

RICHARD FREMANTLE

DIO E DENARO

RIFORMA E TRANSIZIONE: IL RINASCIMENTO

TRADUZIONE DI MARIA ANTONIA RINALDI

Si tratta della traduzione di un piccolo studio ormai classico, *God and Money*, sull'origine e sviluppo del Rinascimento fiorentino. L'Autore vede nel periodo 500-1000 DC il momento in cui il Cristianesimo, con il suo sguardo verso la morte e resurrezione in cielo, salva l'Europa. Ma con la nascita del commercio, dopo il 1000 DC, il Cristianesimo come elemento centrale della



vita europea viene lentamente ma inesorabilmente sostituito dal denaro. I due eventi catastrofici della *Morte Nera* del 1348/9, e il *Grande Scisma* del 1378-1417 sono i catalizzatori per il collasso del Cristianesimo e la vittoria totale del denaro. Per Fremantle la Rinascita è semplicemente il lato secolare dei cambiamenti che portano alla scoperta dell'America nel 1492, e alla Riforma del 1517.

This is the translation into Italian of a short, very popular study – God and Money – into the origins, development, and subsequent collapse of the Florentine Renaissance. It is Fremantle's view that the poor and perilous life which existed in Europe from the Fall of Rome to about the year 1000 AD, was sustained by an appropriate Christian idea that life should be death-and-after-life oriented. But the effectiveness of this view as a binding element in European society weakened after about 1000 AD, as Europe began to be more prosperous, to trade, and to move away from a static land-and-death based culture.

At first Christianity prospered greatly from the new trading Europe, in particular from pilgrims travelling great distances to visit holy sites. Christian Europe used it's new money to finance the Crusades, and to build new cities with great churches, abbeys, and cathedrals. But the ever-grow-

ing prosperity and trade also brought an ever-growing need for a more practical and more life-aligned philosophy based on movement, on nature, and on the needs of human life.

Fremantle sees two events as catalysts of the momentous change from Medieval Christianity to the Renaissance: the Black Death of 1348/9 which discredited and depopulated Christianity everywhere, and the Great Schism from 1378-1417, which discredited totally the thousand-year old, central government of Christianity, the Papacy. He points out that the 40-year Schism ended in 1417, more or less exactly the year that the Renaissance exploded in Florence, and exactly 100 years before Luther published his proclamations in Wittenberg. Fremantle sees those hundred years as all part of the reform which became the Reformation, the Renaissance being simply the secular side of this on-going change.

RICHARD FREMANTLE is an art historian, and a historian of the Florentine Renaissance who has lived in Florence and Tuscany for many years. Fremantle grew up in New York City, and was trained at Columbia University, with Otto Brendel and Meyer Schapiro as teachers. He has published many articles, particularly about Masaccio and the early Renaissance. His books include, *Florentine Painting in the Uffizi*, a study on the development of Renaissance painting, *Florentine Gothic Painters*, the standard work on painting and painters between Giotto and Masaccio, *Masaccio*, a study of the painter's work and influence, and *God and Money*, the Italian version of which is described above. Fremantle is also the founder of FFAST, (Fondazione Fremantle per Artisti Stranieri in Toscana), a collection of work by foreign artists who have worked in Tuscany in the 20th and 21st centuries.

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