CALL FOR PAPERS

Venice & the League of Cambrai

POLITICS · ART · ARCHITECTURE

A ONE-DAY CONFERENCE AT
ST JOHN’S COLLEGE, OXFORD
SATURDAY, 15 MARCH 2008

CONVENER: DR SIMON P. OAKES
INVITED SPEAKERS INCLUDE PROFESSOR IAIN FENLON,
PROFESSOR DEBORAH HOWARD & PROFESSOR PAUL JOANNIDES

During the first decade of the sixteenth century, Venice suffered the most serious military assault on her independence hitherto in her history. In 1508, the most significant states and countries in western Europe joined forces to punish the Serene Republic for her aggressive mainland policy, and to reclaim her territorial possessions throughout the Veneto. The resulting war, which lasted more or less for a decade, was catastrophic for the Venetians – economically, politically, and in loss of life; peace would not be formally ratified until 1529. Harrowing eyewitness accounts report that in the city itself, the slaughter of her troops could be heard from the terra firma, and that from the tops of her campanili fire and destruction were visible in nearby towns. No disaster on this scale was to afflict the Venetian Republic again until her eventual fall to Napoleon’s forces in 1797. In spite of this, no historical monograph has ever been written on the League of Cambrai, and the effects of the War on her culture and architecture have only been studied in the most casual way.

This multi-disciplinary conference will redress that situation by presenting new research on the politics and history of this period. It will also investigate the impact of warfare on the production, commission and iconography of painting in both Venice and the Veneto, as well as looking at the other arts, including music and literature. And it will examine the design and construction of Venetian architecture – secular and religious, state and private – during the first two decades of the sixteenth century. Proposals are now invited in history, politics, art and architectural history, musicology, literature, costume history and all other related areas.

Proposals of approximately 500 words should be sent to arrive no later than 16 November 2007 to Dr S. P. Oakes, St John’s College, OXFORD, OX1 3JP, UK or by email to simon.oakes@sjc.ox.ac.uk, from whom further details may also be sought. It would be helpful if graduate students, and others without academic or related positions, could include a brief curriculum vitae. Accommodation will be provided in College for speakers.