

**Compagnia di Santa Elisabetta o dell'Umiltà
(Turin, 16th-20th centuries)**

CALL FOR ESSAYS

Fondazione 1563 invites scholars from different areas of knowledge to submit research proposals for the publication of a volume on the history of *Compagnia di Santa Elisabetta o dell'Umiltà* (Turin, 16th – 20th c.).

Deadline for proposal submission: 15 October 2014.

Fondazione 1563 per l'Arte e la Cultura, an Operating Body of Compagnia di San Paolo, pursues among its statutory objectives the promotion of research and advanced education in humanities. The Foundation is charged with the conservation, management and cultural promotion of the Compagnia di San Paolo's Historical Archives.

In this framework the Foundation promotes a historical research project on "Compagnia di Santa Elisabetta ovvero dell'Umiltà" (Sisterhood of Saint Elisabeth or of Humility), a sisterhood that was founded in Turin in the second half of the 16th century to assist the sick and destitute. The organization's existence is attested until the 1920s. The close connection with Compagnia di San Paolo is apparent from the research published in the first volume of the historiographical work *La Compagnia di San Paolo 1563-2013*, curated by W. Barberis with A. Cantaluppi (Einaudi, Turin, 2013). Interestingly, many members of Compagnia di Santa Elisabetta were the spouses of members of the Compagnia di San Paolo brotherhood and benefactors thereof. In general terms, Compagnia dell'Umiltà brought together women from the middle classes and the aristocracy and even the Royal Family, as witnessed by the affiliations of the Infantas of Savoy Margherita, Maria Apollonia and Francesca Caterina and the Duchess Christine of France in the 17th century, and Queen Maria Clotilde at the end of the next century. Under the aegis of Saint Elizabeth, Queen of Hungary – a cult that was popular among Queens – the Sisters (Umiliate) would meet for prayer in the Jesuit Church of the Martyr Saints (Chiesa dei Santi Martiri), where an altar was dedicated to the Virgin Mary in front of the Chapel of Saint Paul. The Sisters provided assistance to the sick and destitute in Turin's Hospital (Ospedale Maggiore) of San Giovanni or at home.

Most archival documents by or concerning the Compagnia dell'Umiltà Sisterhood are accessible at several Turin Archives, namely Archivio Arcivescovile, Archivio di Stato or State Archives, and the Compagnia di San Paolo Historical Archives, where a database of its members will soon be available.

For the purpose of publishing a volume on the history of this long-standing collaboration, that will become part of the "Quaderni dell'Archivio Storico" series, Fondazione 1563 invites scholars from different areas of knowledge to submit research proposals on this theme, particularly:

- **institutional, organizational and economic structure** of the Compagnia dell'Umiltà Sisterhood from its 16th century origins to the 20th century;
- **history of their activity**: activity of the Sisterhood in assisting the sick and destitute in the hospital and at home;
- **social history**: social origins and relations of the Sisters and benefactors, possibly extending to the role of women in different social contexts;
- **religious history** of the Sisterhood and relations with the Jesuits, in the context of devotional traditions in Piedmont under Savoy rule and internationally, with reference to the cult of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary;
- **art history**: the historical and artistic context and the iconography of Saint Elizabeth, with special emphasis on the Chapel of the Umiliate in the Church of Martyr Saints in Turin;
- **history of literature**: literary production related to the dynastic cult of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary and the theme of female "humility" from the Panegyrics of Emanuele Tesauro, in Piedmont, Italy and Europe;
- **comparative social history**: comparative analysis of the Sisterhood and similar non-religious women associations in Italy and Europe.

The publication will be curated by Anna Cantaluppi and Alice Raviola, who will address the relations between the Sisterhood and Compagnia di San Paolo and its educational institutions, and its relations with the ruling House of Savoy respectively.

Proposals will need to include: research title and abstract (between 200 and 300 words) and short bio-bibliographical profile of the author.

The deadline for submission of proposals is **15 October 2014**.

Selected proposals will be announced by **30 November 2014**.

The authors of the selected projects will be required to contribute an essay (60,000/90,000 characters, including spaces and notes) according to the series's editorial guidelines. Each author will receive a flat fee of € 3,000 (gross) per essay for transfer of copyright and a refund of documented, authorized expenses up to € 500.

The essays will be submitted no later than nine months after project selection.

The essays may be written in Italian or English.