

# ASPECTS OF THE ECONOMICAL LIFE AND HOLY ARCHITECTURE IN S. MARIA LA FOSSA DURING THE MIDDLE AGES

<sup>1</sup>Giancarlo BOVA and <sup>2</sup>Cristina ALPOPI

<sup>1</sup>Piazzolla Academy, Roma, Via Campomorone, nr. 65 - 00168 Roma, Italy  
giancarlobova@yahoo.it

<sup>2</sup>Academy of Economic Studies, Piata Romana 6, Bucharest, Romania  
calpopi07@yahoo.com

## Abstract

Maria Santissima Assunta in Cielo Church, situated in S. Maria la Fossa (X-XI) is one of the most beautiful and important monuments of southern Italy. It is on the left of the Volturno River, near the *Porto delle Femmine*, in a marshy and hunting area. It was built little by little from the X century perhaps by Greek monks. It was completed only in the Angevin period in the second half of the XIII century, almost certainly by the St. Antonio of Vienne (*Antoniani*) rectory. The pictorial decoration has the most complex and important surviving cycle of the Campania region method between the XII and the XV centuries. Among the oldest frescos we can mention the one in St. Stefano (XII century), the one in St. Leonardo (XII century), whose devotion was imported during the Norman period by Saint-Leonard de Noblat, a small French town, and the *Opere di Carità* (XIII century). The representations of the *Madonna del Velo o del Rosario*, of the *Madonna del Cardellino*, of the *Madonna del Coniglio* and of the *Annunciazione* are extremely beautiful. Thanks to the nearby port, the church for a long time had been a place of worship for merchants coming from Amalfi, Naples, Genoa, Pisa and Florence. They would come from Castelvolturno selling their goods and then would continue on to Capua.

**Keywords:** urban, land use, planning, economy, farm, grain, olive, wine, apiculture, holy architecture.

## REFERENCES

- Bloch, H. (1986), *Montecassino in the Middle Ages, III*, Edizioni di storia e di letteratura, Roma 1986;
- Bova, G. (2007), *La chiesa di Maria SS. Assunta in Cielo in S. Maria la Fossa. I Greci*, Edizioni Scientifiche Italiane, Napoli;
- Bova, G. (2011), *I più antichi documenti di S. Maria la Fossa. Greci ed Ebrei*, Edizioni Scientifiche Italiane, Napoli;
- Giustiniani, L. (1804), *Dizionario geografico ragionato del Regno di Napoli, VIII*, Vincenzo Manfredi, Napoli;
- Granata, F. (1766), *Storia sacra della chiesa metropolitana di Capua, II*, Simoniana, Napoli;
- Natale, F. (1776), *Lettera intorno ad una sacra colonna de' bassi tempi eretta al presente dinanzi all'atrio del duomo di Capua, V*, Mazzola Vocola, Napoli.