

Venice as the Polity of Mercy

*Guilds, Confraternities, and the Social
Order, c. 1250–c. 1650*

RICHARD MACKENNEY

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO PRESS
Toronto Buffalo London

Contents

List of Figures ix

List of Tables and Appendices xiii

Acknowledgments xv

Introduction: Economy, Polity, and Religion, c. 1250–c. 1650 3

The Venetian Popolo: Anonymous or Autonomous? 3

The Spectrum of Representation 8

The Sources and Their Scope 17

The Stones of Venice 23

1 Venice as Mercantile System, c. 1250–c. 1300 28

Polity, 1297 28

Polity, 1268 31

Economy, 1271 33

Religion, 1247 36

2 Proliferation and Punctuation, c. 1300–c. 1500 75

The Confraternities of Venice 75

Before the Black Death, 1300–48 81

The Impact of the Plague 86

From the Black Death to the Bianchi, 1348–99 86

The Bianchi, 1399 89

The Franciscan Revival and Social Change, c. 1400–c. 1450 93

Plague and Patronage, c. 1450–c. 1500 98

The Vision of the Polity 101

3	Who Were the Venetians, c. 1500–c. 1600?	113
	<i>Metropolis and Cosmopolis</i>	113
	<i>Rooms at the Inns, 1530–1</i>	119
	<i>L'arte dei fabbri</i>	126
	<i>Strands of Identity</i>	133
	“ <i>Quel ramo del lago di Como</i> ”	139
	<i>The Tale of “Il Medeghino”</i>	147
4	Officers and Office in the Mercers’ Guild, c. 1450–c. 1600	151
	<i>A Little Republic?</i>	151
	<i>Arte dei marzerei and Scuola di San Teodoro</i>	153
	<i>Officers and Members</i>	154
	<i>Oligarchs or Plutocrats? A Test Case</i>	162
	<i>Official Business</i>	178
5	Monuments to Mercy, c. 1500–c. 1600	189
	<i>Arti and Scuole in the Sixteenth Century</i>	189
	<i>The Scuole del Venerabile</i>	196
	<i>The Sovveggni</i>	206
	<i>The Scuole and the Stones of Venice</i>	213
	<i>The Wider Network</i>	242
6	The Venetians and the Confessional State, c. 1550–c. 1600	245
	<i>The Autonomy of the Venetian Laity</i>	245
	<i>The Agencies of the Confessional State</i>	247
	<i>The Inquisition and the Venetian Laity</i>	252
	<i>The Visitation of 1581</i>	271
	<i>Venice and the Defence of Political Absolutism</i>	278
	<i>Tintoretto and the Last Fight</i>	280
	Conclusion: A Final Realignment of Economy, Polity, and Religion? c. 1600–c. 1700	307
	<i>Morbidity in an Age of Decline: The Suffragi</i>	307
	<i>Family Ties</i>	318
	<i>An Envoi: Decadence or Shift?</i>	326
	<i>Maps</i>	341
	<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	351
	<i>Notes</i>	353
	<i>Bibliography</i>	407
	<i>Index</i>	459