

Abstract

Anselmo Adorno was one of the most prominent and influential men of Western Europe in the late Middle Ages in the area between Flanders, the Duchy of Burgundy and Scotland. Negotiator, wise, magistrate, Anselmo left us the journey report *Itinerarium Terrae Sanctae Anselmi Adorni*, written by his son Giovanni, a source of extraordinary wealth for the details and descriptions of places, customs and customs of the peoples of the eastern Mediterranean. Of particular interest is also the description of the cities, the urban and rural landscape, the routes that Adorno traveled in his journey between 1470 and 1471. The conference will therefore take the moves from this precious testimony to describe the Mediterranean places visited by the pilgrim of Bruges and cultural meetings that have allowed us to define the knowledge of the world. Following the Italian translation of the diary of Anselmo Adorno and his commentary (B. Borghi, in press), the conference will try to explain how the protagonist of the pilgrimage approached and compared to the North African and Middle Eastern society that in the XV century was populated Berbers, Arabs, Jews, blacks, Turks, Mamluks, while the Europeans were slowly delimiting their boundaries. From the analysis of his story the journey takes on contours, contents and meanings much more complex than its apparent devotional purpose; it appears a real political mission at the limits of espionage (crusade project) that has allowed to decipher the diplomatic, scientific, religious, literary, cultural and artistic perspectives that presumably he brought with him to Europe. The construction of the image of the "other" is the leitmotif of the narrative of the diary where the Mediterranean continued to confirm its great interest, and to put itself, as a "messenger" space of its most precious identity values: man as the center of culture and society.