Wore the Royal Purple and Reigned over Goths and Romans</i>	6
Giacomo Todeschini • <i>Second-Hand: The Value of Things in the Middle Ages and the Modern Era</i>	7
Stefano Gasparri • <i>Power Rituals in Early Medieval Europe: The Iron Crown and Other Tales</i>	8
Marco Bresadola • <i>Galvani: The Physician Who Revolutionised Knowledge of the Human Body</i>	9
Sebastiano Angelo Granata • <i>Ferdinand of Bourbon</i>	10
Mariella Zoppi • <i>The Garden Lady: Gertrude Jekyll and the Freedom of Nature</i>	11

Recent Backlist

Livio Zerbini • <i>Commodus</i>	13
Maria Nadia Covini • <i>Ludovico Maria Sforza</i>	14
Claudio Lo Jacono • <i>Saladin</i>	15
Flavio Raviola • <i>Pyrrhus</i>	16
Tommaso di Carpegna Falconieri • <i>Cola di Rienzo (New Edition)</i>	17
Tommaso Braccini • <i>Trebizond</i>	18
Guido Samarani • <i>Mao Zedong</i>	19
Marcello Verga • <i>Maria Theresa of Austria</i>	20
Arnaldo Marcone • <i>Vespasian</i>	21
Marco Rocco • <i>Limes: Living and Fighting at Rome's Borders</i>	22
Series: "Cities: Myths and Early Origins"	24

Bestsellers from the Backlist

Marina Montesano • <i>Witch Hunt</i>	27
Luciano Canfora • <i>Conversion: How Flavius Josephus was Christianised</i>	27
Luigi Mascilli Migliorini • <i>Napoleon</i>	28
Franco Cardini • <i>The Sultan and The Tsar</i>	28
Alessandro Barbero • <i>Constantine The Winner</i>	29



Francesca Romana Berno

Luxuria

Tales of Banquets, Villas,
and Other Indulgences
in Ancient Rome

Piccoli Saggi

pp. 160 • € 14,00

ISBN 9788869738470

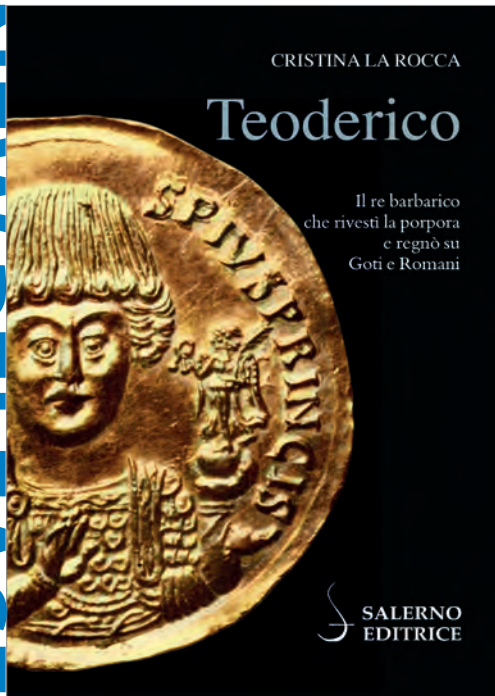
NEW RELEASE

Luxuria was the vice of excess in all its forms in ancient Rome. This book tells the stories of famous people – Lucullus, Nero, Cleopatra, Apicius – and introduces readers to both their public profligacy (during banquets and feasts) and private intemperance (undertaken behind the shelter provided by villas). The debauchery of emperors and philosophers accompanies readers through a wide range of personified immoralities that reflect the lustful imagination of the ancient world.

Francesca Romana Berno

teaches Latin Language and Literature at the Sapienza University in Rome. She studies the history of ideas and philosophical vocabulary and has worked extensively on Cicero, Ovid, and especially Seneca.





