Gli Strozzi e la luna crescente

Le tre lune crescenti dell’arme Strozzi simboleggiano l’auspicio delle fortune della casata, forse di origine longobarda e proveniente da Fiesole. Trasferiti a Firenze, gli Strozzi sono nei secoli protagonisti della vita civile cittadina. L’umanista Vespasiano da Bisticci la definisce «la più bella e la più degna famiglia che fussi a Firenze», ma una parte dei membri si disperde in Europa sia per seguire le attività mercantili e bancarie, che a causa delle persecuzioni politiche.

L’amarezza dell’esilio: Palla Strozzi


La tenerezza indomita di Alessandra Macinghi Strozzi

Il confino degli uomini della famiglia segna profondamente la vita di Alessandra (1406-1471), nata Macinghi e moglie dell’esiliato Matteo Strozzi, di cui rimane vedova giovane. Anche i discendenti maschi sono inviati al confino, e il suo epistolario con i figli lontani – tra i quali Filippo – dà conto di riferimenti degli umanisti, ma non interrompe i rapporti con la madrepatria.

The exile of the male members of the Strozzi family scarred the life of Alessandra Macinghi (1406-1471). Her husband Matteo Strozzi was also banished following Cosimo’s return to power. Despite the separation, she continued to write to her children, even while residing in exile in Padua.

Alessandra Macinghi Strozzi

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The Strozzi crescent moon

The three crescent moons on the Strozzi coat of arms reflect the family’s confidence in achieving fame and fortune and by the 14th century they had certainly made their mark. Probably of Longobard origin, after the Strozzi moved to Florence for generations they took a leading role in public life. Before the family broke up under the threat of political persecution and to pursue their commercial and financial interests throughout Europe the humanist Vespasiano da Bisticci described them as the most illustrious and worthy family Florence had ever known.

The bitterness of exile: Palla Strozzi

Palla di Nofri Strozzi (1372-1462) was one of the richest and most influential men of his time. He summoned Gentile da Fabriano to Florence to paint the A doration of the Magi for the family chapel in the church of Santa Trinita, designed by his friend Lorenzo Ghébert. He also commissioned the Deposition now in the M useo di San Marco, assigning the job first to Lorenzo Monaco and then to Fra Angelico. Palla was forced into exile after Cosimo the Elder returned to Florence: he left the city in 1434 never to return. Although not an artist himself he was a generous patron and during his exile in Padua he became a point of reference for humanists and so maintained links with his native Florence.

What symbol best describes your family?

Since the late Middle Ages, important families used special symbols to identify themselves to the world. These symbols – called ‘coats of arms’ – served to identify soldiers in the tumult of battle. Later important families themselves used them in same way as modern trademarks, to identify the family ‘brand’. Crescent moons – arranged differently – were also used by other families, such as the Piccolomini, whose coat of arms sported five.

La luna crescente simboleggia la tenerezza materna.

The three crescent moons in the Strozzi coat of arms, arranged differently, symbolize the tenderness and concern felt by any mother.