

## Summary

Meital Shai, *Villa Grimani Molin Avezzù at Fratta Polesine. A research course towards its architectural and pictorial attribution*

Villa Grimani Molin Avezzù, a non-Palladian, sixteenth century Veneto villa commissioned by members of the prestigious Venetian Grimani family, has raised much interest among art and architectural historians, who nevertheless have reached very few conclusions in their analysis with the traditional methods of the discipline. A fundamental dating problem has obstructed the ability to identify the leading architect and painter, and to provide a faithful interpretation of the frescos. The current article proposes a complementary research method for the study of the villa, derived from a more strictly historical research sector, in which a particular path has been followed in the reconstruction of the villa's wider historical context. The reconstruction was composed of aspects whose relevance to the dating and attribution of the villa may initially not seem so evident, which however have proved fundamental for the evaluation of its aesthetic and structural qualities. Previously, scholars assumed Villa Grimani Molin was constructed before 1564, relying exclusively on its depiction in a hydraulics map drawn that year. However, here, the point of departure was the visual and technical analysis of the map carried out in 2008, which demonstrated that the villa had been added to it after the original drawing phase. The current archival campaign inquired about the context of the map's creation and its successive updates, a research course that led to the analysis of materials derived, on one hand, from the involvement of the villa's owners in local activities of land reclamation, reflecting the large-scale economical shift of the *Serenissima* from overseas commerce to land investments, and on the other hand, from the more private realm of planning economical strategies, and especially dowry management, reflecting the conservation and transformation of capital in the inter-familial relationships between the noble Venetian families. The new sources were converged to assemble an intricate and integrate open chronological framework, on which new hypotheses could be accurately positioned. A significant discovery was a document securely dating the villa's initial construction to the years 1557-1564, to the commission of the Venetian no-

bleman Vincenzo Grimani. Nevertheless, the analysis of additional findings would imply the existence of a second, significant construction and/or decorative campaign, which occurred shortly after the year 1580. The study has considerably amplified the documentary database relevant to the art and architectural research on the villa, and reconstructed the sequence of events related to its creation, thus enabling further studies to proceed with more specific and concrete inquiries in the architectural analysis and in the comprehensive study of the frescoes, the main topic of the writer's Ph.D. dissertation.

Luciano Allegra, *Un caso di epidemiologia storica. Torino nel Settecento*

So far, the history of medicine has focused mainly on professionals and health care institutions, diagnostic techniques and therapeutic practices, and has neglected the etiology of diseases of the past: So we know a lot more about doctors and hospitals than on the sick and on environmental and social variables that could have affected the onset of pathologies. The difficulty of building reliable epidemiological patterns is particularly acute when the observation period belongs to pre-statistical times. The sources of hospital institutions are rare, as rare were the hospitals themselves, which incidentally dispensed assistance by adopting very tight criteria for selecting patients, excluding most of the people in poor health. Moreover, a large part of the pathologies was not medicalized and was faced with the alternative remedies of folk medicine, not leaving any documentary deposit. The 'ospedale di carità', the largest institution for the assistance to the poor of Turin in modern times, supplied aid after a severe scrutiny of applicants and a screening of their health status. Those who addressed did not belong exclusively to the poorest strata, but were in the wider circle of the occasional poor, what Brian Pullan quantified in about 70% of the old regime urban population. Clinical information collected by the hospital officials, intertwined with registries data, with the composition of the families, the occupations carried out by the people, the location of their homes allows composing an epidemiological picture of the diseases from which the bulk of the population of eighteenth century Turin suffered.

Ilaria Giacalone, «*Three or four families in a country village*»: Jane Austen, *dal network al romanzo*

The relationship between Jane Austen's life and works has been often underlined by academics, especially for the class habits (those of the *lower-gentry*) she represents in them, but hardly anyone has gone much farther than

stating a general influence of her domestic and social environment on her novels. The study is a deep and structured analysis of this fundamental aspect, in order to understand in what measure her daily experience and the reality she observed were a source of inspiration for her. Starting from Austen's correspondence, it rebuilt her social network – family, friends, neighbours and acquaintances – and it investigated the nature of the bonds between Jane and them. Then it links this “small society” with that of her novels, trying to imagine what traits of these real people and situations could have inspired her for her characters and plots. The aim was to see how much of her social world she reproduced in her works and what was rather the result of her fancy and of her private ideals.