Cristina La Rocca

Theoderic

The Barbarian King Who Wore the Royal Purple and Reignèd over Goths and Romans

Profili

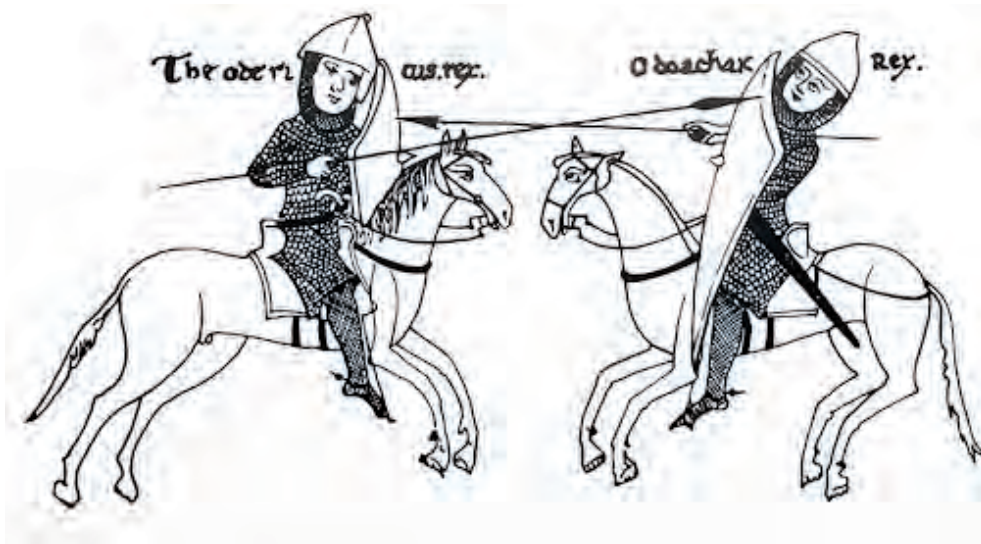
pp. 280 • € 28,00

ISBN 9788869738456

Ruling from 489 to 526 CE, Theoderic the Great was a symbol of the barbarian age. After Romulus Augustulus was deposed in 476, the Western Empire was still alive in practice but subject to the authority of the Emperor of the East. Italy was Theoderic's training ground, where he learned to face down opposition and build support for his power. At the end of his reign, he turned into a "heretic king", whose fame upended his original standing as a balanced ruler, thus bequeathing to the Middle Ages a reputation in need of rehabilitation.

Cristina La Rocca

teaches Medieval History at the University of Padova; her scholarly interests involve the history of urban settlements, social history, and gender in the Early Middle Ages.



Giacomo Todeschini

Second-Hand

The Value of Things in the Middle Ages and the Modern Era

Piccoli Saggi

pp. 240 • € 23,00

ISBN 9788869738449



At the end of the Middle Ages, second-hand trade on a large scale emerged within a context of consumption growth, led by an expanding number of consumers. It was a pivotal phenomenon, reflecting the spread of a wide variety of retail goods, ranging from clothes to jewellery to household utensils. Considerable quantities of used, recycled, new, or apparently new objects invaded markets, activating trends in consumer behaviour, values, and prices that remain relevant today.

Giacomo Todeschini

formerly taught Medieval History at the University of Trieste.



