

predicatori agostiniani «delle origini», e, attraverso la loro raffigurazione, veicolare particolari messaggi cari all'Ordine. Così, Alberto da Padova non fu solo una figura teologica importante per la città che ne ha dato i natali, ma anche modello di vita religiosa in Lombardia in coincidenza col nascere, a fine Quattrocento, del bisogno di un ritorno ad un rispetto più rigoroso della Regola. Non a caso, già nell'iscrizione padovana del Palazzo della Ragione Alberto è ricordato non solo per la sua cultura teologica ma anche per la sua «continentissima vita».

Abstract

Between the Thirteenth and Fourteenth centuries in Padua spreads the “Preumanesimo:” a literary trend that started because of rediscovered classics. The Augustinians, who had built their convent in the city center, where they performed their daily pastoral mission, were wary of the spread of a “fashion” that would have soon become “forma mentis.” In the sermons of Augustine from Ascoli and, above all, of his disciple Albert of Padua (? -1328), emerges from one hand that was not important only the study of “the classics” but it was also, again, important to study the art of writing what is not “poetry;” on the other hand, not all Paduan scholars had accepted the findings of the classics with enthusiasm: the Augustinians, who were intellectuals, have written several times in their sermons that “good Christians” should beware of a discipline that fascinates but that can undermine his moral integrity. In the sermons of Albert of Padua, near to the criticism of “mundana philosophia” there are, however, many citations of “pagan writers” as support and confirmation of Christian values, which, therefore, are universally valid. In the sermons of Albert of Padua, there is a critique of “everything that is not Bible:” not only philosophy and heresies but also the apocryphal Gospels are attacked with fervour by Albert of Padua.

From some references to the city of Milan in the sermons of Albert of Padua, the influence of this preacher in Lombardy was investigated. Although there are no legal documents that cite Albert, the presence of frescoes (in Brescia, Milan and Gravedona) concerning Albert of Padua suggests at least that this Paduan preacher was famous even in those lands.

Parole chiave: Alberto da Padova; sermoni; Preumanesimo padovano; eresie; Vangeli apocrifi.
Keywords: Albert of Padua; sermons; Paduan “Preumanesimo”; heresies; apocryphal Gospels.