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RELAZIONI  
DI AMBASCIATORI VENETI  
AL SENATO

volume XIV  
COSTANTINOPOLI  
RELAZIONI INEDITE  
(1512 – 1789)

A CURA DI  
MARIA PIA PEDANI-FABRIS

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This huge volume (1060 pp.) contains 26 reports of Venetian diplomats sent to Constantinople from the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the last years of the Republic (1512-1789). This work completes the series of the Venetian reports from the Ottoman Empire, edited for the first times in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by Barozzi, Berchet and Alberi.

Some of the reports here edited had been already used by scholars, even if still in manuscript: Josef von Hammer's pages about Osman II's death, for instance, are still quoted as very important, without taking into consideration that they are mostly based on the paper presented to the Senate by Giorgio Giustinian in 1627. Others give important information about the most important events of the Ottoman dynasty: the 1512 one by Andrea Foscolo describes how Selim I ascended to the throne, while the 1683 one was written by the interpreter Tommaso Tarsia who had been in the Ottoman camp during the Vienna campaign and had been present at the execution of the great vizier Kara Mustafa. The existence of two reports made by the same diplomat on the same occasion, one for the government and the other for a larger public, shows that they had really become a literary genre. The seven 18<sup>th</sup> c. reports too are an important source to understand the Venetian point of view about the Ottoman Empire, since the first edition did not contain papers of that century and only one (by Nicolò Foscarini, 1793) had been already edited. However, even the reports of the previous centuries are of great interest since they complete the corpus of this kind of sources and the scholars run no longer the risk of basing their studies only on a partial view of what the Venetian diplomats thought of the Ottoman Empire in the Modern Age.

This work was imagined to complete the series of a new edition of the Venetian diplomats' reports, began by Luigi Firpo in the '80s. Three volumes should be dedicated to Constantinople: vol. XII 1496-1567 (not yet published); vol. XIII 1590-1793 (Torino, Bottega d'Erasmus, 1984); vol. XIV 1512-1789 (Padova, Aldo Ausilio editore, 1994).

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