Stefano Gasparri

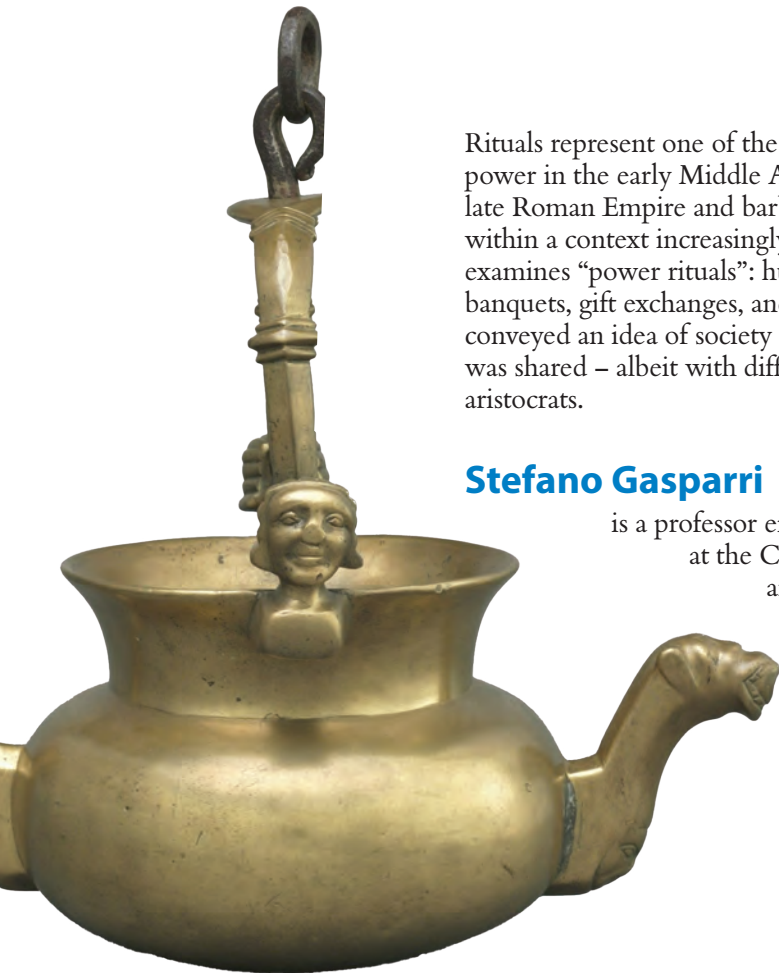
Power Rituals in Early Medieval Europe

The Iron Crown and Other Tales

Piccoli Saggi

pp. 268 • € 26,00

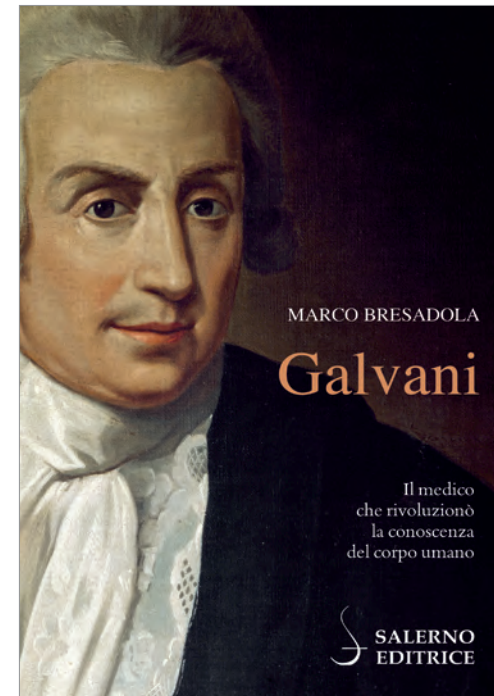
ISBN 9788869738432



Rituals represent one of the most effective means to explore power in the early Middle Ages when the traditions of the late Roman Empire and barbarian military customs merged within a context increasingly shaped by religion. The author examines “power rituals”: hunting, war games, hairstyles, banquets, gift exchanges, and many others. These rituals conveyed an idea of society and its internal hierarchy that was shared – albeit with different perspectives – by rulers and aristocrats.

Stefano Gasparri

is a professor emeritus of Medieval History at the Ca' Foscari University in Venice and a former president of the Italian Society of Medieval Historians.



Marco Bresadola

Galvani

The Physician Who Revolutionised Knowledge of the Human Body

Profilì

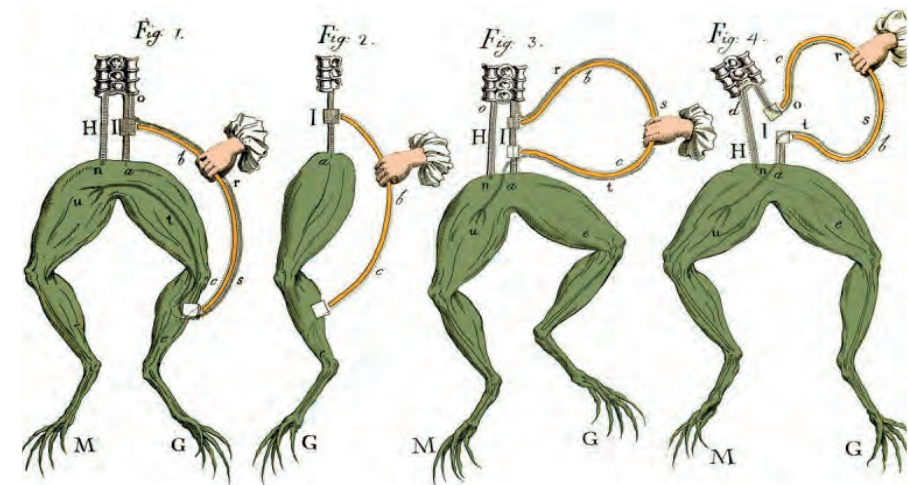
pp. 212 • € 24,00

ISBN 9788869738463

This book is the first modern biography of Luigi Galvani, whose experiments on frogs contributed to the birth of neuroscience. The author describes the life and work of the Bologna physician in the cultural context of the Age of Enlightenment, underscoring Galvani's academic ambitions, religious devotion, and experimental creativity. His work contributed to fundamental scientific discoveries, such as Alessandro Volta's battery, and outstanding literary innovations, such as Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*.

Marco Bresadola

teaches History and Communication of Science at the University of Ferrara. He has devoted more than 20 years to the study of Galvani's work, medicine and life sciences throughout the modern and contemporary ages.



NEW RELEASE



Sebastiano Angelo Granata

Ferdinand of Bourbon

200th anniversary
of the death of
Ferdinand of Bourbon
(January 4th, 1825)

Profili

pp. 280 • € 25,00
ISBN 9788869738425



Mariella Zoppi

The Garden Lady

Gertrude Jekyll
and the Freedom of Nature

Piccoli Saggi

pp. 144 • € 13,00
ISBN 9788869738487

A frequently cited personality, Ferdinand of Bourbon (1725-1825) – the “rascal king” according to his critics, an innovative sovereign in the eyes of his nostalgic supporters – has received little attention from historians. A complex monarch and a major figure of his age, he is often considered a puppet controlled by his father, his wife, his ministers, or the era’s major powers. This book provides an overview of his life and focuses on his projects, passions, triumphs, and mistakes – an original portrait, both political and personal, set against the backdrop of a kingdom undergoing turbulent change.

Sebastiano Angelo Granata

teaches Contemporary History
at the University of Catania. His
research focuses on Southern Italy
from the 18th to the 21st century.

At the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, Gertrude Jekyll was the first woman to take a professional interest in the world of gardens. With more than 400 creations to her name, she became a reference point for an entire generation and successfully turned her personal interests into an independent and profitable profession, so much so that she became an icon of emancipation in an area dominated by men. Thanks to her, the figure of the female gardener spread throughout England and drew attention to well-educated women featuring strong artistic training, specialised botanical skills, and practical knowledge developed through ceaseless effort in the field.

