

**Superstizione, magia, demonologia, stregoneria
Mediatori culturali e circolazione delle credenze
tra tardo medioevo e prima età moderna**
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ABSTRACTS E KEYWORDS

Luca Patrizi

Hydromancy's Practices Involving a Young Boy and a Bowl in the «Kitāb al-Šāmil» by Sakkākī (d. 1229)

A reminiscence of Ancient Myths on the Cup and the Cupbearer?

(pag. 13-30)

ABSTRACT

In the grimoire attributed to the famous linguist Sirāj al-Dīn Sakkākī (d. 1160), the Kitāb al-shāmil wa baḥr al-kāmil, a very interesting section revolves around a magical procedure involving a bowl and a young boy. According to the instructions transmitted by its author, the young boy must be pre-pubescent, and after drinking from the liquid inside the bowl, he will be able to obtain foretelling abilities through the medium of the jinn. This practice was already acknowledged in the Ancient and Late-Antique World as crystal gazing or crystallomancy, and among different modalities, involved also hydromancy, or the use of a vessel filled with liquid that served as a screen in which to scry. This technique was derived, as the ancient writers relate, from the Ancient Near East. Indeed, this procedure displays obvious reminiscences with a commonplace of the literature and the practice of the Ancient, Late-Antique and Middle Age World: the function of the young cupbearer. This function, essential in the context of the courts, and widely addressed in religious literature as an esoteric metaphor, shows a definite connection with the ancient mythology of the Divine Cupbearer.

KEYWORDS

Sakkākī; Islamic magic; Hydromancy; Cupbearer

PAROLE CHIAVE

Sakkākī; Magia islamica; Idromanzia; Coppiere

Emma Abate

Unravelling «Golem» and «Malbush»

Reflections on Jewish Rituals of Creation

(pag. 31-56)

ABSTRACT

This study explores Jewish medieval esoteric practices of initiation and empowerment of the «magician», which have so far been considered unrelated. The article's purpose is to uncover their shared formal elements and cultural background, as well as eventual links between them. After a short introduction on the emergence and setting of a multilayered magical tradition in Judaism between Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages, it delves into the characteristics and comparison of rites, which developed in parallel. On the one hand, it focuses on the malbush ritual, which involves the fabrication of a dress for the «clothing» of the practitioner with the divine name in order to compel and submit the cosmic powers ruling over time, elements and creatures. The instruction is transmitted in different, pre-cabbalistic medieval sources: Torat ha-malbush, Sefer ha-yashar, Sefer ha-malbush (etc.). On the other hand, some evidence of the first golem ritual and an instruction entitled Seder pe'ulat ha-yeşirah («Order of the act of formation»), which are based on the use of Sefer Yeşirah and the Tetragrammaton for giving life to creatures, are analyzed. I shed light on some aspects of the cultural universe behind these practices, both of which rely on the power of the name of God and on a bodily image of the divine Cosmos.

KEYWORDS

Jewish Magic; Golem; Malbush; Names of God

PAROLE CHIAVE

Magia ebraica; Golem; Malbush; Nomi divini

Saverio Campanini

The «Shem ha-Meforash» in Agostino Giustiniani's «Precatio Pietatis Plena» (1513)

(pag. 57-96)

ABSTRACT

The article analyzes the text of a Latin prayer published in Agostino Giustiniani's Precatio pietatis plena ad deum omnipotentem composita ex duobus et septuaginta nominibus, which appeared in print in Venice in 1513. It is an apparently innocent list of verses taken from the Psalms, but each of these verses contain a triplet of letters forming the Shem Ha-Meforash, a powerful divine Name, constructed from the three verses of Ex 14,19-21 each comprising 72 letters. By this name, it was said, the miracle of the Red Sea was performed. The history of this prayer, going back to manuscript and printed editions of Jewish prayer-books, is traced together with a sketch of its later diffusion, in several variants, among the Christians. An evaluation of how a Jewish prayer which could be suspected of magic superstition, could be praised as most pious and propagated among Christian readers by a Dominican friar is offered.

KEYWORDS

Agostino Giustiniani; Christian Kabbalah; Shem ha-Meforash; Jewish Prayer.

PAROLE CHIAVE

Agostino Giustiniani, Kabbalah cristiana; Shem ha-Meforash; preghiera ebraica

Vincenzo Tedesco

«Non già l’uomo per le stelle, ma le stelle son fatte per l’uomo»

La repressione dell’astrologia giudiziaria a Siena negli anni dell’emanazione della bolla «Coeli et terrae» (1586)

(pag. 97-122)

ABSTRACT

The paper aims to study how the repression of astrology occurred in southern Tuscany following the condemnation expressed in the bull Coeli et terrae, issued by the pope Sixtus V on January 5, 1586. The Sistine bull imposed the requisition of all books of astrology and related disciplines, both in print and in manuscripts, as well as the revocation of all concessions in force until then. The documents preserved in the archive of the Sienese court of the Holy Office clearly show how the new directives led not only to the confiscation of entire libraries, but also to a general increase of the fight against divination practices, which were then still particularly widespread in different social and cultural spheres but sometimes communicating. An overall look at the trials, however, also shows that the repressive action was more incisive in the eighties of the sixteenth century and then weakened considerably in the following period until the complete cessation of the accusations.

KEYWORDS

Astrology; divination; Inquisition; Siena

PAROLE CHIAVE

Astrologia; divinazione; Inquisizione; Siena

Michaela Valente

«Nelle mani del demonio per molto tempo...»

