RONNIE FERGUSON

A LINGUISTIC HISTORY OF VENICE

This is the first comprehensive study of the history, status and structures, past and present, of Venetian. It provides a contextualised account, using detailed linguistic and historical data, of the emergence of Venetian in the medieval period, of its evolving status as a written medium within the Republic of Venice, and of its enduring prestige as a spoken ‘dialect’ in an Italy rapidly moving towards monolingualism.

The book consists of nine chapters followed by a complete bibliography. Chapter One looks at Venetian today, mapping out a schema of its functional distribution since Italian unification. Chapter Two establishes the overall periodisation employed in the book, and locates Venetian within its Italo-Romance environment. Chapters Three, Four and Five are dedicated to an extensive structural analysis of the language/dialect using Modern Venetian as its reference point. Chapters Six and Seven are more linear and historical.

The former locates the origins of Venetian in the complex koineisation processes generated by the settlement and early urbanisation patterns of the lagoon city, and considers its textual emergence. The latter examines the transition of Venetian from language to dialect between 1500 and 1800. Both are followed by a representative selection of commented texts with translations. Chapter Eight surveys the Venetian lexicon, while Chapter Nine assesses the contact impact of Italian on Venetian from the Middle Ages to the present.

Il primo studio completo della storia, dello status e delle strutture sincroniche e diacroniche del veneziano. Utilizzando dati linguistici e storici dettagliati il volume affronta il problema delle origini del veneziano nel medioevo, traccia la sua evoluzione in quanto lingua parlata omnipresente ma anche come lingua scritta durante la Repubblica di Venezia, e considera le modalità della perduranza di questo ‘dialetto’ storicamente prestigioso in un’ Italia sempre più monolingue.

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Discover the history of Venice, the great trading city and mixing pot for many people from Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. Venice was the European end of the Silk Road trade route which moved goods all the way from China, and consequently was a cosmopolitan city, a true melting pot. The Origins of Venice. Venice developed a creation myth that it was founded by people fleeing Troy, but it was probably formed in the sixth century C.E., when Italian refugees fleeing Lombard invaders camped on the islands in the Venice lagoon. There is evidence for a settlement in 600 C.E., and this grew, having its own bishopric by the end of the 7th century. Discover the fascinating stories behind the Venetian festival devoted to all kinds of decadence and excess: the Carnival. It’s February in Venice and the streets are positively packed. In St. Mark’s Square, masked figures adorned with jewels and feathers hover in picturesque corners. Elegant aristocrats out of the 18th century take over Caffe Florian. Little troublemakers empty bags of flour on one another. Drunken revelers zoom past in boats and gather outside bars and cafes. This is Venice’s Carnival, a time for all kinds of worldly pleasures. From feasts of indulgent food and drink, to masked disguises and the rowdiest parties of the year, this celebration lasts for several weeks in February and March, ending