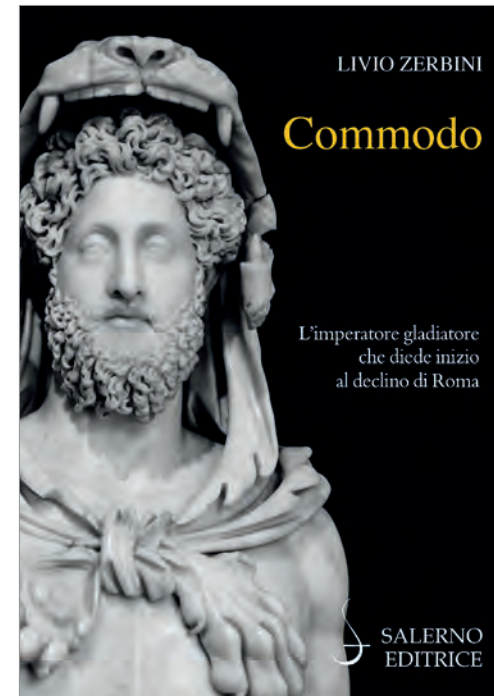
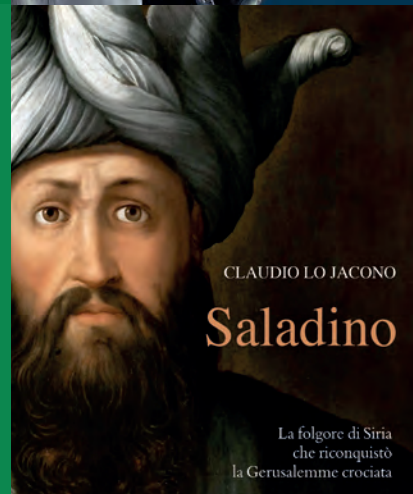
Mariella Zoppi

is an architect and a professor emeritus of
Landscape Architecture at the University of
Florence. She has developed urban plans,
parks, and gardens in Italy and abroad,
and taught at the University of California,
Berkeley and Zhejiang Normal University.



NEW RELEASE

RECENT BLACKLIST



Livio Zerbini

Commodus

The Gladiator Emperor
Who Ushered In the Fall
of Rome

Profili

pp. 224 • € 28,00

ISBN 9788869738319

As with Caligula and Nero, ancient history studies have expressed a distinctly negative judgement about Emperor Commodus, portraying him as a young man who was not only inexperienced but also inept and utterly oblivious to the great responsibilities attached to his role. He preferred luxury, the vices of an immoderate life, and an unbridled passion for gladiatorial games. Still too young when he became emperor in 177 CE, Commodus certainly did not possess the *auctoritas* of his father, Marcus Aurelius, nor the political leadership qualities of other emperors of the Antonine dynasty. Yet he was not as weak of character and indolent as ancient authors tend to portray him. In any case, the end of his rule marked the beginning of the decline of the Roman Empire, plunged into a crisis that would become increasingly irreversible in the decades to come.

Livio Zerbini

teaches Ancient Roman History at the University of Ferrara, where he heads the Laboratory for the Study of the Ancient Danubian Provinces (LAD). He also heads the Italian Archaeological Missions in Georgia and Romania.





Maria Nadia Covini

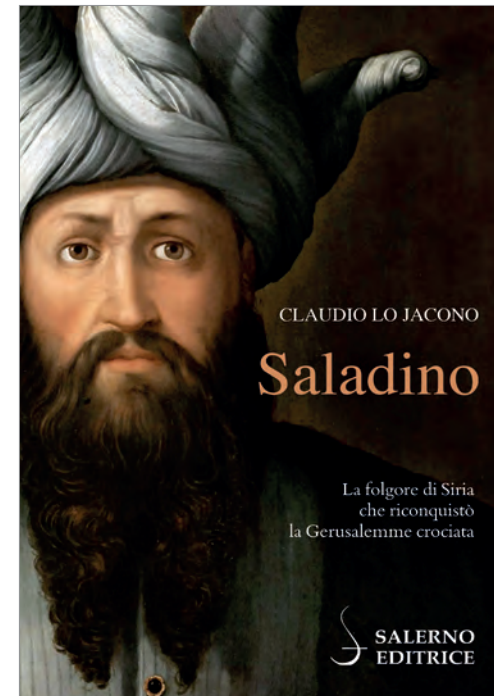
Ludovico Maria Sforza

"Il Moro"'s rise to power and Milan court's splendour at the end of the 15th century

Profili

pp. 296 • € 30,00

ISBN 9788869738302



Claudio Lo Jacono

Saladin

The Syrian Thunderbolt Who Reconquered Jerusalem from the Crusaders

Profili

pp. 272 • € 24,00

ISBN 9788869738364

Ludovico Maria Sforza (1452-1508), also known as "il Moro", was a leading figure in the politics and culture of his time. Sforza's rise to power, his personality and projects in the fields of culture and art lay at the heart of the Milan court's splendour at the end of the 15th century. Initially a marginal family member seemingly destined to play, at best, a minor political role, he became the seventh Duke of Milan thanks to a skilful, patient and sometimes ruthless strategy, overcoming pitfalls, obstacles, and a host of adversaries and enemies. Among those who tried to thwart his ambitions, the most successful was Louis of Orléans, who in 1495 opposed Sforza in Lombardy and, in 1500, having become King of France, defeated him and threw him into a prison near Tours, where Sforza remained until the end of his days.

Maria Nadia Covini

teaches Medieval History at the University of Milan.

