

## **Abstract**

During the Late Middle Ages, Bologna was incorporated into the dominion of the Church and became the second city of its State up to the Napoleonic events. In this context during the last centuries of the Middle Ages, relations with Rome and Avignon were developed through the figure of the papal legate that carried out the function of control and management of local powers with alternating phases of coexistence, competition and contrast. In 1371, the last year of his mandate as vicar and apostolic legate of Romagna, Marca, Umbria and Tuscany, Cardinal Anglic Grimoard of Grisac had the *Præcepta* drawn up for his successor, a document which, together with *Descriptio civitatis Bononiensis eiusque comitatus* and the *Descriptio provinciæ Romandiolæ*, is one of the most interesting, important and detailed sources for the history of Bologna, Romagna and Marca in the second half of the fourteenth century. The "*Præcepta*" provide information on the political conditions of the totality of the regional contexts of the territories subject to the authority of the Church in central-northern Italy, suggesting instructions and advice on their good governance and on the relationships to be maintained locally. They consider the most current and primary issues of the city organization and of the countryside described through the personal opinions of the Cardinal regarding the character, the merits and defects of the Bolognese and, of course, the attitudes that he considered most appropriate to adopt towards them, in order to make the task of his successor more active and proactive, the future Cardinal Pierre d'Estaing succeeded him on January 17, 1372.