

## THE BAROQUE ROUTES: A BRIEF RECORD OF ACTIVITIES

An international conference on '*Le Vie del Barocco in Europa tra Musica, Letteratura e Architettura*' has been held at Como, Villa Olmo, **13-14 December 1996** under the auspices of the Council of Europe, the Italian Government and the Commune of Como. The proceedings of the conference were introduced by Maestro Italo Gomes, artistic director of the Festival *Autunno Musicale at Como* and at the conclusion of the conference participants were treated with Johann Sebastian Bach's *Messa in si minore* held in the Duomo of Como. Papers at this conference were presented by Paolo Emilio Carapezza, Dinko Fabris, Stanislav Tuksar, Alberto Colzani, Stefano della Tone, Roberto Sanesi, Andrea Luppi, Gilberto Finzi, Ursula and Warren Kirkendale, Maurizio Padoan, Lucia Trigilia and Nelda Bagdonaviciute. There was also a *tavola rotonda* presided over by Giovanni Mangion from the Council of Europe. This meeting dealt with current and future activities of the Baroque Route network.

A seminar in honour of Gabriel de Gabrieli, one of the best known architects of the Magistri Grigioni, announced in the last newsletter March 1997, was organised within the framework of the '*Baroque Routes Network*' in Eichsätt/Bavaria from **17-21 September 1997**. At the beginning of the seminar the book '*Graubündner Baumeister und Stukkateure. Beiträge zur Erforschung ihrer Tätigkeit im mitteleuropäischen Raum*', edited by

Michael Kühenthal, was presented. The seminar was accompanied by an exhibition on the work of the Magistri Grigioni in Europe. The proceedings were concluded with an interesting guided visit to the Baroque monuments of Eichstatt and an organ concerto in the Guardian Angels Church.

*The Centro Internazionale di Studi sul Barocco in Sicilia* has organised the fourth International course in Architectural History in Siracusa **4-8 December 1997** within the framework of the *Itinéraires Culturels du Conseil de l'Europe 'Routes du Baroque'* and the UNESCO project entitled '*Les Espaces du Baroque*'. The theme of the Siracusa course was '*La Cultura del Progetto e la Cultura del Cantiere nella città Italiana tra XVII e XVIII secolo*' and the proceedings focused on the role of architects, master masons stone carvers and decorators in south-east Sicily during the Baroque period. Professors lecturing in the course included S. Boscarino, C.G. Canale, D. De Lucca, M. Giuffrè, P. Nifosi, M.R. Nobile, S. Tobriner and L. Trigilia.

*The Centro Internazionale di Studi sul Barocco in Sicilia* mounted the 1693 Iliade Funesta travelling exhibition in the beautiful Baroque town of Noto, **13-31 December 1998**. The Noto exhibition which had been previously presented in Siracusa (1993-94), Paris (1995), Mdina (1996), Ragusa (1996), Strasbourg (1997) and Avola (1997), was set up under the distinguished patronage of the Noto Commune.

In 1998/1999 a project within the frame-work of the Raffael program of the European Commission was run by the Michael Kuhlenthal with the title '*Techniques of Façade Decoration*'. Participating countries were Bavaria, Austria, Slovenia and the Czech Republic. The final documentation of the project was published in November 1999. The documentation in the German language is available through the Bavarian State Conservation Office. The introduction to the publication is reproduced in the special features section of this newsletter.

Dr. Michael Kuhlenthal has recently participated in the project '*Museum with no frontiers*'. It is a series of illustrated guides with elaborated routes that can be followed by the visitor from monument to monument, enriched with articles on various topics. The idea of this international project is to bring the visitor to the objects instead of the objects into the museum and thus to the visitor. In 1999 the Baroque and Rococo routes in Southern Bavaria were published. Bavaria and Austria are mainly co-operating in the creation of more International Baroque Routes.

During the period **11-13 March 1999** an International Congress on '*East Asian and European Lacquer Techniques*' was held in Munich as the closing event of a six years' German-Japanese joint venture. The subject of the project was research on European lacquers in the Baroque and Rococo as well as the interactions between East Asia and Europe in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Within the framework of this project two publications have until now been edited: Baroque and Rococo Lacquers, and Japanese and European Lacquer Ware.