The Kurdish Sultan Salah ad-Din Yusuf – better known in the West as "Saladin" – is the main protagonist of the war between Crusaders and Muslims. This book provides an account of this war up to the conclusion of the Third Crusade and Saladin's sudden death. The author explores the lengthy conflict during which Byzantines, European Christians and Seljuk Turks played important roles on the Middle Eastern scene. The after-effects of that war continue to shape world events.

Claudio Lo Jacono

teaches History of the Islamic Near East at the Orientale University in Naples and is the president of the Carlo Alfonso Nallino Istituto per l'Oriente.





Flavio Raviola

Pyrrhus

The Greek King from Epirus
Who Challenged the Power
of Rome

Profili

pp. 448 • € 30,00

ISBN 9788869738357



Tommaso
di Carpegna Falconieri

Cola di Rienzo

The people's Tribune who
tried to restore Rome to its
ancient splendour

Profili

pp. 312 • € 28,00

ISBN 9788869738340

Pyrrhus was a belligerent Greek monarch who, relying on exceptional military prowess, conceived risky yet feasible projects: creating a personal and dynastic dominion in Sicily, establishing a protectorate over Magna Graecia, conquering the Macedonian throne, exercising hegemony over Greece. This account of his accomplishments comprises dreams, desire for power, strategic vision, delusions of royalty, and the realm of possibility. When Pyrrhus finally failed in Sicily and Greece, he barely did so.

Flavio Raviola

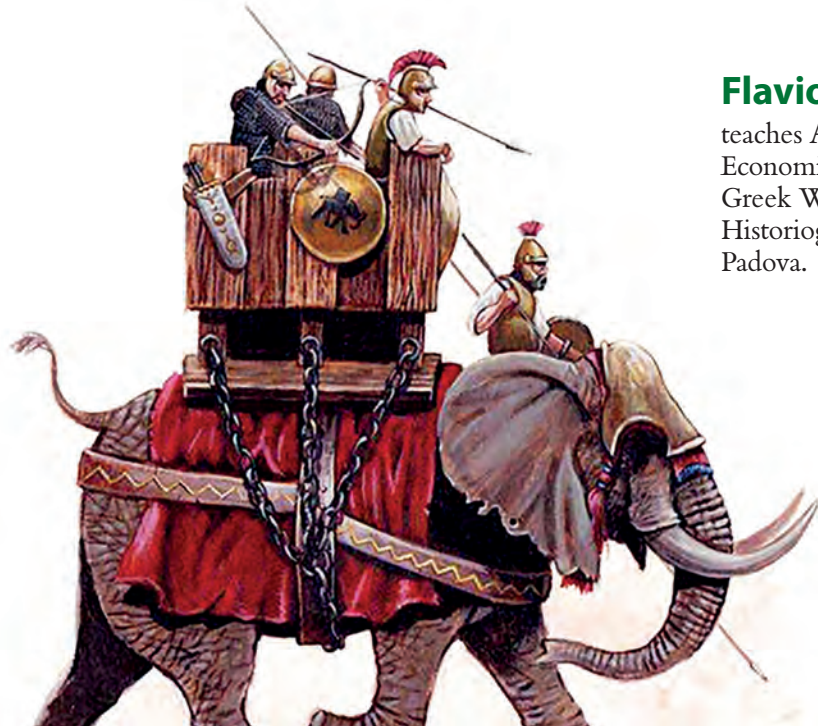
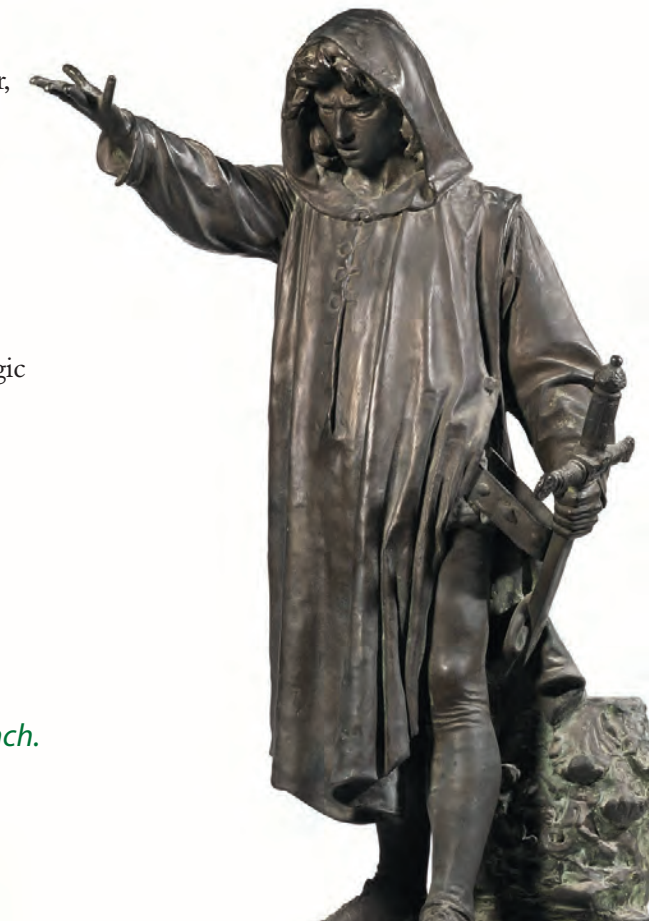
teaches Ancient Greek History,
Economics and Society of the
Greek World, and History of Greek
Historiography at the University of
Padova.

