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Titolo Benedetto Cotrugli – The Book of the Art of Trade: With Scholarly

Essays from Niall Ferguson, Giovanni Favero, Mario Infelise, Tiziano

Zanato and Vera Ribaudo / / edited by Carlo Carraro, Giovanni Favero

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New Edition of Benedetto Cotrugli's 'Book of the Art of Trade'; Giovanni Favero, Ca' Foscari University of Venice -- Chapter 3: Benedetto Cotrugli, Merchant and Writer; Tiziano Zanato, Ca' Foscari University of Venice -- Chapter 4: The printed editions of Benedetto Cotrugli's treaty; Mario Infelise, Ca' Foscari University of Venice -- Chapter 5: A Note on the Text; Vera Ribaudo, Ca' Foscari University of Venice --

Chapter 1: Preface; Niall Ferguson, Harvard University -- Chapter 2: A

Chapter 6: The Book of the Art of Trade, Preface, Part 1: On the Origins

and Principles of Trade, Part 2: On the Religion Incumbent on the

## Sommario/riassunto

Merchant, Part 3: On the Civic Life of the Merchant, Part 4: On the Economic Virtues of the Merchant; Benedetto Cotrugli.

This is the first English translation of Benedetto Cotrugli's The Book of the Art of Trade, a lively account of the life of a Mediterranean merchant in the Early Renaissance, written in 1458. The book is an impassioned defense of the legitimacy of mercantile practices, and includes the first scholarly mention of double-entry bookkeeping. Its four parts focus respectively on trading techniques, from accounting to insurance, the religion of the merchant, his public life, and family matters. Originally handwritten, the book was printed in 1573 in Venice in an abridged and revised version. This new translation makes reference to the new critical edition, based on an earlier manuscript that has only recently been discovered. With scholarly essays placing Cotrugli's work into historical context and highlighting key themes, this volume is an important contribution to our understanding of the origins of management and trade practices.