A follow up of the above-mentioned project has been initiated by the Bayeisches Landesamt für Denkmalpflege of Munich in July 1999. The theme concerns '*Historical Polychromy*' and the German side will promote research work on the original historical polychromy of Baroque and Rococo sculptures. Readers will be interested to learn that a similar project dealing with the use of colour in Baroque buildings will be in the near future initiated by the International Institute for Baroque Studies at the University of Malta in conjunction with Prof. Arch. Paolo Brescia of Cromoambiente, Monopoli (Ba), Italy.

The *Centro Internazionale di Studi sul Barocco in Sicilia* has organised the fifth International course in Architectural History in Siracusa **9-13 December 1999**. This course focused on the theme '*Le Capitali Europee del Barocco*' and discussions on the eminently European dimension of Baroque architecture were based on four basic subjects entitled *Il Barocco a Roma e nelle città Italiane*, *Il Barocco nelle grandi e piccole capitali*, *Il Barocco in Italia e in Europa* and *il Barocco nel Val di Noto*. Among the participants presenting papers at the conference were several experts on Baroque art and architecture from the universities of Naples, Turin, L'Aquila, Bologna, Palermo, Madrid, Malta, Venice and Catania. During the proceedings of the Syracuse course contacts were established which should prove to be beneficial to the future working of the International Institute for Baroque Studies of the University of Malta, in collaboration with Italian institutions of higher education having an interest in promoting Baroque studies at teaching and research levels. A newly published book on Maltese Baroque architecture authored by Denis De

Lucca, Director of the Malta Institute, was also presented to Prof. Lucia Trigilia, Director of the Baroque Institute in Syracuse, this representing the fruit of research work carried out in Malta during the past years focusing on the hitherto unexplored close links that existed between the Baroque school of design known as Accademia di San Luca in Rome and early eighteenth century architectural project work in Malta commissioned by the Order of St. John and other important personalities during the period 1700-1750. The Syracuse course was concluded with visits to important centres of Baroque architecture in Sicily including Acireale, Modica, Ragusa, Catania, Scicli and Noto, where conference participants were given the opportunity to experience the spatial and design implications of Baroque buildings and urban spaces, following the intensive reconstruction activity that happened in Sicily after 1693 earthquake which had devastated several towns in the region.

The President of Malta, Professor Guido de Marco on **25 March 2000** presided over the launch of the book *Carapeccchia: Master of Baroque Architecture in Early eighteenth century Malta* by Denis De Lucca, Director of the Malta International Institute for Baroque Studies, at the Palace in Valletta.

President de Marco said that the book deserved to be launched in the President's Palace because he believed that the Presidency should be closely associated with culture and the heritage of Malta. Other speakers at the launch were Professors Peter Serracino Inglott

and Victor Mallia Milanes of the University of Malta and the author who explained his work within the framework of the 2000-2003 business plan of the Malta Institute. More details about the new book on Carapeccchia are available in this newsletter. **On 8 May 2000**, the book was presented to Professor Francesco Adorno, President of the Accademia delle Arti del Disegno in Florence at a seminar held at the academy.

The Innsbruck festival of early music will later on this year be presenting a series of special concerts commemorating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of the Baroque composer Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750). These performances will take place on 27,28, and 29<sup>th</sup> June in the Spanischersaal and the Reissensaal of Ambras Castle. The same venues will on 22 August host 'The Birth of Opera' performing early Baroque works by Jacopo Peri (1561-1633) and Giulio Caccini 1545-1618. Other events in the Innsbruck Festival will include a 23 August organ recital at the pfarrkirche of works by Cernohorsky (1684-1742), Seger (1716-1782), Bixi (1732-1771), Kozeluh (1747-1818), Fuhrer (1807-1861) and Kuchar (1751-1829) and a 24-27 August presentation at the Tiroler Landestheater of *La Divisione del Mondo* by Giovanni Legrenzi (1626-1690) based on a Greek mythological theme. Further information about these Innsbruck festival performances can be obtained from Innsbruck – Information, Burggraben 3, A-6020 Innsbruck (tel. 0043-0512-561561; Fax0043-0512-535643 e-mail: [1bk.ticket@netway.at](mailto:1bk.ticket@netway.at)).