Cola di Rienzo (1313-1354) was the most famous Roman citizen of the Middle Ages. He was in contact with the pope, the emperor, and Francis Petrarch. He placed himself at the head of the Roman people, taking on the title of "Tribune Augustus", with the aim to restore the city to its ancient splendour. The author reconstructs the life of this ambitious, contradictory, mysterious and elusive man, from his first appearance in the complex political world of the time to the violent popular uprising during which he met his tragic end. The last chapter provides an overview of Cola di Rienzo's myth over the ensuing centuries.

Tommaso di Carpegna Falconieri

teaches Medieval History at the University
of Urbino and is the president of the Società
Romana di Storia Patria.

Rights of the previous edition sold to French.





Tommaso Braccini

Trebizond

The Enchanted Empire
between History and Legend

Piccoli Saggi

pp. 196 • € 20,00
ISBN 9788869738296



Guido Samarani

Mao Zedong

The Great Helmsman
who led China
from revolution
to socialism

Profili

pp. 298 • € 30,00
ISBN 9788869738272

‘Of all medieval titles, none is more magical than that of Emperor of Trebizond’. This is how Sir Steven Runciman, the great Byzantinist, summed up the thousand-year fascination of the last Greek empire, which was formed in 1204 and fell in 1461. In two and a half centuries it became an international crossroads, fabulously wealthy, the centre of trade, ambassadorships, intrigues, magic. The book traces the history and legend of a tiny empire in reality, but a superpower in the medieval and modern imagination.

Tommaso Braccini

teaches Classical Philology at the University of Siena.

Greek rights sold.



President, Great Helmsman, father of Chinese Communism and revolutionary and socialist China, ruthless and tyrannical leader: like every great protagonist in history, Mao Zedong has been the victim of different and antithetical judgments. The book reconstructs his political and personal path, exploiting the vast amount of documents available, in Chinese and the main western languages, and drawing on the most significant results of the historiographical debate in China and the West.

Guido Samarani

was a Professor of History and Institutions of Asia at the University Ca' Foscari in Venice and is currently a Senior Researcher there.





Marcello Verga

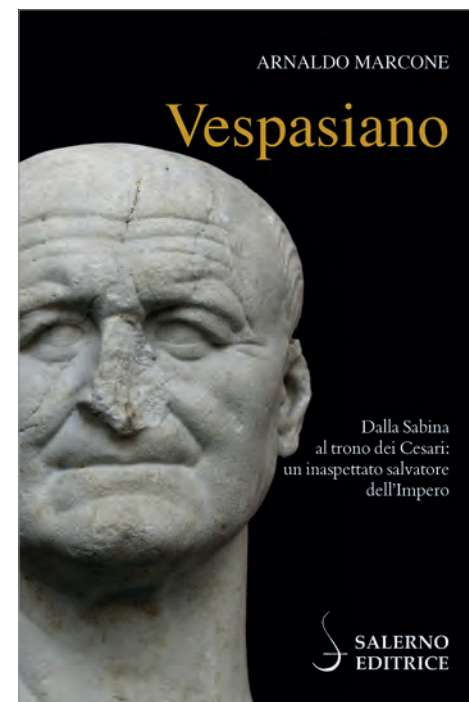
Maria Theresa of Austria

First woman to ascend the Habsburg throne, protagonist of major reforms: history and myth of a sovereign

Profili

pp. 256 • € 22,00

ISBN 9788869738265



Arnaldo Marcone

Vespasian

From Sabina to the throne of the Caesars: an unexpected saviour of the Empire

Profili

pp. 352 • € 34,00

ISBN 9788869738289

‘There are few sovereigns whose history must be written’ (Voltaire). Among them, certainly Maria Theresa. During her long reign, from 1740 to 1780, Austria, a Catholic land inhabited by Germans, Italians, Slavs and Magyars, gained a new position on the European chessboard. The empress was able to mobilise the family as a resource for the strategies of the House of Habsburg: the marriages of sons and daughters became instruments of diplomatic alliances. Her myth, from the late 19th century to the present day, tells us much about the political cultures of the countries of Central Europe.

Marcello Verga

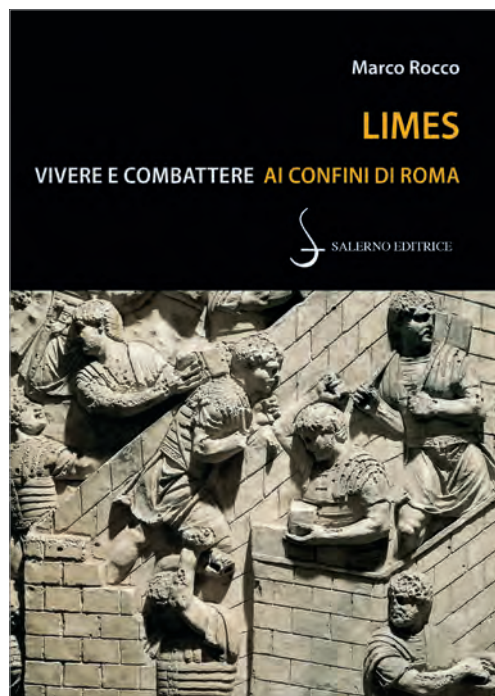
teaches Modern History at the University of Florence and has served as the extraordinary commissioner of the Italian Historical Institute for Modern and Contemporary Age.

