

Pierluigi Terenzi, “De Ritiis, Alessandro”,
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De Ritiis, Alessandro

1434–97/8. Italy. Franciscan born in Collebrincioni, near L'Aquila in central Italy, author of a *Chronica civitatis Aquilae* (Chronicle of the city of L'Aquila) and of a *Chronica Ordinis* (Chronicle of the [Franciscan] Order). He entered the Order in 1446, and in 1450 he received the ordination as Friar of the Regular Observance. From 1469 he was more than once Guardian of the monastery of St. Bernardine of Siena, one of the most important religious communities in L'Aquila. In 1479–80, he was vicar of the Observant province of Abruzzo. Meanwhile he acted as mediator in the relationships between the town government and the monarchy, even if in 1485 he refused to intervene in the rebellion of L'Aquila against King Ferrante. In the last decade of the 15th century he retired to the monastery of St. Julian near L'Aquila, where he wrote all of his works between 1493 and 1497.

The *Chronica civitatis Aquilae*, in Latin with inserts in Italian, narrates the history of the town from 1370 to 1495. The author presents the work as a continuation of → Buccio di Ranallo's chronicle but in reality, for the period 1370–1485, he translated → Niccolò di Borbona and → Francesco d'Angeluccio, correcting them and adding some information, especially about religious facts. The original work therefore concerns the decade 1485–95. The *Chronica* is written in the typical style of the town chronicles. The importance of this work is increased by some transcripts of original documents, such as the statute of the Franciscan pawnshop. The autograph (L'Aquila, Archivio di Stato, Archivio Civico Aquilano, S-72,

part 1, fol. 130^r–236^v) also contains a copy of Buccio di Ranallo's chronicle, a synthesis of biblical historical events in hexameters (part 1, fol. 5^r) and two chronological synopses (part 1, fol. 13^v–119^v and 125^v–128^v).

The *Chronica Ordinis* narrates in Latin the history of the Franciscan Order from 1186 to 1496. Here too, only a small part of the work is original, since De Ritiis borrowed from the most important Franciscan chronicles. The value of this *Chronica* lies in the narration of the religious events that occurred in L'Aquila and in the transcripts of some important documents. The original manuscript is kept in L'Aquila (Archivio di Stato, Archivio Civico Aquilano, S-73). De Ritiis was also author of ten theological, pastoral and liturgical works, five of which are now lost.

Bibliography

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Literature: M.R. BERARDI, *I monti d'oro*, 2005, 54–59. A. CHIAPPINI, "De vita et scriptis fr. Alexandri De Ritiis", *Archivum Franciscanum Historicum*, 20 (1927), 314–35, 563–74; 21 (1928), 86–103, 285–303, 553–79. R. COLAPIETRA, "La cronaca aquilana di Alessandro de Ritiis e la cronachistica meridionale del Quattrocento", *Critica letteraria*, 21 (1993), 425–88. P. CHERUBINI, *DBI* 39, 138–140. *RepFont* 4, 168.

PIERLUIGI TERENCEZI