

Gaetano Curzi

**Multiple Visions at Santa Maria del Casale in Brindisi
Art, Politics and Devotion in the Principality of Taranto**

The walls of the church of Santa Maria del Casale in Brindisi are covered with mural paintings of the 14th century that attest to the relevance of the building, the patronage of the prince Philip of Taranto and his wife Catherine of Valois-Courtenay and the cult of the icon of the Virgin preserved inside. The paintings show many subjects related to the theme of the Vision: the Last Judgement, the *Lignum vitae*, the Tree of Jesse, the Isaiah's vision. There are also panels with knights kneeling in front of the vision of an image of Mary that represent the icon of the "Madonna del Casale". The church also contains the heraldic arms of the most important aristocratic families linked to Philip and his heirs by a plan of conquest of Greece and the Balkans. This "political Vision" is maybe one of the reasons for the construction and decoration of the building.