Born in a village in the Upper Sabina to a family outside of Roman political life, Vespasian was an unexpected emperor. He managed to take advantage of the military skills that he demonstrated in the Judean War and with a careful strategy he secured consensus in the army and in politics. He countered the excesses of the Julio-Claudians with his modesty, the key to the success of his principality. Between the pages of this book we relive the stages of his rise and the determination with which he developed his dynastic project.

Arnaldo Marcone

teaches Roman History at Roma Tre University.





Marco Rocco

Limes

Living and Fighting
at Rome's Borders

Piccoli Saggi

pp. 256 • € 25,00

ISBN 9788869738333



We cultivate a specific image of the Roman *limes*: uninterrupted lines of palisades, walls, forts, and turrets, guarded night and day by thousands of soldiers. But was the dominion exercised by ancient Rome demarcated, always and everywhere, by well-defined borders? The author guides us through the history of Roman frontiers and their geopolitical framework, describes the soldiers who defended them over the centuries, explores the tools they used and the great works they erected, and focuses on the activities and tales that shaped cultures and hybrid identities on the extreme borders of Rome.

Marco Rocco

conducts teaching and research activities at the University of Padova.

CITIES: MYTHS

AND EARLY ORIGINS



"Cities: Myths and Early Origins"

Latest release in the series

Lorenzo Tanzini

Florence Before It Became Florence

Myths and Early Origins of the City on the Arno River

A major medieval metropolis, Florence was earlier an important Roman city. Its ancient monuments were key elements for an elaborate foundation legend involving the mythical figure of General Fiorino, who reportedly established the first settlement on the banks of the Arno. The memory of the early medieval city developed around tales and liturgies of the city's bishops and saints, intertwined with the figures of Roman antiquity and the ancient monuments to which they sought to give a fresh meaning. Later, in the age of Dante and Giovanni Villani, up to the advent of Humanism, Florentine writers applied their creativity to the city's foundation and re-foundation myths, combining modernised legends, inventive interpretations, and veritable fictions.

Lorenzo Tanzini teaches Medieval History at the University of Cagliari. His research focuses on politics, institutions, and culture in late medieval Italy. He has authored many books about the history of Florence.



pp. 196

Giorgio Ravegnani

Ravenna Before It Became Ravenna

Myths and Early Origins of a Roman and Byzantine Capital



pp. 168

The history of Ravenna straddles the dividing line between West and East. It became the capital of the Roman West in 402 CE when, under threat of Visigothic invasions, Emperor Honorius and his court moved there from Milan. Ravenna remained the capital in the final years of the Roman Empire and fostered remarkable artistic developments. It maintained a prominent role even during the barbarian dominations and was then conquered by the Byzantines in 539 CE, during the Gothic War. Under Byzantine rule, it was then the seat of the exarchs, the governors of imperial Italy, who ruled until 751 CE. This book draws attention to the city's twofold cultural spirit.

Giorgio Ravegnani formerly taught Medieval History at the Ca' Foscari University in Venice. He has written several publications about the Byzantine civilization.

Gianluca De Sanctis

Rome Before It Became Rome

Myths and Early Origins of the Eternal City

A sanctuary and refuge for outcasts, Rome was a diverse city, the growth of which owes much to its welcoming attitude towards foreigners and losers of wars, as well as its granting freedom to slaves. Viewed through memories and foundation myths, this was how the city appeared in its early days. Indeed, many "Romes" preceded the city founded by Romulus, yet there is one feature they all shared: an "open" constitution, reflecting the city's ability to embrace and integrate foreigners. Origin stories suggest that Roman identity was earned by displaying social virtues, respecting the law, and observing rules: a person could be born a Roman, but an individual could also *become* one.

Gianluca De Sanctis teaches Roman History at the University of Tuscia, based in Viterbo.



pp. 252

Emanuele Greco & Daniela Giampaola

Naples Before It Became Naples

Myths and Early Origins of the City of Parthenope



pp. 208

According to the myth, Naples arose where a siren let herself die. The city preserves in its name the mystery of a double foundation: Neapolis is, in fact, the "new" city that succeeded Parthenope, an older settlement of Cumae origin. This book focuses on the urban and architectural transformations that affected the city's original core, thus revising its history up to the Roman age and highlighting the Greek legacy that one can still experience in the city's layout.

Emanuele Greco teaches Classical Archaeology at the Orientale University in Naples.

Daniela Giampaola is the author of many publications about archaeology in Naples.

Giorgio Ravegnani

Venice Before It Became Venice

Myths and Early Origins of the Lagoon City

Reality and myth are conflated in medieval historians' accounts of Venice's origins. The only truly certain thing is that the city was born Byzantine and remained so for several centuries. Already in the 10th century, Venetians had fostered the legend that their city was founded in "a deserted, uninhabited and swampy place" at the time of Attila's invasion. In reality, it is not true that Venetians had settled in a desolate territory; the city was already inhabited in ancient Roman times. The archipelago then gradually became one of the most significant powers in the Mediterranean.

