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ABSTRACT

This thesis challenges existing studies on Giovanni Mansueti (active 1485-1526/27) that have generally tended to undervalue his contribution to Venetian narrative painting. Rather, drawing on extensive primary research my work demonstrates how Mansueti was one of the major interpreters of the “eyewitness style”, in fact a master able to picture the unique requirements and expectations of his various patrons.

Chapter 1 analyses Mansueti’s little-known cycle in the church of San Martino, Burano (*The Betrothal of the Virgin*, *The Adoration of the Shepherds* and *The Flight into Egypt*, c. 1510), with reference to practices of private devotion in Renaissance Venice. I investigate the paintings by drawing on textual sources that were commonly used in private devotional practices, showing how the paintings projected an ideology built on specifically Venetian interpretations of the *Apocrypha*.

Chapter 2 is a contextual analysis of the *Scuola Grande di San Marco*. Using original archival findings, it firstly reassesses the *Scuola*’s art patronage system and bureaucratic procedure; then it investigates the identity of the individual *Scuola*’s members responsible for commissioning the St Mark Cycle originally decorating the walls of the *Sala dell’Albergo*.

Chapter 3 provides an analysis of Giovanni Mansueti’s three paintings for the *Scuola* (*The Baptism of Anianus* and *The Healing of Anianus*, 1518; *Three Episodes from the Life of St. Mark*, 1525) in respect to the *Sala dell’Albergo* narrative cycle. The study focuses on the paintings as visual projections of the *Scuola*’s ideological understanding of the Muslim ‘others’. It investigates the contextual motives that prompted the *Scuola*’s merchant brothers to represent their commercial associate as the very tormentors of St Mark.

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ABBREVIATIONS

D.A.: *Degano Tutto l'Anno*

D.M.: *Degano Mezzo Anno*

G.G.: *Guardian Grande*

G.M.: *Guardian da Matin*

MEM.: Membership

P.FAB.: *Provedadore a la Fabrica*

SCR.: *Scrivano*

SGSM: *Scuola Grande di San Marco*

VIC.: *Vicario*

ZON.: Member of the *Zonta*

30: Member of the *Group of Trenta Huomeni in su*

(date): Withdrawal from office