Superstizione e inquisizione nella seconda metà del XVI secolo

(pag. 123-140)

ABSTRACT

This essay highlights how the Roman inquisition and the Roman Church deal with superstition and witchcraft in early modern Italy. Through some inquisitorial sources held in Crema (and neglected) and some ecclesiastical documents, we can find out different strategies to rule and to punish convicted magicians and witches. Some differences rely on gender issues. Those outcomes allow us to evaluate some historiographical ipothesis in a comparative light.

KEYWORDS

Superstition; inquisition; counter-reformation

PAROLE CHIAVE

Superstizione; inquisizione; controriforma

Agustin Mendez

The Problem of Demonic Corporeality in Early Modern England

Thomas Aquinas, Demonology, and Witchcraft Folkloric Ideas (c. 1587-1648)

(pag. 141-172)

ABSTRACT

Thomas Aquinas' ideas have frequently been considered as one of the intellectual cornerstones of early modern European witch-hunts. His revolutionary approach to the study of angels created the conceptual basis that allowed theologians and other members of the cultural elite to explain the physical and visible manifestations of demons in the material world, especially their interactions with human beings. Nevertheless, the penetration of Aquinas' notions among Protestant demonologists have sometimes been doubted or considered imperfect. English authors of witchcraft tracts, for example, have been pointed out as continuators of Augustine of Hippo's gnoseological pessimism or John Calvin's minimalist position on the matter. This article aims to demonstrate that despite being Calvinists, English demonologists adopted Thomistic ideas about the nature and features of demonic bodies, one of the essential problems of Christian demonological theory. The central hypothesis is that English authors resorted to demonological concepts developed by Aquinas in the thirteenth century and synthesized by late medieval and early modern European demonologists to rectify popular ideas about demons delineated in witchcraft pamphlets published during Elizabethan and early Stuart periods.

KEYWORDS

England; Protestantism; Thomism; Demonic corporeality

PAROLE CHIAVE

Inghilterra; protestantesimo; tomismo; corporeità del demonio

Sara Giorgetti

Il fenomeno delle subintroductae

Analisi e osservazioni a partire da un testo del III secolo: le Epistulae «Ad Virgines»

(pag. 173-204)

ABSTRACT

This paper aims to analyze the phenomenon of the virgines subintroductae, using different sources from ancient Christian literature. Virgines subintroductae were young girls who cohabited with male ascetics or members of the clergy as “spiritual wives”. This practice was widespread, despite being criticized by many Christian authors and repeatedly condemned in councils. The paper focuses on the Pseudo-Clementine epistles Ad Virgines, in which the problem of cohabitation is particularly developed. Even though the work has been transmitted as two letters on virginity attributed to Clement of Rome, it is actually a single long sermon written around the third century by an unknown author, who is concerned about the spread of the practice of cohabitation in his community. The theme of subintroductae is particularly important to understand the historical and cultural context in which Ad Virgines were written. In addition to this anonymous work, passages from Tertullian, Hermas, Jerome and other ancient authors are considered, as well as the canons of the synods of Ancyra, Nicaea and Mar Isaac on the theme of subintroductae.

KEYWORDS

Virgines subintroductae; Ad Virgines; Pseudo-Clementine literature; cohabitation

PAROLE CHIAVE

Virgines subintroductae; Ad Virgines; letteratura Pseudo-Clementina; coabitazione

José Aurelio Sandí Morales

La romanización de los sacerdotes y los fieles de Costa Rica entre 1880-1939

(pag. 205-242)

ABSTRACT

This article explains how the process of romanization of the ordained ministers was carried out, as well as the parishioners who inhabited Costa Rica in the period 1880-1939. For this reason, a comparative analysis was carried out between the guidelines issued from Rome and those put into practice by the Costa Rican episcopate, in their desire for both groups to be similar and faithful adherents to the beliefs, orders given by the Bishop of Rome. During this period, it was noted that the bishops of Costa Rica were, for the most part, obedient to the Vatican's orders except for a small fraction from not only the clergy but also the faithful who showed resistance and disobedience. At the same time, it will be analyzed the perception of these guidelines as well as the response from both the priests and the faithful in matters like the devotion to the Holy Father or the new religious festivals proposed from Rome.

KEYWORDS

Romanization; Catholicism; Parishioners; Priests; Holy See; Pope

PAROLE CHIAVE

Romanizzazione; cattolicesimo; parrocchiani; preti; Santa Sede; Papa

Paolo Zanini

***La Santa Sede di fronte al proselitismo protestante in America latina
nei primi anni Venti***

L'inchiesta del 1923-1924

(pag. 243-270)

ABSTRACT

This article aims to analyze the Vatican effort to contrast protestant proselytism in South America during the Early 1920s. During the inter-war period the Catholic Church conducted an intensive campaign to contain Protestant proselytism in many Catholic countries and in particular in the areas where Anglo-Saxon influence was growing. The Catholic Church responded to the advance of Protestantism everywhere. Its campaign was particularly intense in the Latin American world which was a traditional stronghold of Catholicism. Documents kept in the Vatican Secret Archive show that the Holy See conducted a specific and uniform policy in that region to combat Protestant proselytism, involving in this effort the American Catholics. The Holy See tried to oppose Protestant proselytism with a coordinated campaign, able to guide actions taken by local Catholic hierarchies, which often seemed unable to face the Protestant infiltration on their own. On this point the correspondence between Cardinal Gasparri and the various Vatican Nuncios is illuminating: many Nuncios emphasized the necessity of gaining the support of American Catholics and American Religious Orders to prevent the march of Protestantism, which was being promoted by American Protestant Churches.

KEYWORDS

Latin America; Holy See; Anti-Protestant Campaigns; Protestant Proselytism

PAROLE CHIAVE

America Latina; Santa Sede; campagne anti-protestanti; proselitismo protestante