

## 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.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I owe a special debt of gratitude to my supervisor, Gaby Neher, for her steadfast support, patience and encouragement.

My sincere thanks to the larger community of scholars who encouraged me with their advice and comments: Daniel Maze, Fabio Agostini, Vicky Avery, Mattia Biffis, Louise Bourdua, Matteo Casini, Ting Chang, Augusto Gentili, David Laven, Tom Nichols, Maria Pia Pedani Fabris, Lorenzo Pericolo, Enrico Maria Dal Pozzolo, Valentina Sapienza and Giorgio Tagliaferro.

This research would not have been possible without the 3-year European Union Research Scholarship. My thanks also extend to the residential summer workshop in Venice sponsored by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the University of Warwick-Newberry Library. In Venice, the librarians and archivists were unfailingly helpful, and I would like to thank the staffs of the Archivio di Stato di Venezia, the Archivio Storico del Patriarcato di Venezia, the Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, the Museo Civico Correr and the Fondazione Giorgio Cini.

My greatest thanks are to my parents, for their never-failing encouragement, and to Ivana and Luigi, for their wholehearted help and support. I am also grateful to Elisa, for forbearance beyond belief.

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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