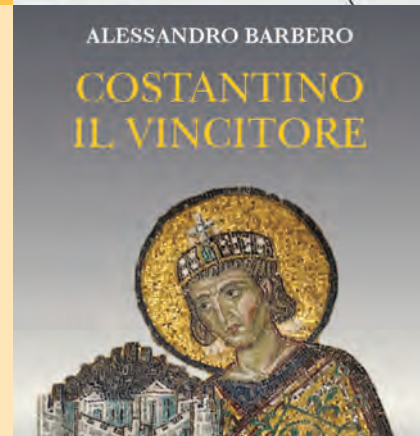
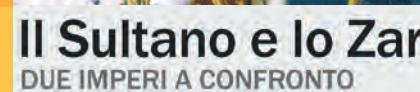
Giorgio Ravegnani formerly taught Medieval History at the Ca' Foscari University in Venice.



pp. 160

BEST-SELLERS

FROM THE BLACKLIST



pp. 188

Marina Montesano
Witch Hunt

In 1484, the papal bull *Summis desiderantes* was issued: witches were accused of being determined to attack Christianity and the so-called “witch hunt” begun. However, what really were witchcraft and the resulting witch hunt? Was it an offensive against the folkloric universe and popular superstitions, or a reaction of society to diversity? Through a careful analysis of the sources, a general picture of this “hunting” emerges: not only as a constitutive element of modernity, but also as a response to needs re-emerging in society in different eras; above all, in times when we like to think that reason and law have the upper hand – including the contemporary era.

Marina Montesano teaches Medieval History at the University of Messina and is the author of «Classical Culture and Witchcraft in Medieval and Renaissance Italy» (Palgrave, 2018).

‘Of the Good Use of Betrayal’ is the title of a famous book by Pierre Vidal-Naquet on the figure and overflowing work of the military commander, priest, historian Flavius Josephus (born in 37 A.D. and lived the reign of Trajan). Overflowing and it has come down to us intact. How did the extraordinary salvation, a unique case in all Greek-language historiography of the four centuries between Polybius and Cassius Dion, take place? Who took charge of the work and why?

Luciano Canfora is an Italian classical philologist, hellenist, historian and essayist. In 2020 he won the scientific historical section of the 53rd edition of the Acqui Storia Prize.

French rights sold

Luciano Canfora
Conversion

How Flavius Josephus
was Christianised



pp. 104

A contribution to the knowledge of one of the most exciting figures in history. The presentation, made compelling by reference to anecdotal details and authoritative literary sources, rather than celebrating the politician or the man of arms, tells the story of the man, “spectator and actor” of his own existence within the historical framework in which he lived.

Luigi Mascilli Migliorini is an Italian historian, an expert in the Napoleonic period.

Worldwide Spanish and French rights sold

Luigi Mascilli Migliorini

Napoleon

‘Death is nothing but to live defeated and without glory is to die every day’



pp. 646



pp. 280

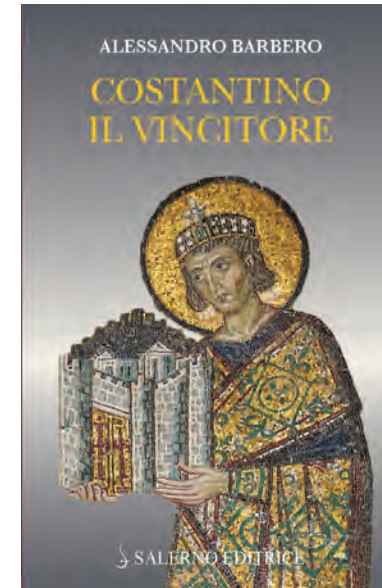
Franco Cardini

The Sultan and the Tsar

Two Empires in Comparison

At the beginning of the Early Modern Age, the Ottoman Empire overlooked the Mediterranean with the ambition to dominate over Asia and Europe. The ‘second Rome’, Istanbul, spread over two continents, embodies the universal dream of the Caesars that the sultans inherited by right of conquest. But from the cold plains crossed by the great rivers, between the Baltic and the Black Sea, the voice of a ‘third Rome’ arose: Moscow. And with it, of a new power capable of looming over East and West: the Empire of the Tsars.

Franco Cardini is an Italian historian specialised in the study of the Middle Ages.



pp. 852

Alessandro Barbero

Constantine the Winner

Constantine is the first Christian emperor. He is the sovereign who converted before the battle of Ponte Milvio, after having seen in heaven the cross with the inscription *In hoc signo vinces*, and who put an end to persecutions granting freedom of worship to Christians. But what do we really know about him? In the past historiography distrusted Constantine, but since the last post-war period there has been a climate of admiration and deference towards the protagonist of what many consider the greatest historical turning point ever.

Alessandro Barbero is an Italian historian, novelist, and essayist. In 2005, the Republic of France awarded Barbero with the title of Chevalier de l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres.

Founded in 1972, Salerno editrice is essentially aimed at an audience of students, scholars and readers of non-fiction, especially historical non-fiction.

Starting from July 2023, the publishing company was acquired by Carocci editore, with the aim of enhancing its production and strengthening its position in the high-profile non-fiction market.

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